Closing Remarks (and feedback summary)
Participants

- 321 applications
- 156 registered attendees
- 31% female (2023 ~34%)
- 7% from industry
LxMLS 2024 Participant Nationalities
General Organization (Suggestions?)

- Not really, great experience overall!
- Consider changing structure for the labs (perhaps a single dedicated day, perhaps considering breaks and more guided interactions, etc.)
- Improve poster session! Perhaps a dedicated session, instead of coffee breaks, and have the monitors/speakers more involved in giving feedback to posters.
- Carefully consider the target for the summer school. Labs too easy for computer scientists and ML people, too difficult for people from other backgrounds.
- Birds-of-a-feather sessions would be nice to add.

Thanks to Tereza Traquinas, Sara Correia, and Ana Ayash for admin. support!
Morning Lectures and Afternoon Talks

- More maths and formal explanations.
- Less maths and more examples/applications.
- Announce the afternoon talk topics earlier on the website.
- More focus on current research topics.

What is your general opinion about the afternoon talks?

- 53.7% I found them important to see how the concepts learned in the morning are u...
- 34.1% They were OK
- 12.2% I found them useless (e.g. uninteresting, I was too tired, etc.)
Labs

- Ratings for monitors were very positive 👏
- Mostly positive scores for all the lab sessions

What is your general opinion about the lab guides and code?

- They helped me understand the lecture...
- They are OK, but not crucial for my understanding
- The material is better covered elsewhere
- They should instead just be a collection of notes
- They are good but the solution code leaves much to be desired

How would you rate the help provided by the monitors?
41 responses

1: 1 (2.4%)
2: 1 (2.4%)
3: 5 (12.2%)
4: 17 (41.5%)
5: 17 (41.5%)
Labs

Do you have any general comments about the monitors or particular interactions to highlight?

- Very polite and eager to help
- Would prefer more guided interactions
- Really enjoyed the monitor going through equations with us and being open to misleading solutions
- They really took their time to explain problems to individual people, which is great!
- I found it easier to understand difficult concepts when they were explained by someone with the same background as me.
Labs: How would you improve the labs, considering the help from the monitors?

- A more guided approach to the labs would be beneficial
- Scrap GitHub, and instead write single comprehensive notebooks
- Make the labs more related to the lectures
- More clear instructions in the beginning, adding different levels of difficulty for each lab session

“I feel that the labs are set up for a very specific background and level of understanding, while this summer school is promoted for those from many backgrounds.”
Food

- **Coffee breaks**
  - More water
  - More coffee stands, and coffee before the first lecture would be great.
  - More vegetarian/vegan options and better labelling of them would be appreciated
  - Consider environmental issues (avoid single-use cups)
  - Make them always outside

- **Lunch breaks**
  - The queue is very long
  - Half an hour longer would be great

- **Banquet with very positive ratings**
  - Keep it like this it was amazing
  - Maybe an icebreaker activity, something fun!
  - Better vegan/vegetarian options
Facilities

- Lecture room with very positive feedback
  - Not enough leg room
  - Poor support for laptops
  - Taking notes can be hard

- Lab rooms with very positive feedback
  - Too cold
  - Too hot

...dimming the lights puts people to sleep!

...a bit too crowded, too many people feels like a large conference rather than a summer school!
What topics would you like to see covered more in the school?

- Probabilistic generative models (diffusion, etc.)
- More multimodal ML (vision, speech)
- Explainability and interpretability
- AI agents
- Fairness
- Reinforcement learning
- Methods for reducing computational costs
  - Adapters
  - Quantisation
  - Etc.
- …
LxMLS overall Assessment

- Overall positive scores

- Suggestions for improvement:
  - Improve food options
  - More guided lab sessions
  - More opportunities for interacting with the speakers
  - Tag the lectures and labs with a difficulty level (level of expertise necessary to follow)
  - More space to poster sessions (perhaps dedicated event)

Many thanks for your suggestions!
Thanks to our sponsors!
Thanks to our partners!
A big thanks to our speakers and panelists!
And also a big thanks to our monitors!
Thanks for attending!