

# DR ANDREW COLES

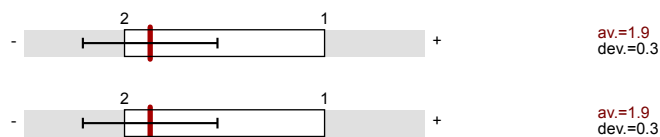
Practical Experiences of Programming (5CCS2PEP 2017/8 SEM1 000001) (5CCS2PEP-2017/8-SEM1-000001)  
 No. of responses = 39



## Overall indicators

### Global Index

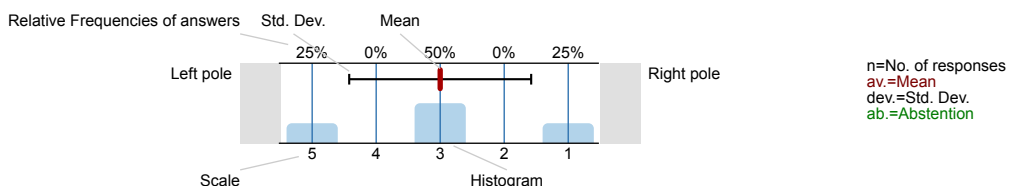
2. For evaluations of tutorials/labs



## Survey Results

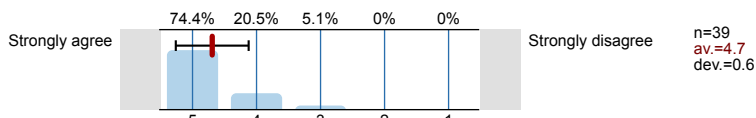
### Legend

Question text

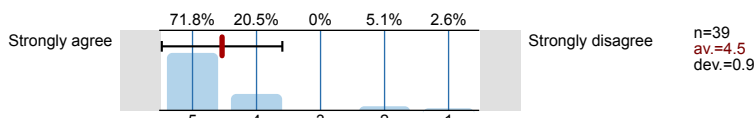


## 1. Practical Experiences of Programming-General questions - The Module

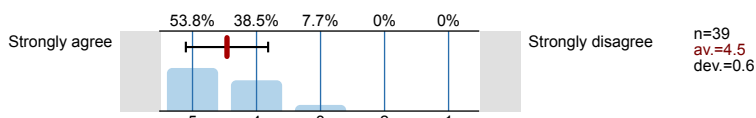
1.1) *The module was intellectually stimulating*



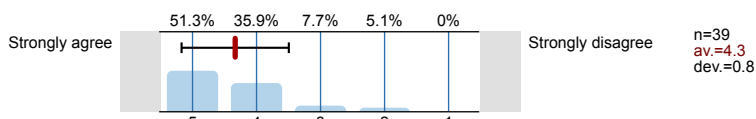
1.2) *The module was well organised*



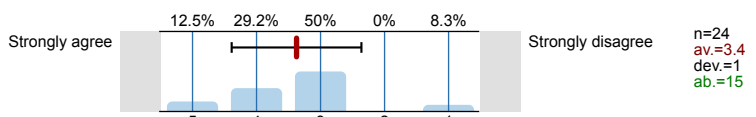
1.3) *The learning objectives of the module were set out clearly*



