Astrophysical Dynamics

(Astrofysikalisk dynamik)

`CTH: FAS010 GU: AS3500`

Examiner: Alessandro Romeo

Students:

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Course evaluator: Oscar Agertz

The Positive

All of the students found the course content to be very interesting. The topics of the course is explained really well and the long discussions and time for questions is great.

The lecture notes were also a very appreciated thing, allowing the students to be prepared for the upcoming lectures. Most students found the exercises very rewarding as well because of the extensive discussions allowing everyone to really understand the complex subjects of a galaxy's life.

The most commented part is the lecturers (Alessandros) way of teaching. All of the students think it is superb. He is very encouraging, making all of the students think hard about every subject and always makes sure that everyone understand what he is teaching. The "italian" way of presenting things was very much liked as well, making very advanced things more easy to understand by using extensive body language and making many striking parallels (especially the ones concerning the traffic in Sweden and Italy). Even if a students is not interested in a certain topic, it is hard not to be when Alessandro is teaching; very good! A big plus for the fun experiments in the course.

Almost all of the students liked the examination much, allowing special parts of the course to be really dealt with if a students is interesting. Listening to the other presentations was also popular, much thanks to the fact that all of the students had become very interesting in he whole area of astrophysical dynamics.

Finally the most positive thing: All of the students really felt that they have learned much from the course!

The Negative

There are almost nothing negative to comment upon. Some students thought that the four-hour-sessions in the mornings felt a bit long and would like to have more breaks. One person in the group felt that hand-in problems and discussions would be better than the current way (discussion and presentation). Another comment was the wish to have the option of doing a written exam as well, but to keep the presentation and problem solving.

Mixed Comments

The course book (Shu F.H., 1992, The Physics of Astrophysics - Vol. II: Gas Dynamics) was appreciated by the students who bought it but some considered it to be a bit complicated. The book was a very good complement to the brilliant lecture notes, making it easy too go into depth concerning the mathematics and other special subjects, for example blast wave theory).

The part about wavelets was very interesting and some of the students would like to have learned more about it. There were also some interest in having a voluntary introductory lecture to the subject of astrophysics for the people that is usually not studying it. A few students would also like to go deeper into some of the topics presented in the course, for example turbulence.

Short Summary

The students feel very content with the course, finding it to be a very interesting subject. The way of teaching is one of the most positive things of the course, making complicated things more easy to understand as well as making all parts of the course very fascinating. There is almost no negative things to comment upon, some of the students felt that it was tiring to concentrate hard for almost four hours and would have liked to have a few more breaks.