

QUESTIONS

RESPONSES 9

9 responses



SUMMARY

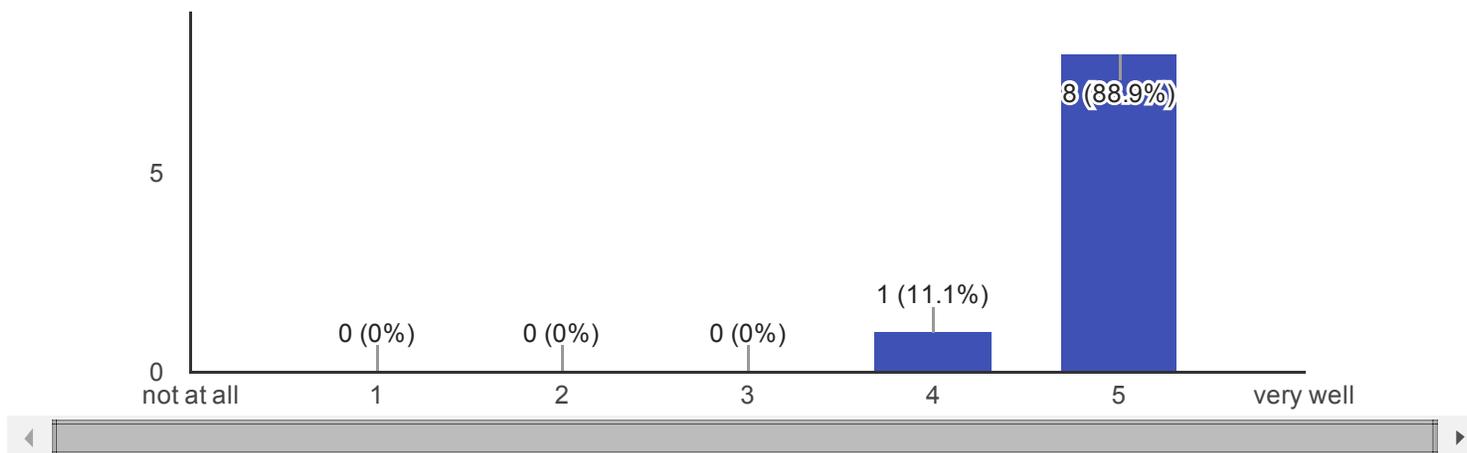
INDIVIDUAL

Accepting responses

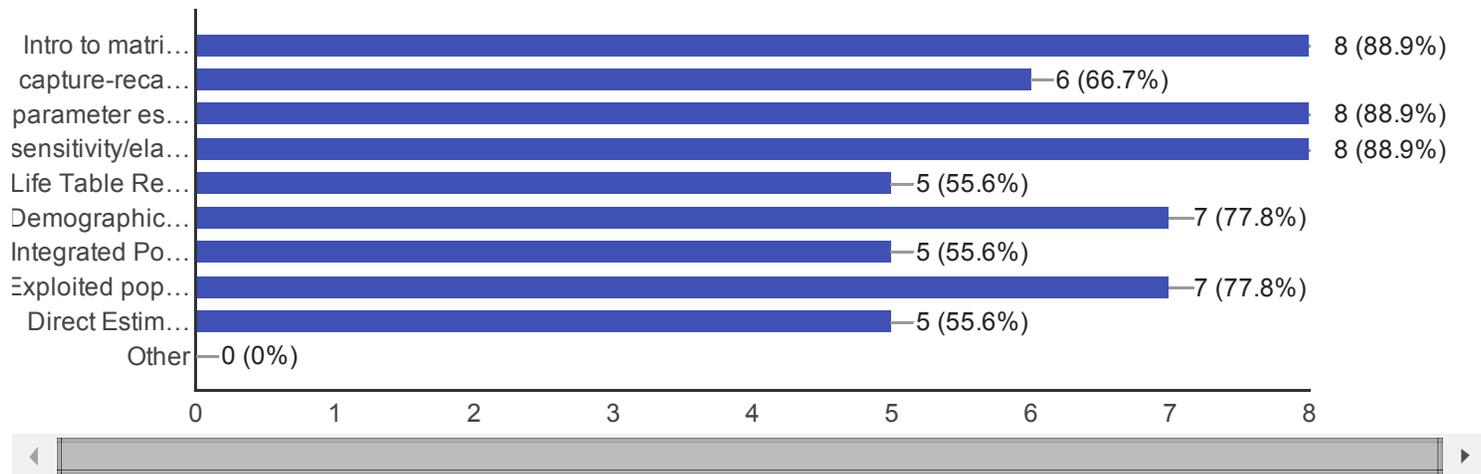


(1) The overarching goal of this course is to provide