1.4) *The module had helpful materials provided on KEATS and electronically*

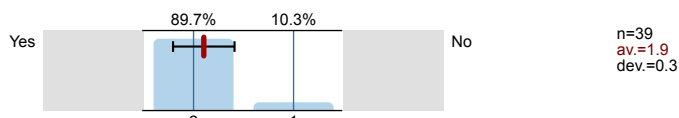


1.5) *The module had helpful materials provided in the library*

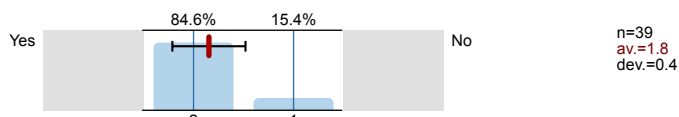


## 2. For evaluations of tutorials/labs

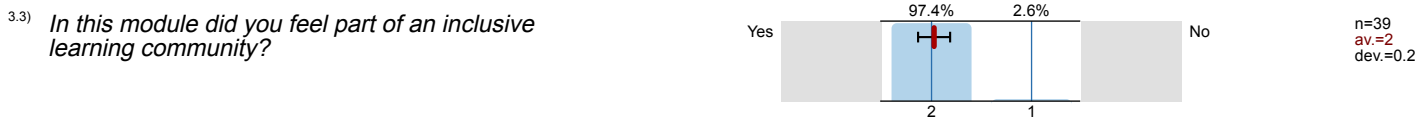
2.1) *The tutorials and/or labs were useful and helped me clarify things*



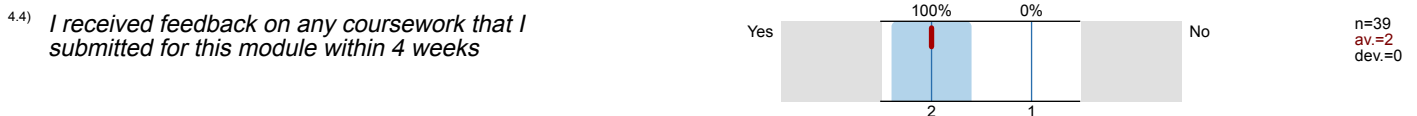
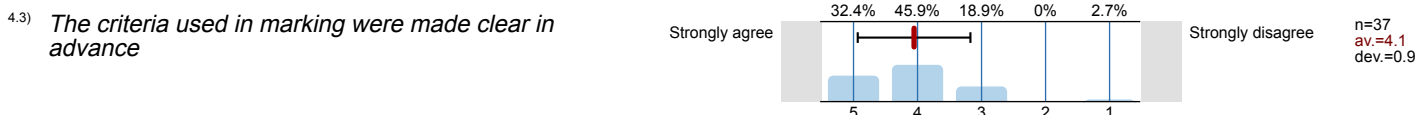
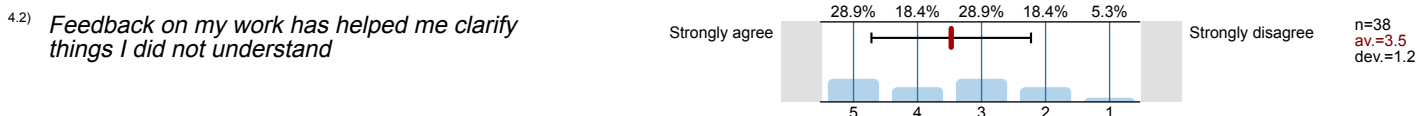
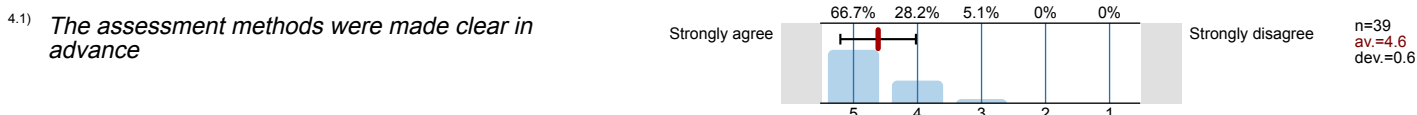
2.2) *The tutorials and/or labs were delivered by TA's who explained the material well*



