

Course evaluation MAT4520 (Manifolds) spring 2022

Q1: How do you perceive the content and structure of the course? Is it clear what the lectures are about and where they are heading?

Some students find that the book and lecturer explain and motivate the goals. Some find that it could have been made clearer why simpler cases are dealt with first, or why material is repeated in greater generality. Some would need more time to process the material in order to keep track.

Q2: This year we discussed various topics in Sections 1-4 (= Chapter I) before getting to manifolds in Section 5. Would you rather prefer to start with manifolds and then return to the earlier sections when needed?

Some students prefer to see sections 1-4 first, to avoid later interruption. Other students would prefer to start with section 5, since the early sections seem not so interesting on their own.

Q3: What is your experience with Tu's textbook?

Most students are happy with the textbook, with enough (or too much) detail. Some students would prefer a more efficient and less repetitive treatment. Some find that the introductory discussions can only be understood after reading the subsequent section.

Q4: What should we continue to do or do more of?

The lectures, commentary on imperfections in the book, more time for problems, and more repetition of material. Written solutions to some problems would also be nice.

Q5: What should we improve on or do less of?

With an audience of graduate students, it could be beneficial not to follow the book as closely. Some steps could be left as exercises rather than proved in class.

Q6: What have you benefited from in the course?

Learned about manifolds, (multilinear) algebra and smooth functions. The exercise sessions, the feedback on the mandatory assignment and the visual examples from the lectures were helpful.

Q7: What would you have liked to see in the course?

More ambitious course material and more connections to why this is useful.

Q8: Any other feedback?

Generally content, but expected the course material to be more enjoyable. The drawings in class are valuable and make it clearer what is going on.