

PX436:General Relativity

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Module questionnaire 20/21 (PX436)

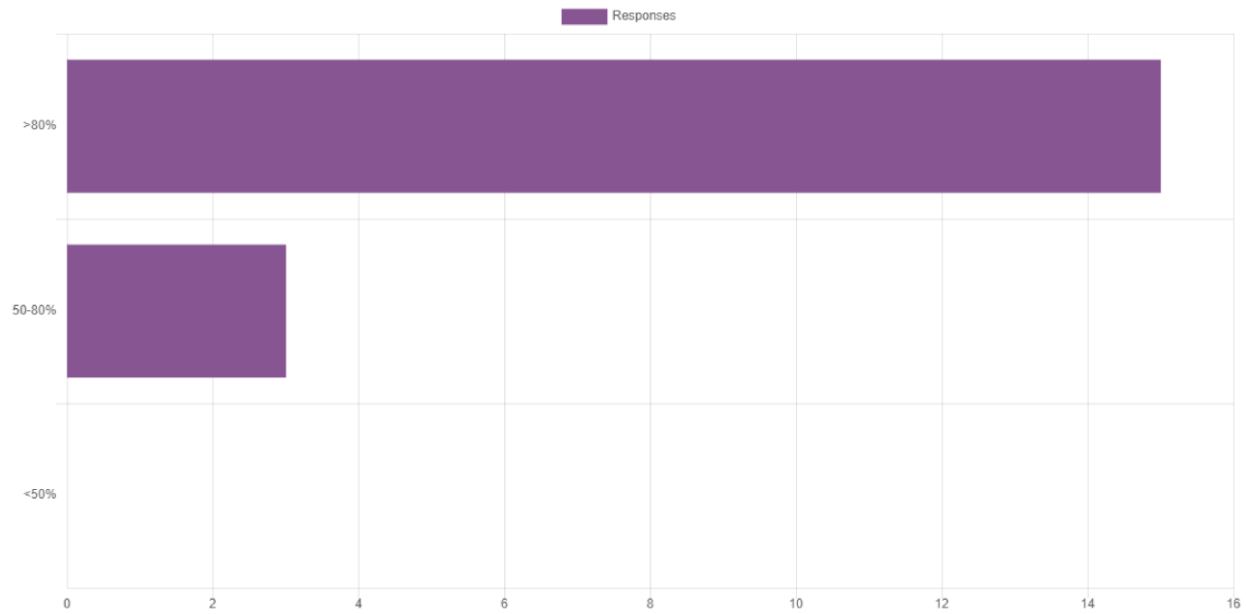
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Submitted answers: 19 / 66

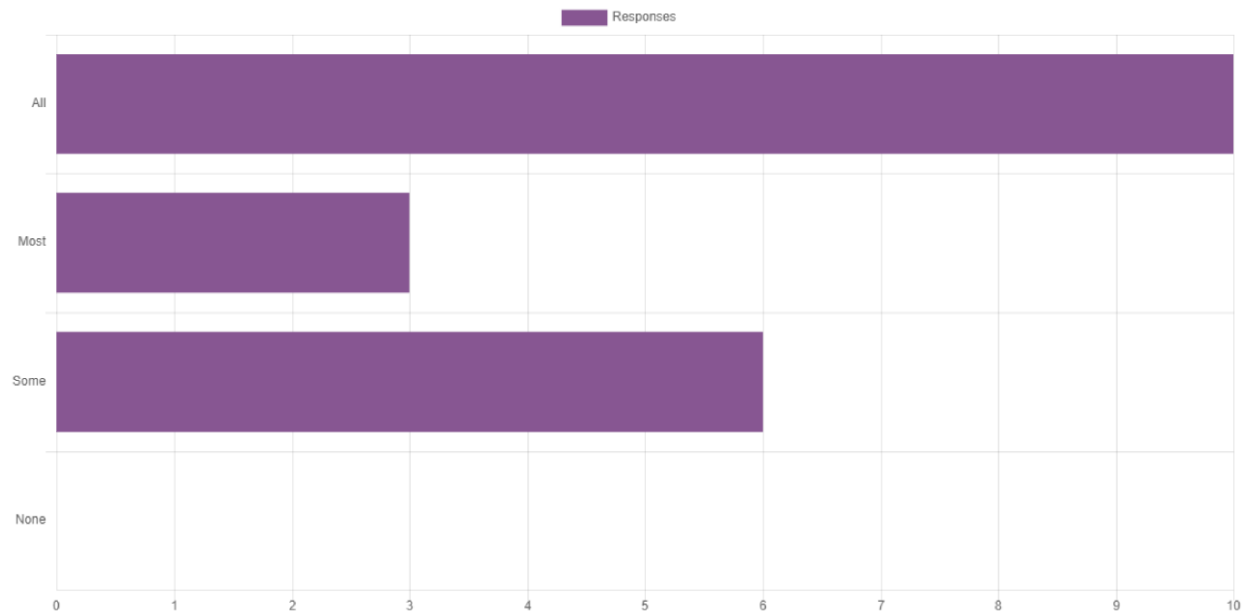
Questions: 21

(Q1) I watched or read through the notes of (...?) of the online lecture material