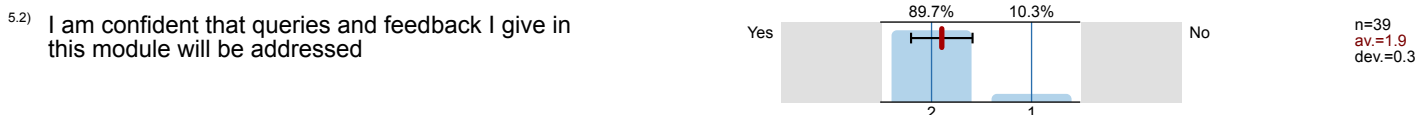
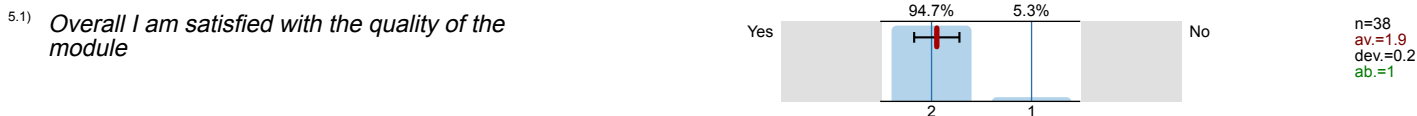
3. Inclusive classroom (yes/no responses, students who answer 'no' are asked to provide additional comments)



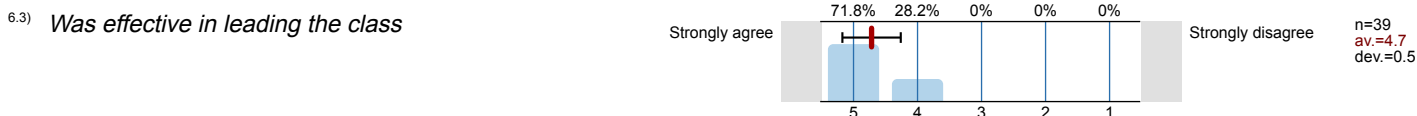
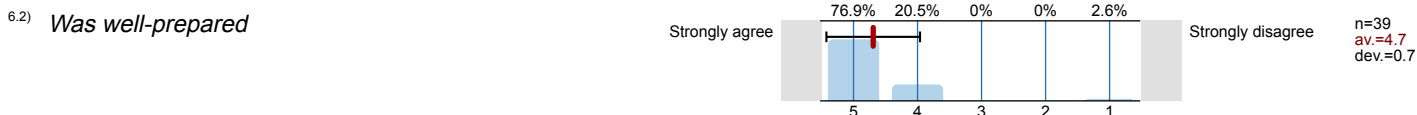
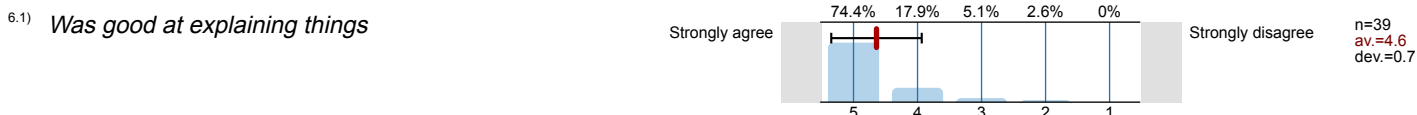
4. Assessment and feedback on assessment



