Early Course Feedback 10-610

- There are several options for structuring the KDD Lab in future years. Please let me know which one you think is most appropriate, and why.
  
  (a) Your own research project (current version of the Lab), with the rationale that you get to spend more time on your research.
  (b) A research project outside your area (as in the most recent 15-781 Machine Learning class), with the rationale that students gain data mining skills outside your research area.
  (c) Several different problems and data sets, with the rationale that students acquire skills handling different types of data.

  **Response:** a: 7, b: 1, c: 8 (plus skills for data mining tools, as mentioned in one response).
  **Action item:** Sebastian will pass this on for future years.

- So far, the Lab has had a strong emphasis on presentation skills. The rationale is that these skills are important for your scientific career. Should the focus be different? Any suggestions?

  **Response:** focus right: 12, different focus: 4
  **Particular suggestions:** software tools (2 responses) and readings (1 response). One student already learned all these skills in another course, another suggests a special seminar course.
  **Action item:** Sebastian will proceed as planned, with a shift towards the scientific phase of the course.

- For the present course, would you be interested in an introductory session that demonstrates existing data mining software in CALD?

  **Response:** yes: 16, no: 0
  **Action item:** Let’s do it!

- For the present course, would you be interested in a session on scientific methods for assessing the outcomes of machine learning research?

  **Response:** yes: 15, no: 1
  **Action item:** Let’s do it! It was in the plans anyhow.

- For the present course, would you be interested in corporate presentations on specific data mining problems?

  **Response:** yes: yes: 7, somewhat: 3, no: 4, undecided: 2
  **Was generally perceived less important.**
  **Action item:** I’ll keep my eyes open for possibly interesting industrial people.

- For the present course, would you be interested in homework assignments involving other data sets (of course, this would be very doable assignments, such as visualization exercises)?

  **Response:** yes: 5, no: 9, undecided: 2

  **Action item:** Hmm. Looks like a clear majority vote. I’ll think about that.

- Are you a first year or a second year KDD student?

- Other suggestions or comments:

  **Response:** Pizza mandatory during class.
  2 students reinforced their suggestion to make this class more of a lab. **Action item:** I’ll order pizza.