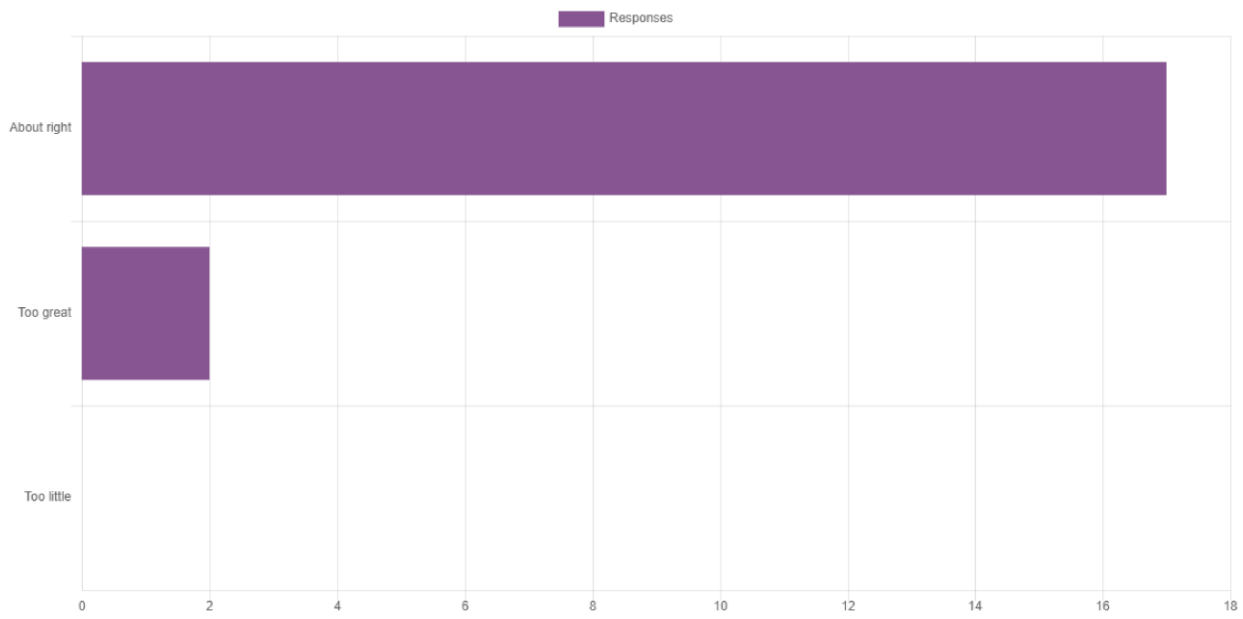
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(Q2) I attended (...?) of the Live events for this module



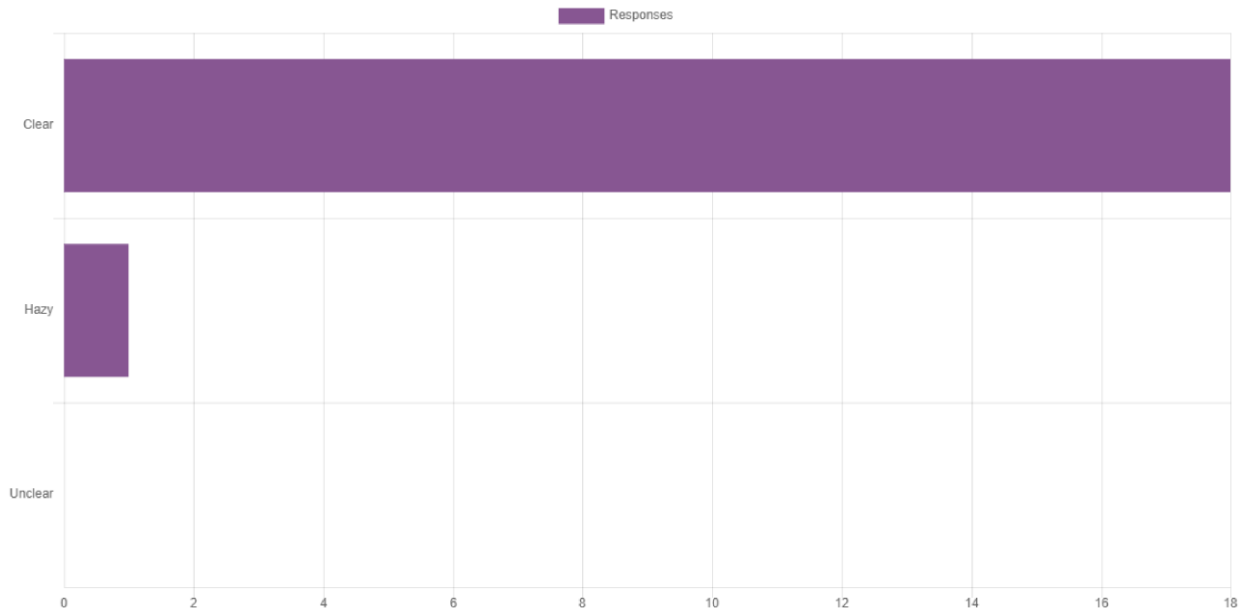
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(Q3) The quantity of material was



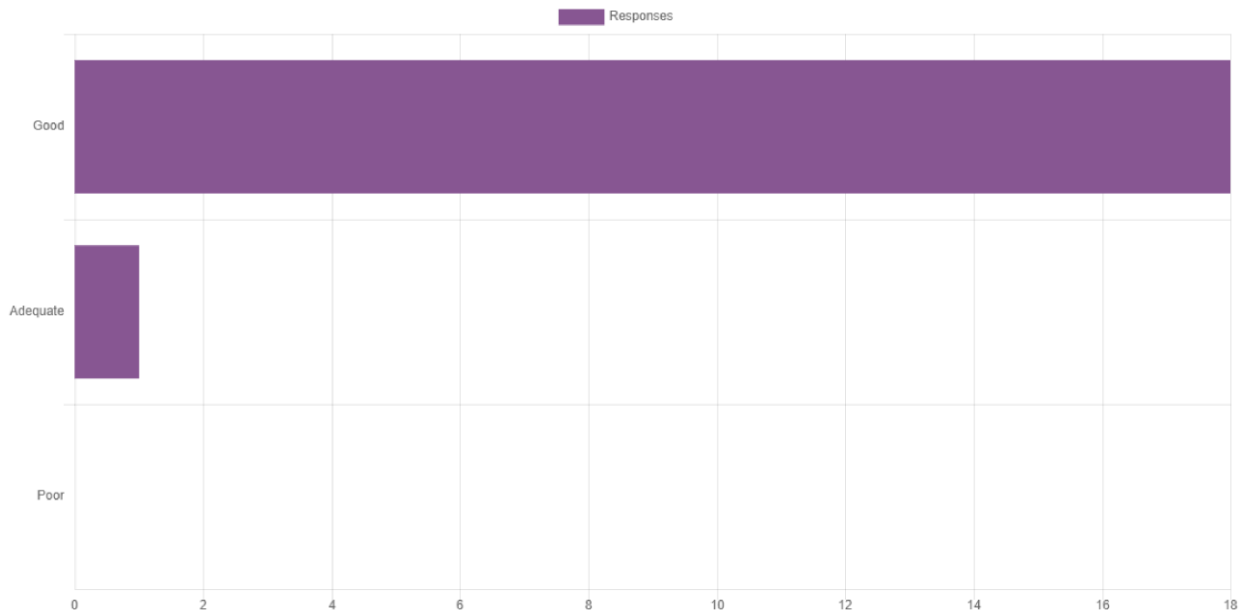
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(Q4) By the end of the module its purpose and direction were