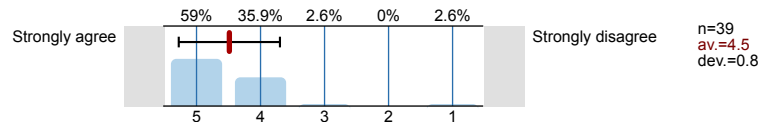
5. Overall



6. Practical Experiences of Programming-Andrew Coles - The Lecturer

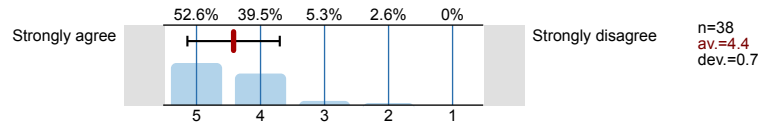


6.4) *Encouraged me to ask questions and contribute to discussions*

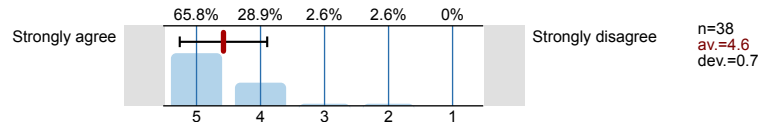


**7. Practical Experiences of Programming-Christian Urban - The Lecturer**

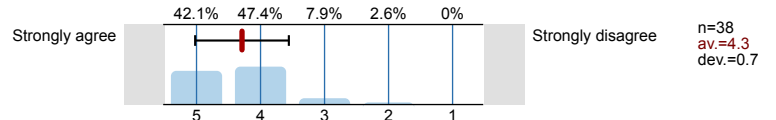
7.1) *Was good at explaining things*



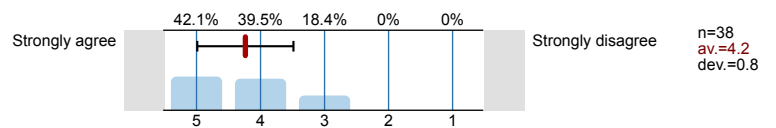
7.2) *Was well-prepared*



7.3) *Was effective in leading the class*



7.4) *Encouraged me to ask questions and contribute to discussions*

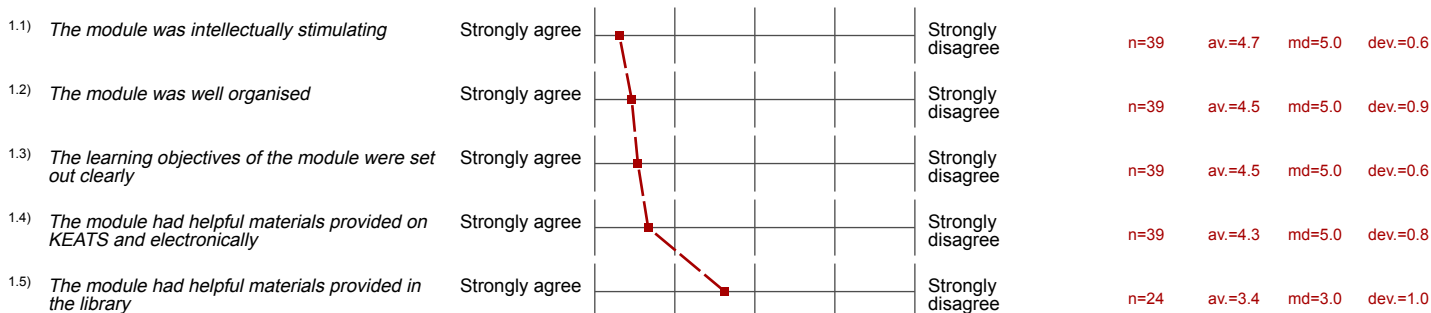


# Profile

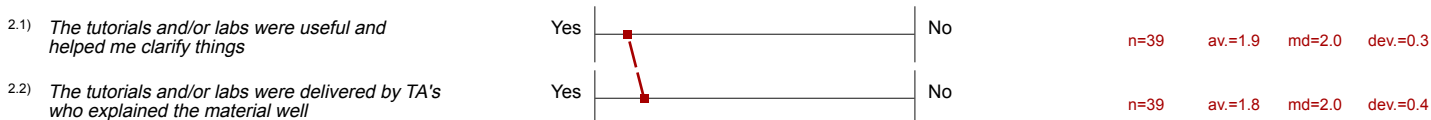
Subunit: **Informatics**  
 Responsible for modules: **DR ANDREW COLES**  
 Name of the course: **Practical Experiences of Programming (5CCS2PEP 2017/8 SEM1 000001)**  
 (Name of the survey)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

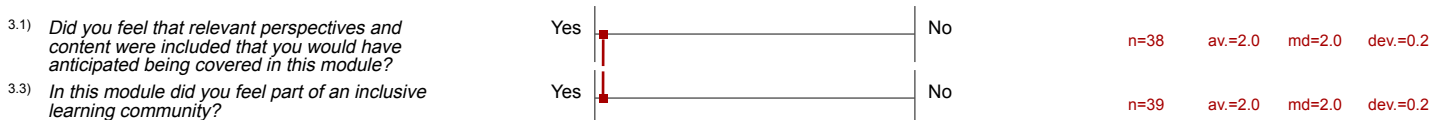
## 1. Practical Experiences of Programming-General questions - The Module