participants with a foundation to matrix population models and how to apply them directly towards conservation of wildlife populations. How well did we accomplish this goal?

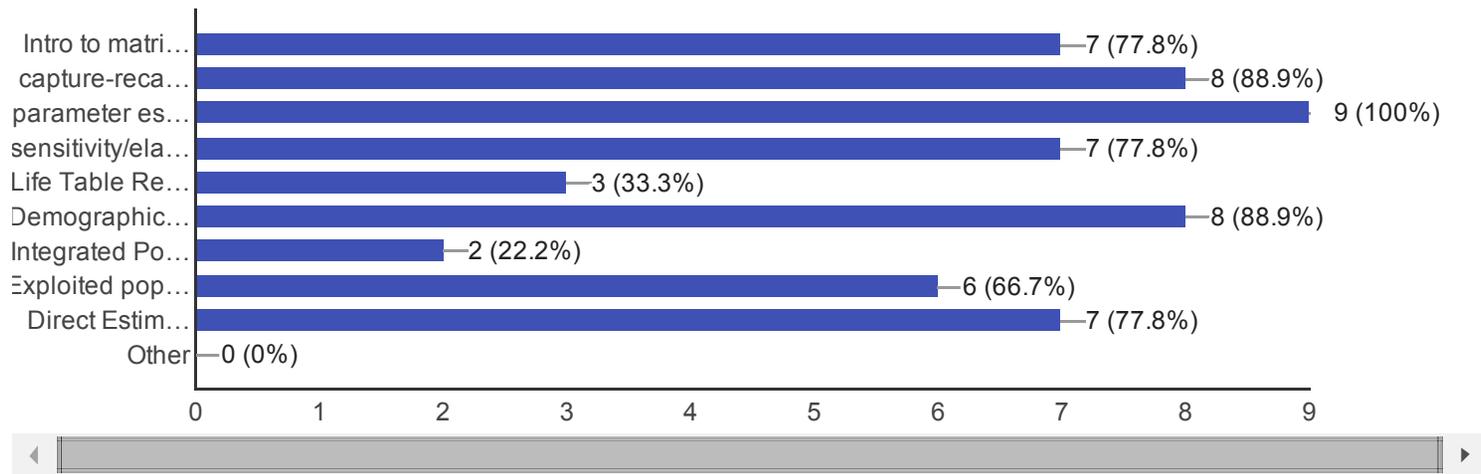
(9 responses)