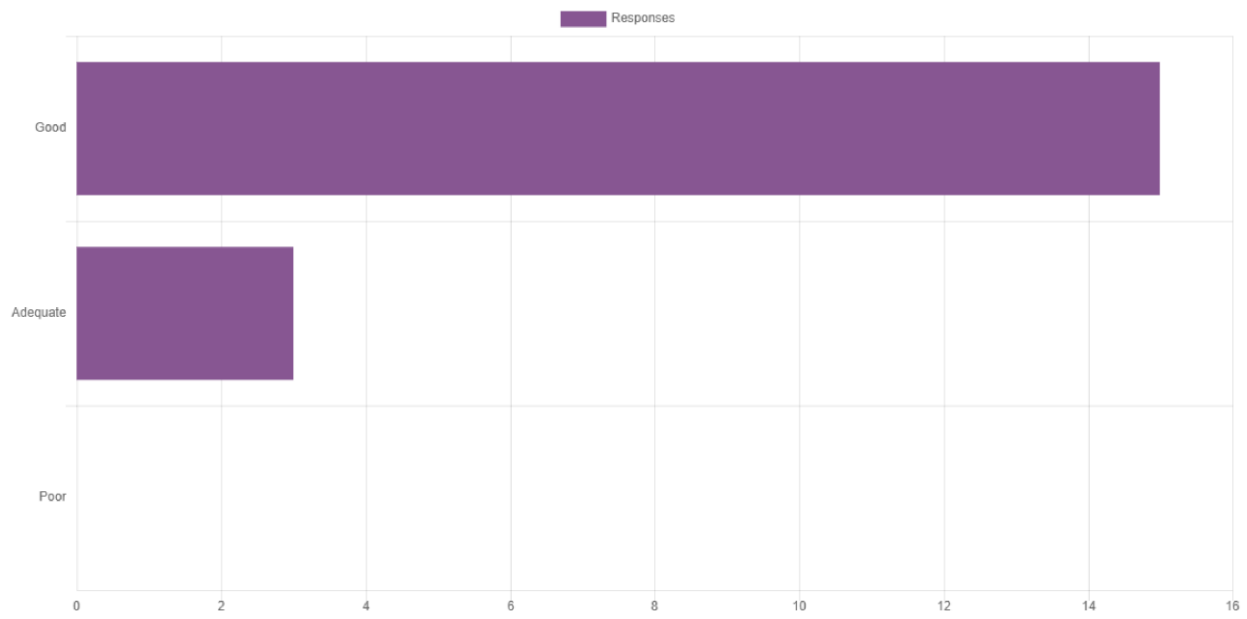
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(Q5) Explanation of new terms and concepts was



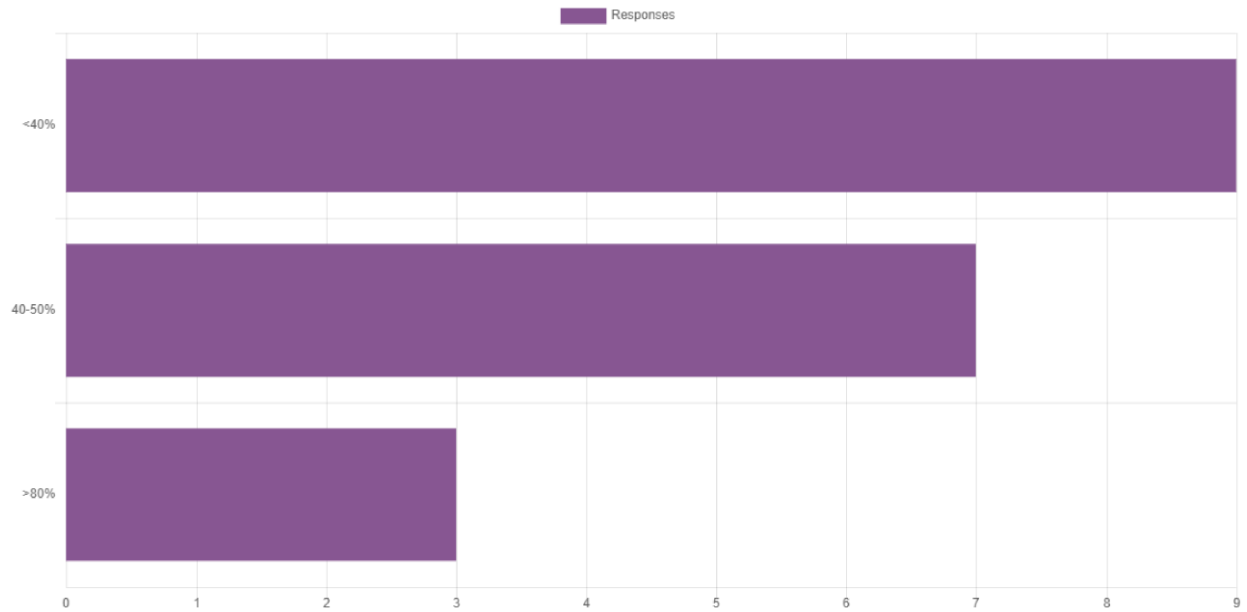
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(Q6) I have a (...?...) set of notes