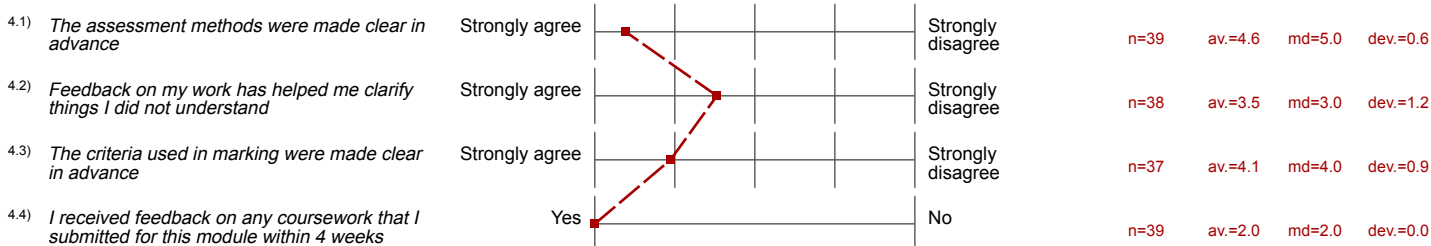
## 2. For evaluations of tutorials/labs



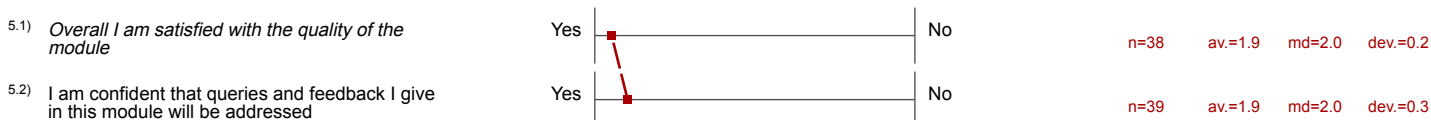
## 3. Inclusive classroom (yes/no responses, students who answer 'no' are asked to provide additional comments)



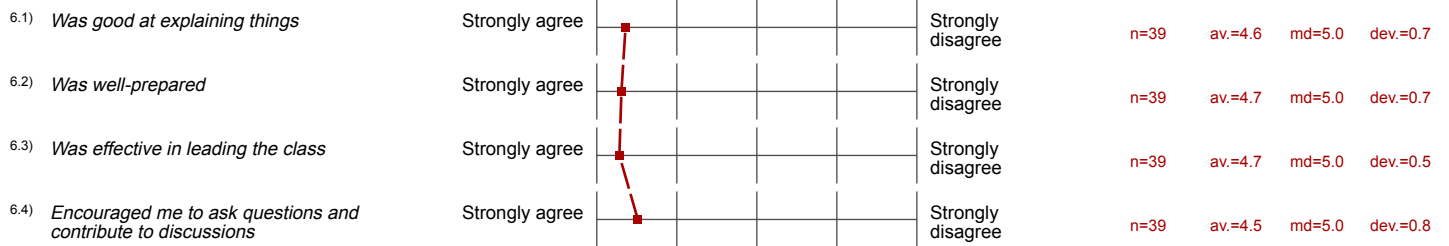
## 4. Assessment and feedback on assessment