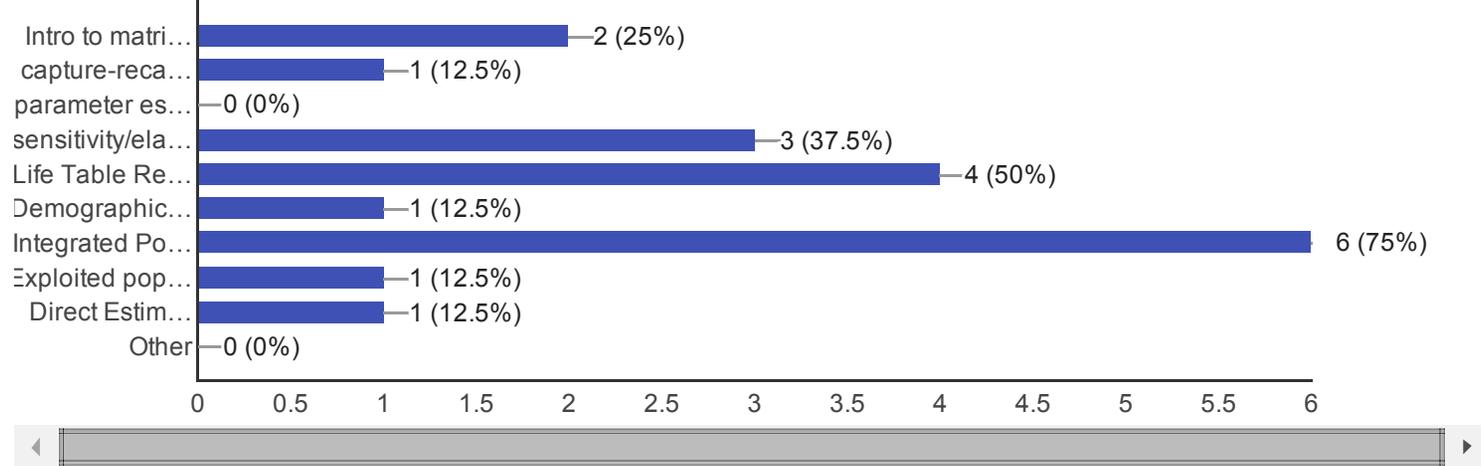
(2) What topic(s) did you find most compelling/relevant? (9 responses)



(3) What topic(s) did you find to be understandable? (9 responses)



(4) What topic(s) did you find to be the most difficult to understand? (8 responses)



(5) Were there any topic(s) that were missing that you wanted to learn about?
If so, what were they?

(4 responses)

using JAGS to run CJS models.

I am still unclear about how to add uncertainty to vital rate inputs when running matrix models so that I can generate lambda estimates with confidence intervals.

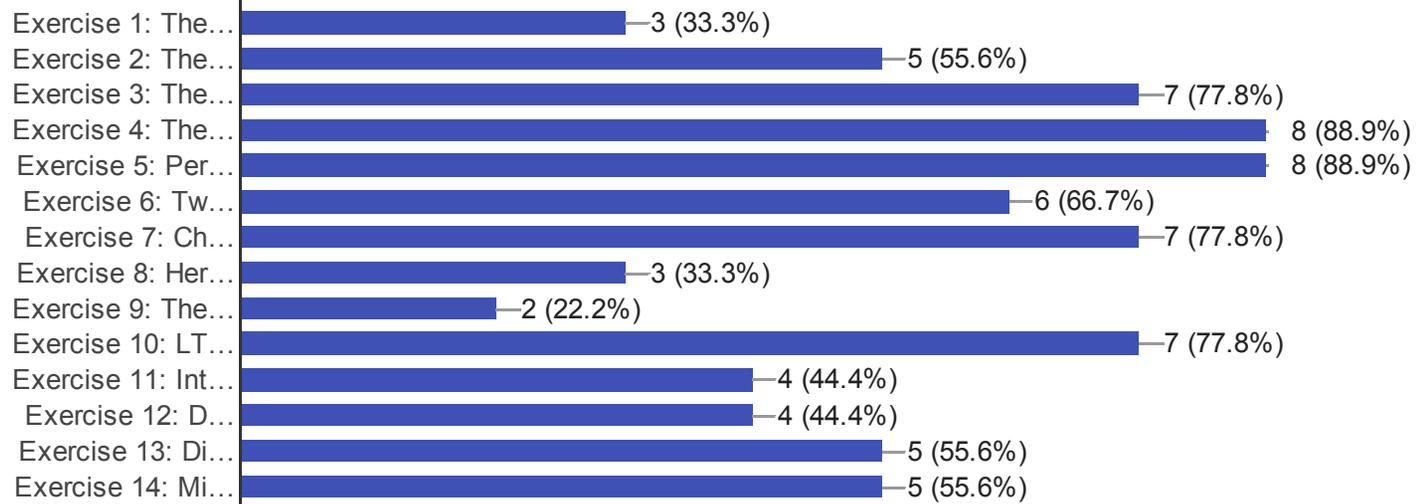
For a complete beginner myself a quick primer (even 1/2 hour) on how matrix algebra works would be helpful.