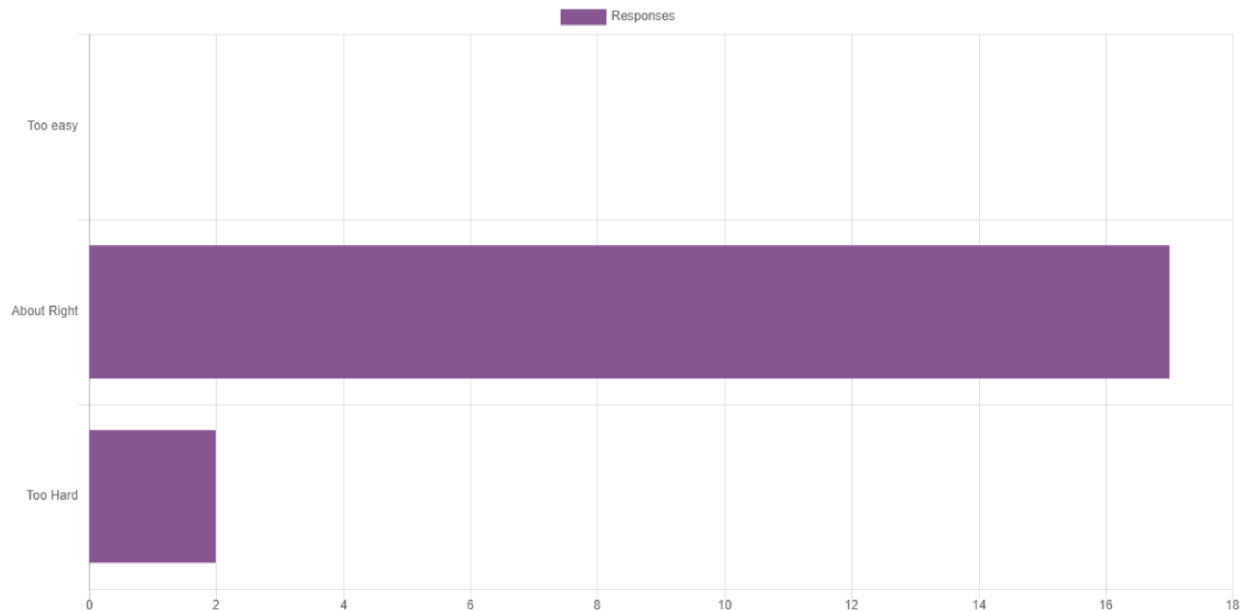
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(Q7) I attempted (...?...) of examples sheet questions



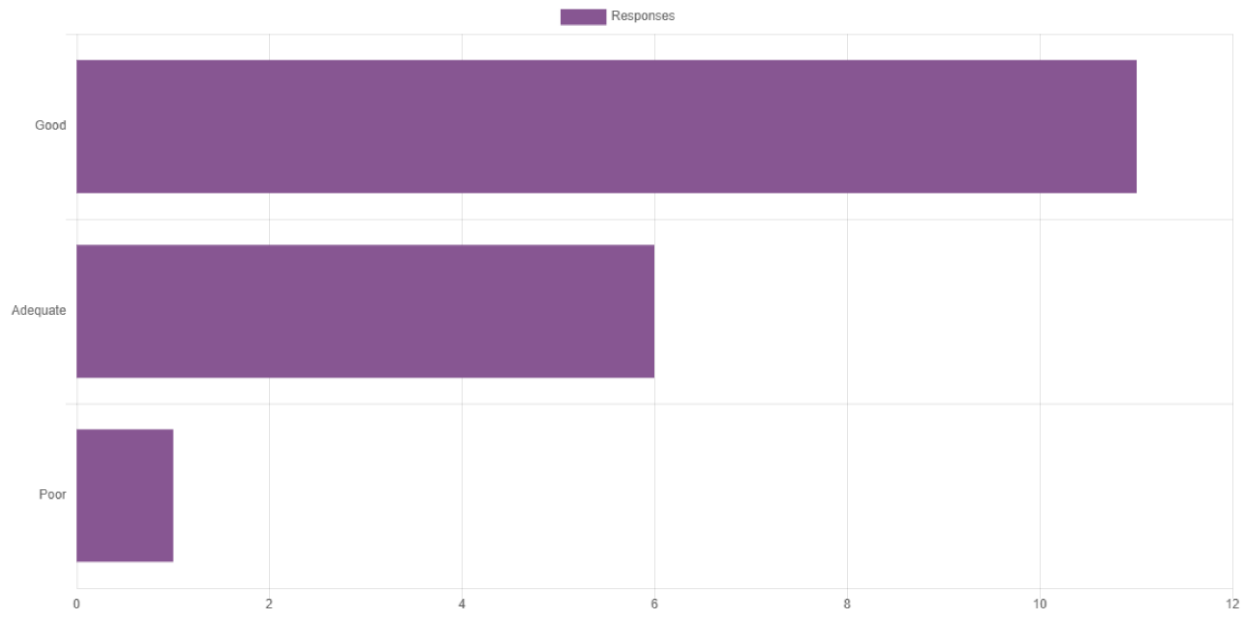
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(Q8) The examples sheet questions were



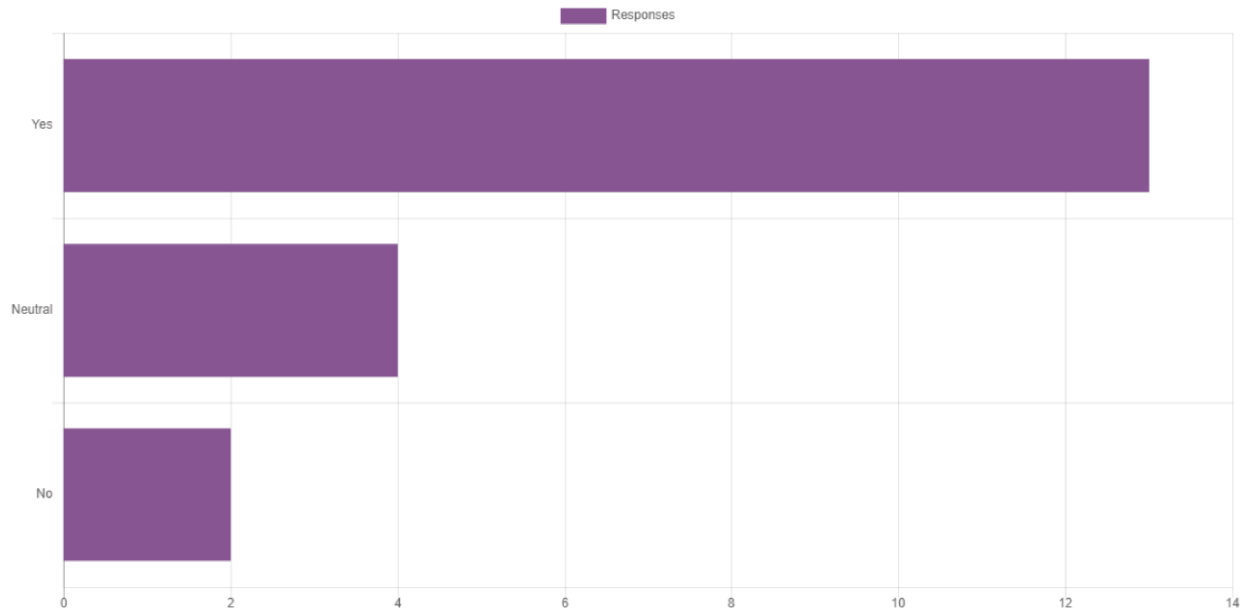
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(Q9) Promptness of feedback on submitted coursework was