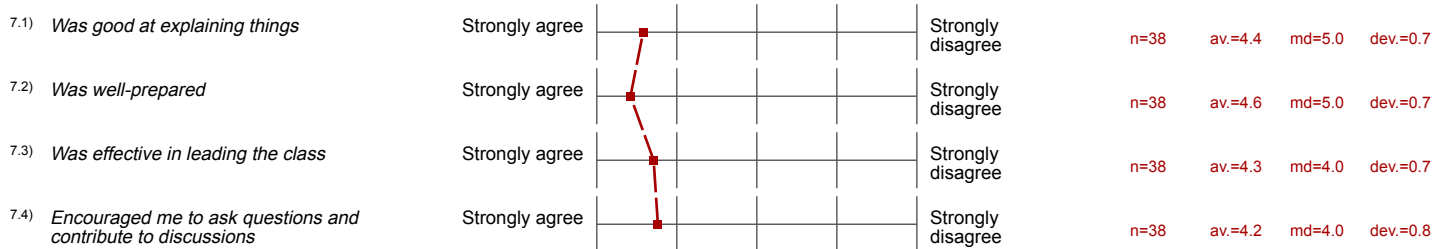
## 5. Overall



## 6. Practical Experiences of Programming-Andrew Coles - The Lecturer



## 7. Practical Experiences of Programming-Christian Urban - The Lecturer



## Comments Report

### 3. Inclusive classroom (yes/no responses, students who answer 'no' are asked to provide additional comments)

3.2) *If you answered 'no' please use the space below to provide reasons for your answer*

- It was very fast paced, and some of the basics such as 'cin' were not included, though this is not necessarily a bad thing.
- No

3.4) *If you answered 'no' please use the space below to provide reasons for your answer*

- As always the Informatics Department students are well known for not being so sociable. I would suggest more social events (coding classes, IT workshops or just informal social events).
- No
- what does inclusive learning community mean ?!

### 5. Overall

5.3) *Please use this space to explain your answers to any of the above questions and/or to make further comments about your experiences that could help us develop the module (including comments on teaching spaces, audio visual, lecture capture)*

- Lecture capture quality
- On the timetable, the lecture is 2 hours long and then there should be a 1 hour tutorial. During the whole term, we had to go through 3 hour lectures (no tutorials at all), with the same person talking. The tutorial should be used by the TAs to explain the material to individual students who have queries, and we could have exercises to complete in order to get more familiar with the material.

The module was (very) stimulating, and both lecturers were very good at explaining and making the subject a little more likable.

But there are many drawbacks. The labs, to begin with. The new Bush House labs are brand new, very well equipped and renovated. The rooms 7.01/2/3 are basically just one big room, so you would think that 3 times as many TAs would be available for our queries. And yet, we had 3 TAs only for the whole year, always helping the same area of the room. Last year, in the smaller computer labs (not even as big as one of the three rooms) there were 2 TAs, and it was barely sufficient.

The coursework part of this module is 100% of marks (no exam). For each piece of coursework released every week (worth 10%, so pretty heavy) came a gigantic number of questions and queries. TAs were overwhelmed and students started queuing around TAs with their laptops for hours, and running to the room to even find a seat before others!!! People from other lab sessions made use of the labs for their own queries, leaving other students hanging for help, with their hand up for sometimes longer than 30 minutes. Some students could not even find a seat.

Coursework assignments are each worth 10% which is a lot. PEP took a lot of our time (if not all of our time, unfortunately). Other modules were clearly left out and PEP was always the priority. The assignments were very tough and required a lot of work, and the SEG module which also required lots of work was also less important to many students. The assignments should be less heavy and more help should be provided.

- TA's are always stuck helping one female student , there are too little ,and the assessment is too hard
- The C++ explanation was rushed and without any human interaction among students. Live coding sessions were a good idea. I appreciate the Scala explanation and pace.
- The labs require more TA's. Not enough people to help.
- The microphones would randomly stop working (FWB B5, a bug since last year), some chairs in the front few rows are VERY noisy.
- This was a great module well taught. Andrew made the lectures a pleasure to be in. Interesting guy that really knows how to teach. Interactive, fun and a good learning experience. Christian also an interesting and helpful lecturer. Best module so far.
- lecture capture sometimes turns off when it shouldn't. sometimes I can't connect to wi-fi.

5.4) *What did you like about this module?*

- It is intellectually stimulating.
- Andrew's lectures were great and informative. Assignments were challenging. Feedback has been prompt.
- Andrew's part of the course was very good and his courseworks marks were published very quickly. Christians part of the course (lecturer and courseworks) okay.