Perhaps more applications of concepts. Although there were many examples of concepts, it would have been interesting to have examples that tie these concepts into larger ideas concerning ecosystem function and processes.

Exercises 

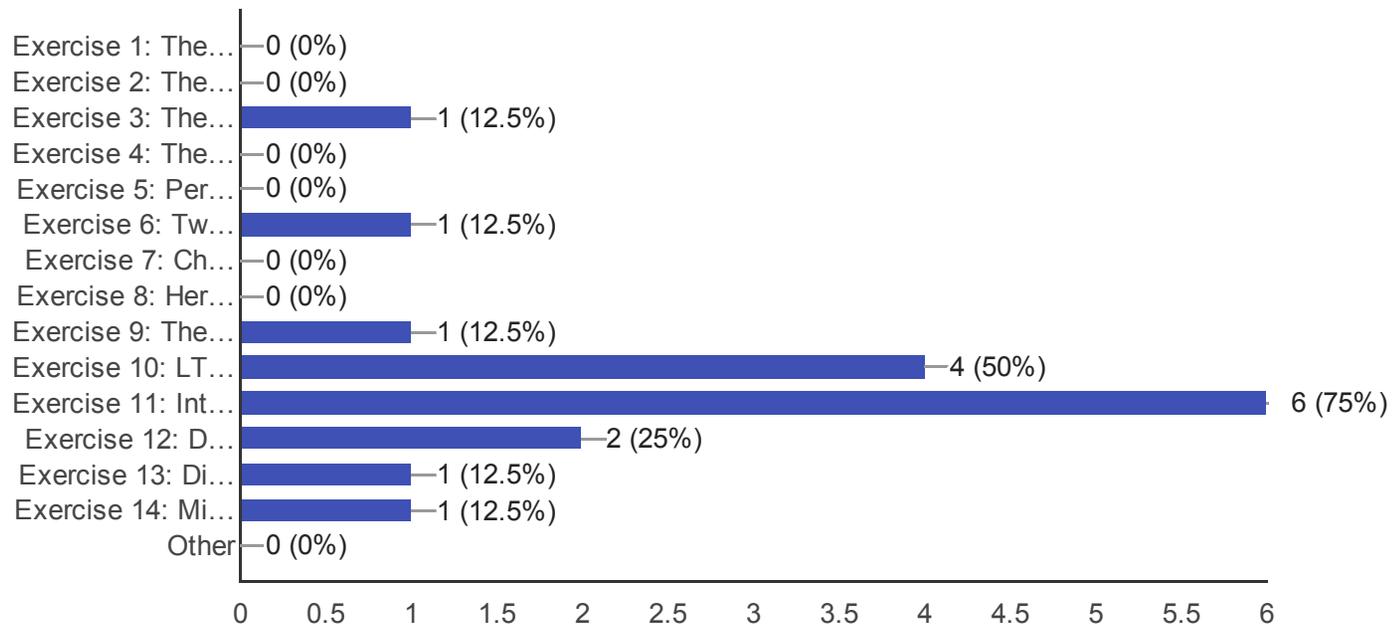
(6) What exercises(s) did you find the most helpful in learning the material?

(9 responses)



(7) What exercises(s) did you find to be the most challenging or difficult to understand?