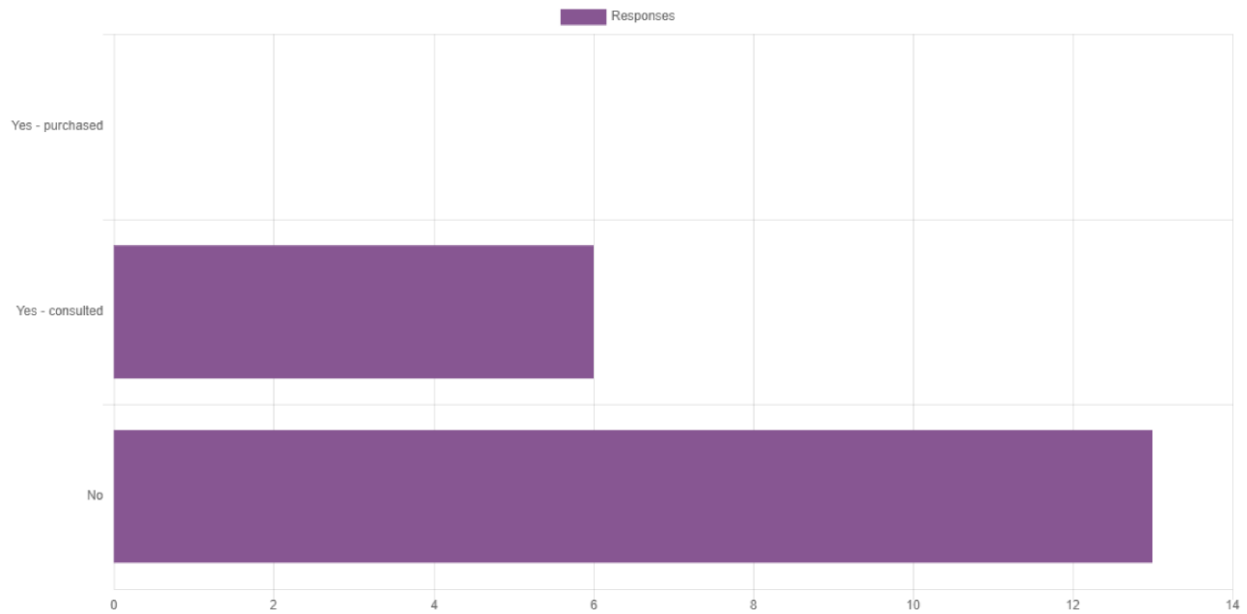
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(Q10) Would you like a course taking this subject further ?



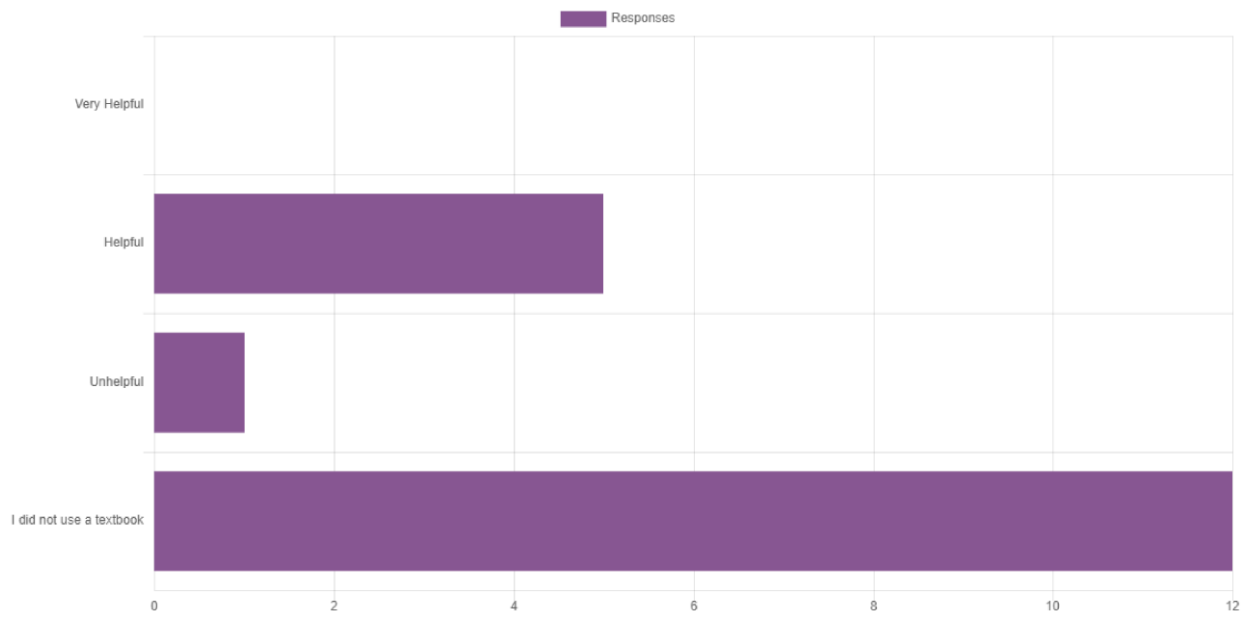
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(Q11) Did you use any of the recommended/suggested textbooks?



