

Kursrapport MM5020 Matematik III - Abstrakt algebra ST25

Antal respondenter: 2
Antal svar: 1
Svarsfrekvens: 50,00 %

. Beskrivning av kursupplägget.

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This is a first course in abstract algebra covering a wide range of material: from group theory to (unitary) ring theory, with a flavour of field theory. It is proof based and students are asked to be able to run through theoretical reasoning by themselves.

. Kursens fördelar, beakta studenternas uppfattning i kursutvärderingar.

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One of the best advantage is the material that is covered and the depth of the results presented. Moreover this is the first course that compiles that many algebraic structures which allows the students to start to get a global picture that will be strengthen later with some category theory. With this course students get access to strong bases to elaborate more on various fields of abstract mathematics. The remote format, even if not suitable for everybody, helps them to develop their autonomy in the learning process.

. Kursens nackdelar, beakta studenternas uppfattning i kursutvärderingar.

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The wide and important material to be covered in such a few weeks makes it hard to adapt to each student needs, or to take the time for side comments and take a step back to develop a broader point of view (some students were asking to get a general flavour on why the exposed material is so important in mathematics, how it can be used...).
The remote format leaves an important place to the technology, which doesn't go without hitches and leaves less flexibility for practical things (imposed format for the hand-in assignments, difficulties to give a proper individualized feedback...).

. Slutsatser samt förslag till förbättringar.

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Some students were expecting a written correction for the weekly exercises, while I am not in favour of the teacher providing a ready made correction (especially after the first year), I think we could propose the students a light bonus system on which they can register to provide their correction (checked by the teacher) to the rest of the class.
Some students wanted a more detailed reference to the reference book, although the Dummit and Foote has earned its reputation it is hard to find by legit means online, and too few copies are available at the library. Maybe we should choose a more accessible reference (then this should be done jointly with the teacher of the non-remote spring version of the course).

It has been hard to get any feedback while teaching as to how the students found the general rhythm, whether some specific points were clear or not... Maybe asking them to fill a poll linked below the lecture video between the time the lecture is uploaded and the exercise session would help to better address their needs.

As for the technical issues, a certain amount of improvements could be done either by getting a training on how kurssidor works, or, if the required options do not exist, asking for user's feedbacks on how to improve the various functionalities.