(8 responses)



(8) Were there any topic(s) that were missing that you had wished you'd had more hands on practice with? If so, what were they?

(3 responses)

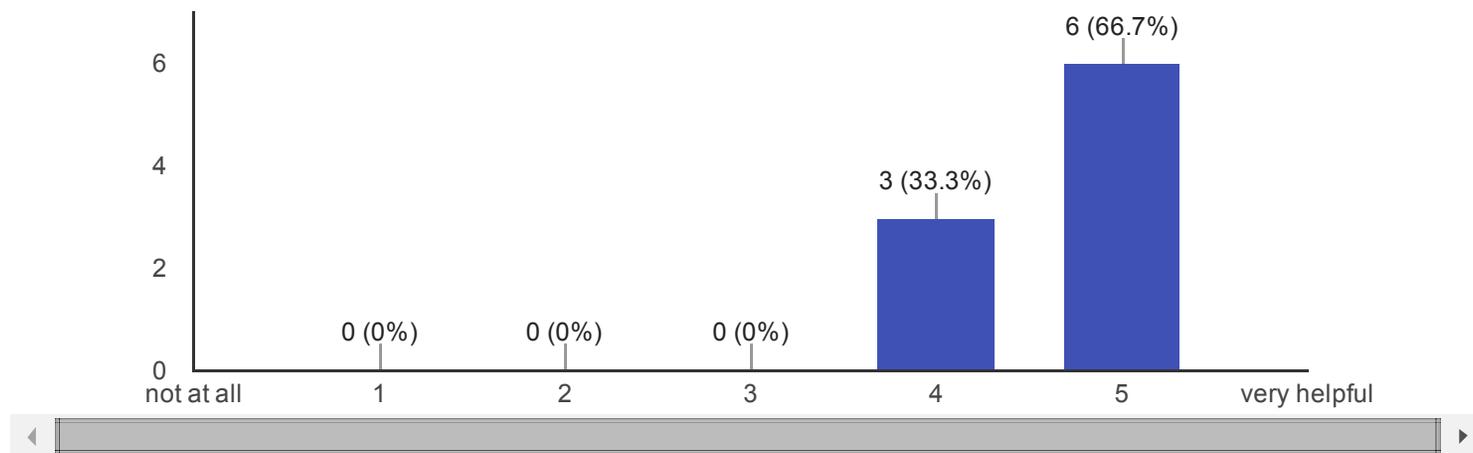
RMark, but that wasn't really the focus of the workshop.

IPMs. I did not understand the basic concept too well. And the example, therefore, I felt was out of context and this made very little sense to me.

How to model multiple covariates for survival and fecundity rates, especially using Pradel's model (and also CJS), and specific exercises on how to do this.

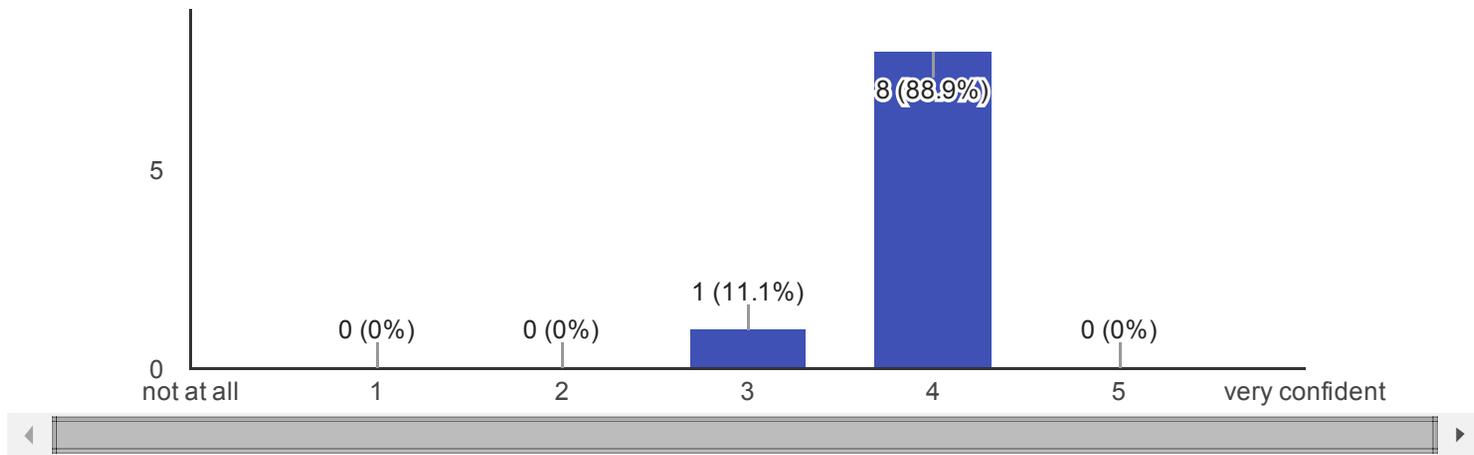
(9) Did you find the exercises helpful in understanding the material covered in the lectures?