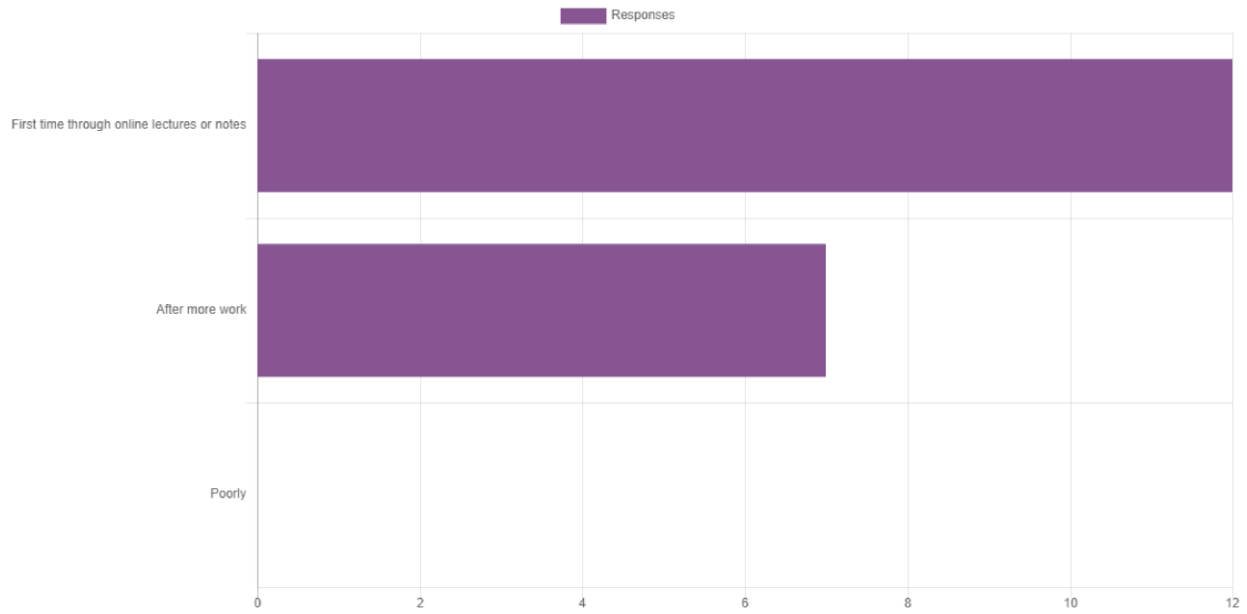
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(Q12) I found the textbook(s) used to be



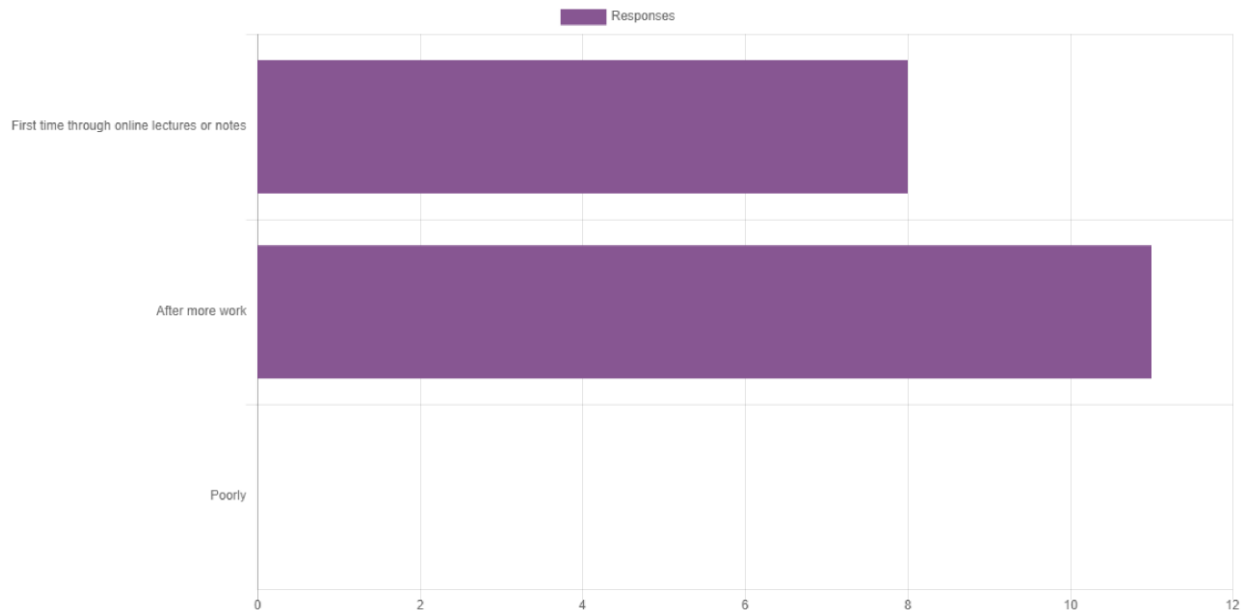
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(A) Einstein's equivalence principle



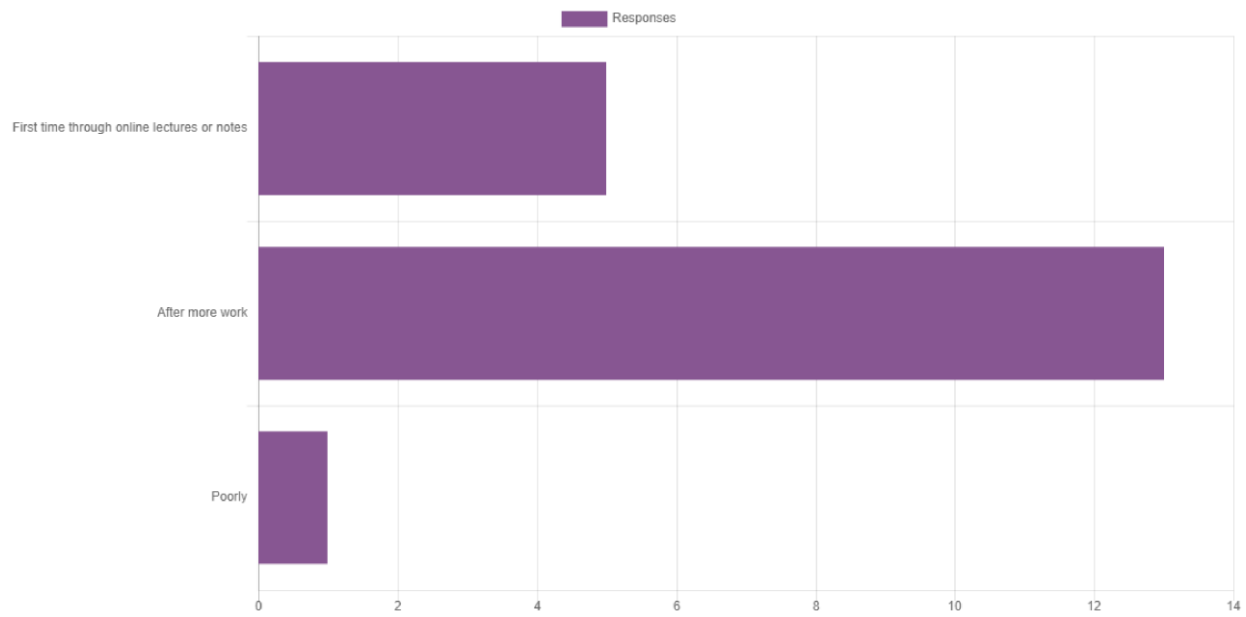
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(B) Metrics



