

## Evaluation results: Modeling & Numerical Techniques, part 1

### Course details

The skill course will have a modular structure to satisfy both the need for an introduction into modeling in general and into specific areas of application.

Date: Oct 20-21, 2015

Place: MPI for Biogeochemistry, seminar room B0.002

Instructor: Carlos Sierra, MPI-BGC

5 out of 6 participants filled in the survey by December 10, 2015.

### Survey results

Please assess the workshop in general.

The workshop stimulated my interest in this topic.

25%	Strongly disagree
0%	Disagree
50%	Neither agree nor disagree
25%	Agree
0%	Strongly agree

I think that the level of difficulty of this workshop is appropriate.

25%	Strongly disagree
0%	Disagree
25%	Neither agree nor disagree
50%	Agree
0%	Strongly agree

I liked the structure of the course.

25%	Strongly disagree
0%	Disagree
0%	Neither agree nor disagree
75%	Agree
0%	Strongly agree

**Overall, I am satisfied with this workshop.**

25%	Strongly disagree
0%	Disagree
25%	Neither agree nor disagree
50%	Agree
0%	Strongly agree

**Please assess the lectures offered by Carlos Sierra.**

**The context of the module was clear to me (connexion to overarching topic of the course, embeddedness in general course structure).**

0%	Strongly disagree
0%	Disagree
0%	Neither agree nor disagree
75%	Agree
25%	Strongly agree

**The level of detail of this module was adequate.**

0%	Strongly disagree
0%	Disagree
50%	Neither agree nor disagree
50%	Agree
0%	Strongly agree

**I am satisfied with the contribution of the instructor to the course.**

0%	Strongly disagree
0%	Disagree
0%	Neither agree nor disagree
75%	Agree
25%	Strongly agree

**Which parts of the course were especially good (and why)?**

- I liked the repetition of mathematical principles
- The course was good refresher of the basic math concepts that are applicable to modelling
- I liked that there was not just a theoretical part but also a practical part that we could apply our learned skills, especially for the second day I was very interesting to see "real world" problems and how to solve them
- Good and connected structure! Handout on the first day.
- For me especially the practical parts, working with R, were very interesting and helpful.

### Which parts of the workshop were not so good / not so fitting / not well enough presented?

- the part on bayesian modeling could be more detailed, because it is interesting and was well presented
- The course was good overall. The level of exercises on day 1 was probably too easy and could be made more challenging.
- Very different previous knowledge leads to excessive demand for those, who do not have a background either in mathematics or in modelling, and a subchallenging course for those, who have. Second day exercises were more or less just "copy and paste" from the instructor's guideline. No real learning effect. Less time!
- Maybe, a little more information on SymPy could have been helpful.

### Do you have other suggestions for a future course?

- both days could be even extended to go a bit more into detail
- Offering two courses to people with more or less mathematical background and/or modelling experience will maybe improve the learning effect of each participant. Give some previous handout about refreshing mathematics (something like the given handout for the first day!), that can be worked through before and shortly discussed at the beginning of the first day. That leads to more time for the more complex modelling part!
- More details on SymPy, especially BEFORE solving the exercises, could be useful.