(9 responses)



(10) The exercises are designed to guide you through how to apply the models discussed in the lectures towards analyses of real field data. How confident are you that you would be able to apply the same models to your own data?

(9 responses)



Misc

(11) What aspects of the course did you find most useful (or interesting) and why?

(7 responses)

The lectures and more importantly the Rcodes to which demonstrated how to run the analysis

I found the exploitation lecture the most useful and generally in the course I found the progression from simple models into more complex very helpful to understanding the topics. Also the lectures on demographic and environmental stochasticity, and the LTRE lecture were very useful for my purposes.

I really appreciated the one-on-one time with the course instructors. It was great to have the flexibility to address questions that were directly relevant to my research.

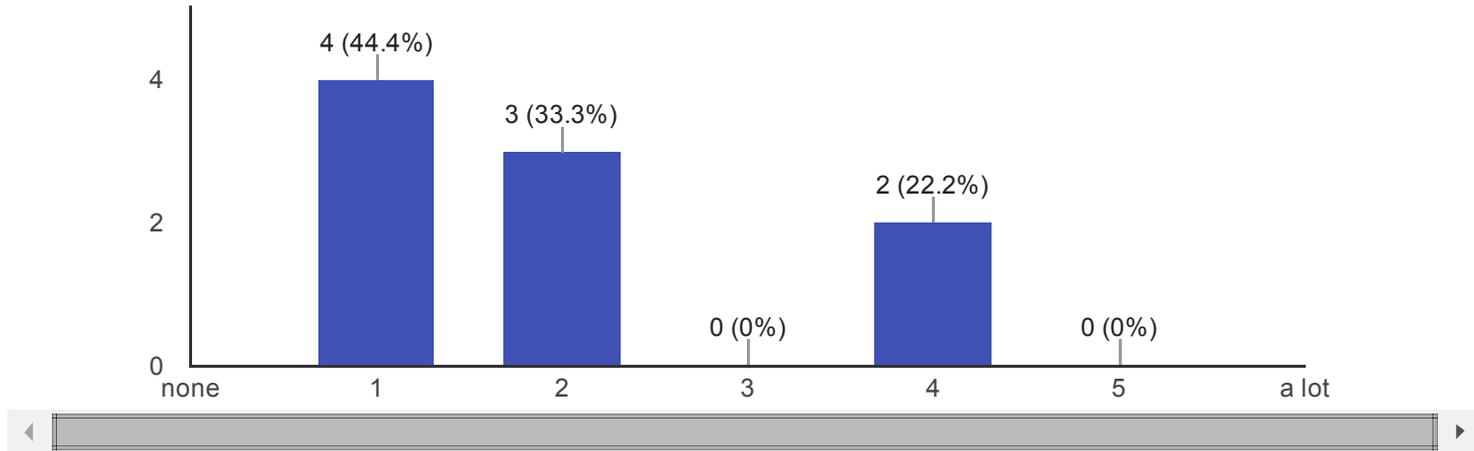
It's hard to pick one aspect because I am so new to the material. Even just learning construction of matrices and basic discussion of lambda, sensitivities and elasticities was incredibly helpful. I think the best part is getting a taste of all the possible ways in which you can use this type of modeling. Knowing which tools are available really helps when thinking about conservation research problems.