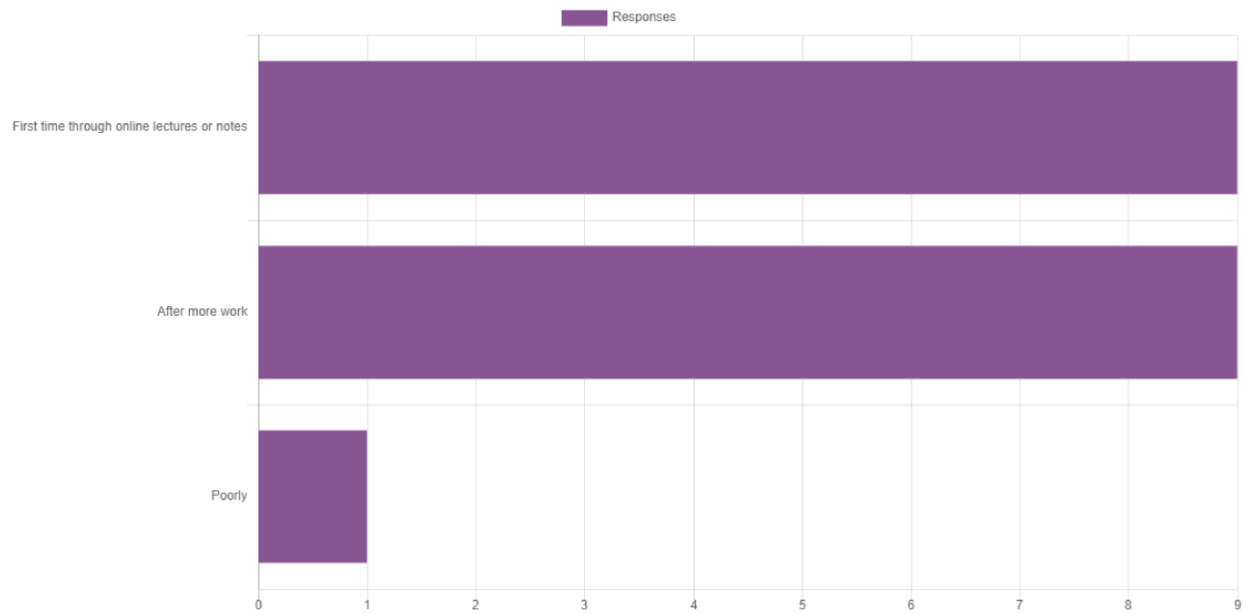
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(C) Geodesic motion



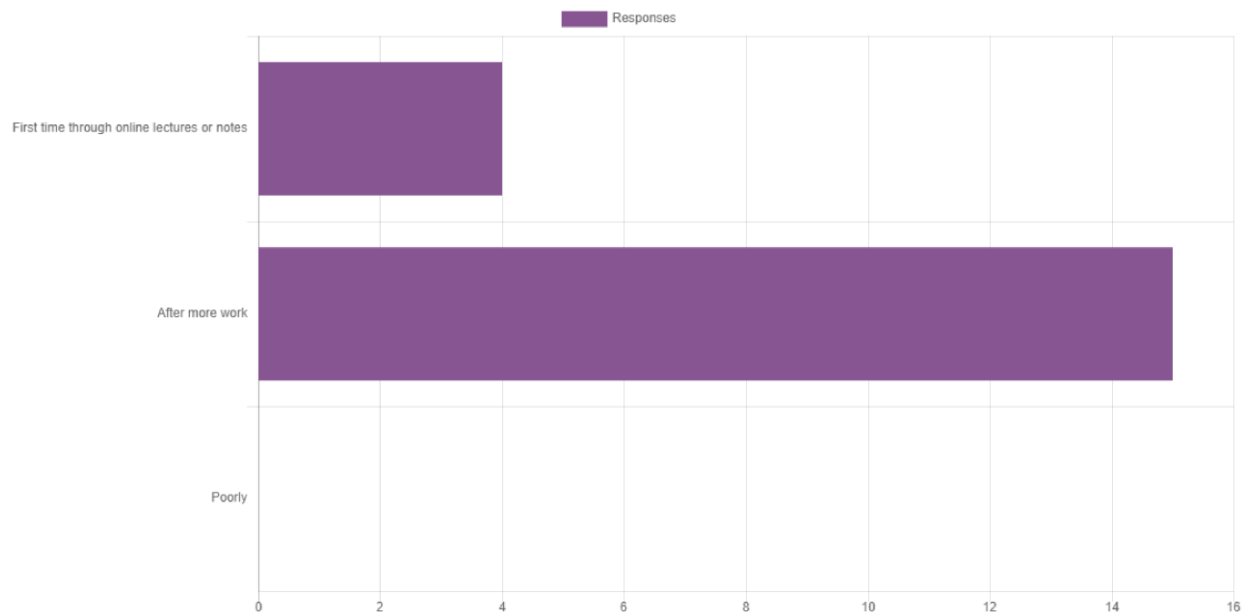
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(D) Schwarzschild metric