- C++ and how it was taught, the support from Andrew Coles, enjoyable lectures albeit a bit long sometimes, and thought provoking work
- I like that it is 100% coursework assessed so you get assessed purely on your programming knowledge rather than theory. I especially liked the Scala lectures.
- I particularly liked the Scala part of the module (not the C++ part), which was taught by Christian Urban. He gave good, interesting lectures which were far better than C++ lectures.
- Interesting concepts taught at a fast pace and invigorating manner by lecturers who really understand their stuff.
- It was great, I loved the differences between the two languages we learned
- Nothing
- That it showed me what I needed to know about programming for my professional career
- The assessment is based on an assignment only base.
- The coding part, and the fact that there is no exam.
- The lecturers were both fun and engaging (for the most part), live coding really helped us feel like we were all in it together, both lecturers encouraged us to break things to find out how they worked, and almost never did we feel like we were being lectured AT.
- The lectures were delivered in a unique way, the content of the module was really interesting and the questions and the problems in the assignments were intellectually stimulating.
- The quality of the lecturers. Andrew Coles and Christian Urban are very good. Please do not lower the standards in the future. This is an important module. During the first semester Friday has become my favourite day of the week because of the PEP lecture. Andrew Coles, Christian Urban (and I must mention Martin Chapman as well, even though he wasn't involved in this module) are exemplary lecturers whom I will never forget.
- fun and interesting

5.5) *What could be improved?*

- Christian takes/took a lot of time to release marks to courseworks. He could be a bit faster as Andrew is.
- Christian's tendency to give elaborately long backstories is fun, but sometimes far too long ( we didn't need a 30 minute backstory on the various computers he's owned just to prove that moore's law is slowly failing and that microchips are hitting their limits), more explanation on why functional programming is so useful, videos explaining the coursework after they're finished (though the reason that this hasn't been done is understandable)
- Labs were too big with not enough TA's. Sometimes three hours can be a long time for a lecture.
- Maybe less teaching about C++, and more about alternative programming languages.
 

The marking process (which is automated) could be quicker, we have had to wait for more than 2 weeks to get feedback for a particular assignment, which usually takes less than 5 days.
- More Scala lectures and courseworks.
- More TA's and easier questions
- Not ask for too complex assignments in Scala when we have just started learning it
- Personally, I really enjoyed learning scala. It would have been nice to have more lectures on it (but it's understandable that we didn't as learning c++ was the focus and we had a lot of c++ information to go through)
- Remove scala, c++ for life
- Scala lectures could be a bit more interesting and informative, I don't care about the lecturer's past computers.
- The TA's
- The explanation of some topics (office hours are not a good solution to that)
- The marking methods. Though I understand having staff read 200 programs every week is a lot of work, there are fundamental flaws in the way we were being marked. The testing only assessed whether our code could pass the test. This did not always imply that we understood the code, that we had an understanding of the logic behind. It did not take into account the fact that many methods existed for one problem. Many bugs like github uploading issues, compiling errors, etc. could lead to 0s whereas students may have had a great understanding of the matter. I believe we should be assessed on our understanding, and ability to apply knowledge from the course directly, rather than assume that passing tests implies that.
- The module could be during the whole year, similarly to PPA ( first year ), as there is a lot to learn in both C++ and Scala and 9 lectures could not possibly be enough to learn the two programming languages in detail. Despite that, I understand that that is a introductory module and I think that it served its purpose to get us familiar with the two languages and inspire the people who want to learn them to further develop their knowledge.

- The other modules.
- There needs to be more feedback from assignments
- There should be a whole week dedicated to debugging, fixing bugs (i.e using breakpoints, watching variables) as I do not know how to do this. This would reduce the pain inflicted when the application does not compile. Andrew could upload a .cpp file with examples \*how\* to use new approaches introduced in the lecture (like the scala files)
- i found the assignments too hard and they took up far too much of my time. as they are every week i never had time to consolidate what i had learnt and was constantly stressed about coursework.