multistate models

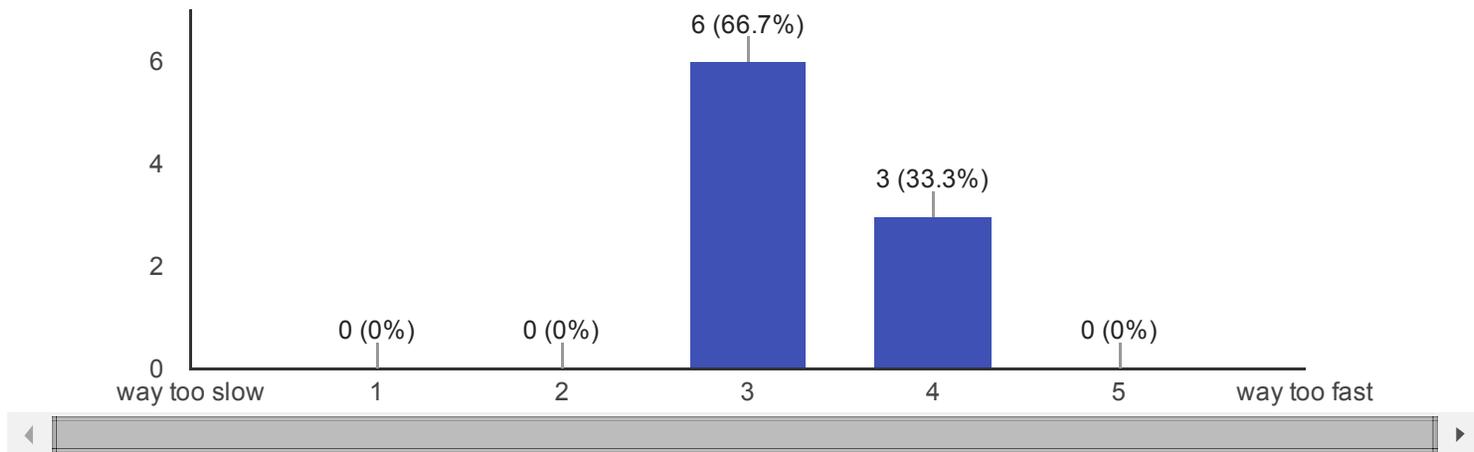
Instructors being available for guidance- beyond the 8-5 schedule and for topics that weren't necessarily in the module syllabus. I found this very helpful. I also appreciate the way in which exercises were described and designed. It was very easy for me to learn this way.

All of it, especially direct estimation of lambda and Pradel's model, which applied to my data set.

(12) What is your prior experience with matrix population models? (9 responses)



(13) How would you describe the pace of this course? (9 responses)



(14) Is there anything that you can think of that would improve the course and your learning experience?
(8 responses)

(5 responses)

As useful as the full Rcode is, i think i get more out of it if i have to code some of it myself. Perhaps add a question or two to each exercise that requires the students to apply knowledge of the model and code to answer questions where the code is not already given.

Admittedly it is a lot of material for one week but in all of the single week short courses I have take I believe the break up of lecturers and exercise has helped me to retain as much as possible in a short course frame work. Overall great course. ****Only suggestion for future courses, possibly include a half day mid-week for working on personal data project rather than a full day at the end. This might allow for synthesis of questions that might come after completion of the course in the current setup.****

I often struggled to absorb the material presented in the afternoon sessions. More morning review sessions would be nice to allow for clarification of general concepts when my mind was fresh.