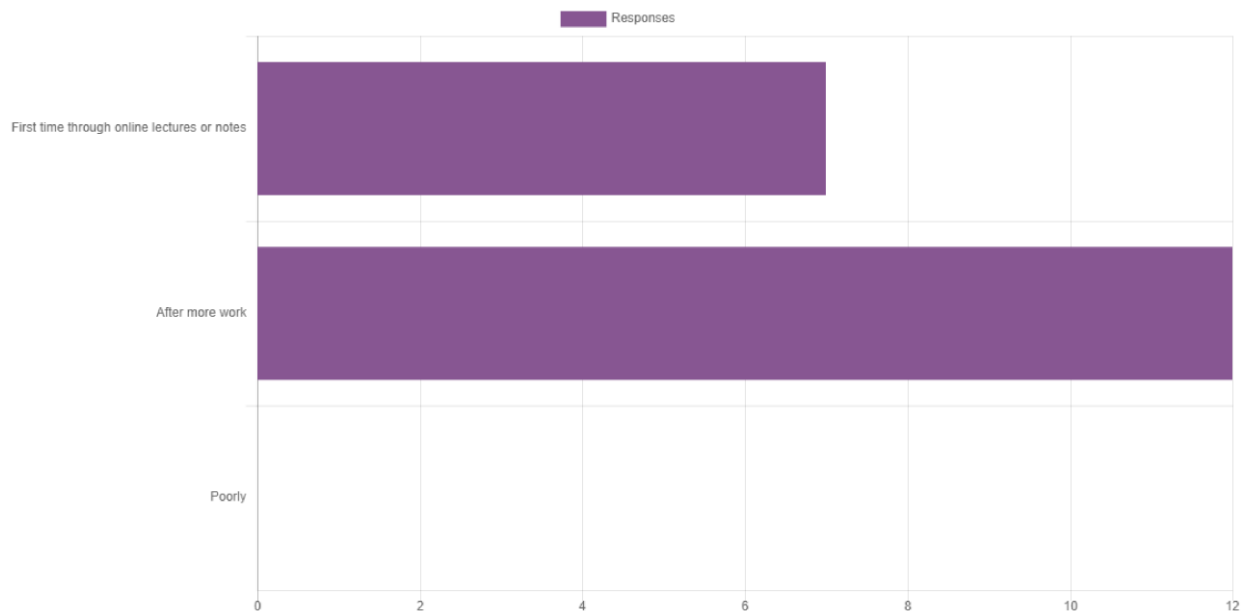
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(E) Gravitational waves



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(F) FLRW cosmology



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The best features of this module were:

- The clear explanation of terminology and the processes used.
- There are lots of good parts of this module. The discussion of black holes and cosmology where the best "physics part" and differential geometry was the most interesting "maths part" (being a MPhys I have never done it before, but the lecturer was very clear when explaining these concepts). More generally, the videos were nicely done, had a good formatting and they were extremely engaging. I believe his lectures were the best so far in four years (that's why I am writing so much!) On a side note: I believe every lecturer should follow GR format for live sessions and lectures (I loved that the LS were not simple, awkward teams call).
- Overall: fantastic module (even though my true passion is CMP!)
- Well formatted online lectures with good image quality
- The historical anecdotes and links to other modules were good for contextualisation. There was also a big effort to keep the module content up to date with modern physics i.e LIGO/VIRGO collaboration.
- Very clear notes and Lecturer explained concepts very well
- The ways its taught is actually quite incredible, the 50% mathematical set up followed by a 50% physics, Dr Alexander's enthusiasm and his efforts in making it clear why we're doing this.
- Good quality videos, lecturer's evident and contagious enthusiasm
- really interesting content
- content was delivered very well, despite the circumstances this year
- lots of examples and the full typed notes were useful aids to help understanding topics
- The lecturer was very enthusiastic, with a lot of little side details thrown in. Although I don't understand everything, I think considering the modules content he was excellent.
- Fantastic lecturer and content - the lecture notes are perfect, made me not ever really need a textbook unless there was a very specific part of maths I needed to look up, but the notes provided are very complete and clearly lots of effort gone into them, and really appreciated. Live sessions were great and very helpful mix of going through problems and answering people's questions. Promptness of feedback on questions asked outside of the live sessions was brilliant and very helpful.
- The lecturer was very good, at explanations of difficult concepts and doing worked examples, and setting an appropriate range of difficulty for supplementary questions
- The content of the course was very interesting.
- A fascinating subject matter with an enthusiastic lecturer.

Any particular aspects/items needing improvement (and suggestions how):

- No, it was a very well-oiled lecture series.
- I feel like there's still a bit more we could have discussed on the cosmology side of things, but that maybe a personal preference
- Not having solutions to example questions is absolutely piss-poor. It's very difficult to learn when you have no idea if what you're doing is right.
- Some explanations were left as tasks for us to figure out but were never properly answered in the long run
- Ricci tensor and christoffel symbol material was very heavy, it would have been nice to look at more examples with real manifolds. Although the module is limited in time with how much differential geometry it can teach, and the main focus is relativity of course, there is some material in the middle that could be expanded on and some that doesn't need as much emphasis.
- Maybe include a bit more material on the LIGO/VIRGO collaborations (this is not urgent at all)
- N/A
- If anything maybe some more pointers to specific parts of textbooks/papers throughout the notes that can accompany the maths steps. I know this is a lot of effort, but for example - working through some long maths steps, if you would like to see the original derivation/explanations with perhaps more comments about it, or seeing a different way of it's presentation could be helpful? But as I say the notes were pretty complete so this is a tiny thing really.


Any other comments:

- This was one my favourite modules taken during my degree, the explanations were very clear and the live sessions were extremely helpful, so thank you!
- One of the best modules in 4 years. I wish all lecturers will take up his format for live sessions and lectures. The lecturer were always there to answer all the questions we had on time and accurately and he was very engaging!
- Although I found this module quite difficult, it has been by far my favourite this year. The delivery of content by Dr. Alexander was excellent and the material was extremely interesting!
- Thank you very much Gareth!
- The concepts are difficult and I think it's a testament to the lecturers ability that they were made digestible without watering down the content too much.
- Great job!

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