I would benefit from the intro to R and linear algebra workshop that was canceled on Sunday.

Adding in time earlier on to think about and work on the individual data projects would be useful.

I think having an hour or so every day to work on our projects would have been really helpful, so then I could focus on the lectures/exercises without worrying about having time to finish my project.

Introduction to R and matrix models workshop for beginners.

I understand it's a lot to cover. But it became increasingly difficult to focus and absorb lectures after 3.30-4 pm. And on some days, there were some difficult concepts taught towards the end - I had trouble understanding this. Ending every day with exercises would have been better.

Posting all material a week or two before so that participants have a little bit of time to get accustomed to it would be great. That way, when we get to class we have an understanding of the basics of the material and can really get in-depth and ask questions during lectures and exercises. Otherwise, I think a lot of people don't initially ask questions because they are still trying to initially digest and organize all the material that is being presented to them for the first time.

(15) Do you feel more competent in using the models that you learned about than you did in the beginning of the course? If yes, what was the most helpful in your learning? If no, is there anything that you can think of that would have helped you to learn?

(7 responses)

Yes! The lectures on matrix models, followed by the great exercises with the pop.bio package were really useful for understanding what exactly was going on. Especially, where we used the pop.bio package and the MASS package to do the eigenvector analysis.

Yes I feel much more competent than before I took the course. So much so that I will frequently attempt to implement these models to analyze previously collected data and guide the collection of new data.

Yes! I have a much greater understanding of the general concepts now and was able to actually apply much of the material to my current research.

I was often overwhelmed by the lecture material, but the exercises and time with instructors helped me understand more of the general concepts.

Yes. Again it's hard to pick one thing - but I would say that getting exposure to some of the fundamental theory, constructing matrices, and then getting a flood of R code were definite highlights.

Yes - lectures followed by exercises to work through an example was really useful

I can now read papers on "ugly" matrix models without skipping the methods part. I certainly feel more confident because I'm more familiar with the concepts now.

Absolutely. The lectures were incredible, and the exercises really solidified the knowledge in an excellent way. The timing of both lectures and exercises was perfect, and the timing for the class overall was fast but that was a good thing, as it really forced everyone to be on top of their game and paying attention and focusing. Also, of course, the instructors were incredible in their helpfulness and experience!

(16) Feel free to leave other comments on the course or lab. These will be taken into consideration for the future workshops of this nature. We really appreciate your feedback!

(5 responses)

I really enjoyed this course and learned a ton. I thought the presentation was great, the instructors were awesome, and it is an experience that I believe will serve as a spring board for all future population analysis that I do.

Overall great course. As an agency employee and not a grad student the ability to take a course of this caliber without having to travel long distances and expend large amounts of research funds on travel etc. it makes a course like this great for a variety of reasons. I will gladly attend any future offerings of this nature. Thank you all, hope to see you in the future in another short course.

This has been a wonderful experience. Thank you so much for creating this opportunity for non-students.

This is a fantastic course and should be offered again. It is a great extension of the normal population modeling class, and it is very exciting to be around this many great minds in one room!

The presentations at the end were great, but with such a short and intense learning period, I think a lot of people felt nervous about presenting and were focusing more on having a good presentation than really trying to understand the material, especially towards the end of the workshop (Thursday). At the same time, it was really great to be able to apply these concepts directly to your own specific data and the presentation forced people to do that immediately and directly following the workshop, which was beneficial for most people I believe. It would have been nice to have the BBQ on Friday after presentation, so that people could really relax and all get together after everything was finished. In addition, I was wondering if it would be possible to put all the powerpoint presentations on the course website - it would be really great to go through them one more time to see how participants applied the concepts to their own data. Thank you so much for the workshop, it was absolutely very inspiring and interesting!
