

Summary of Feedbacks from the DESY Summer Students 2011

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Compiled in a hopefully unbiased way
Presented at the 'Students Session on September 8, 2011

We had 81 summer students at Hamburg
56 returned the feedback questionnaire.
MANY THANKS

The students were asked to comment on the following topics :

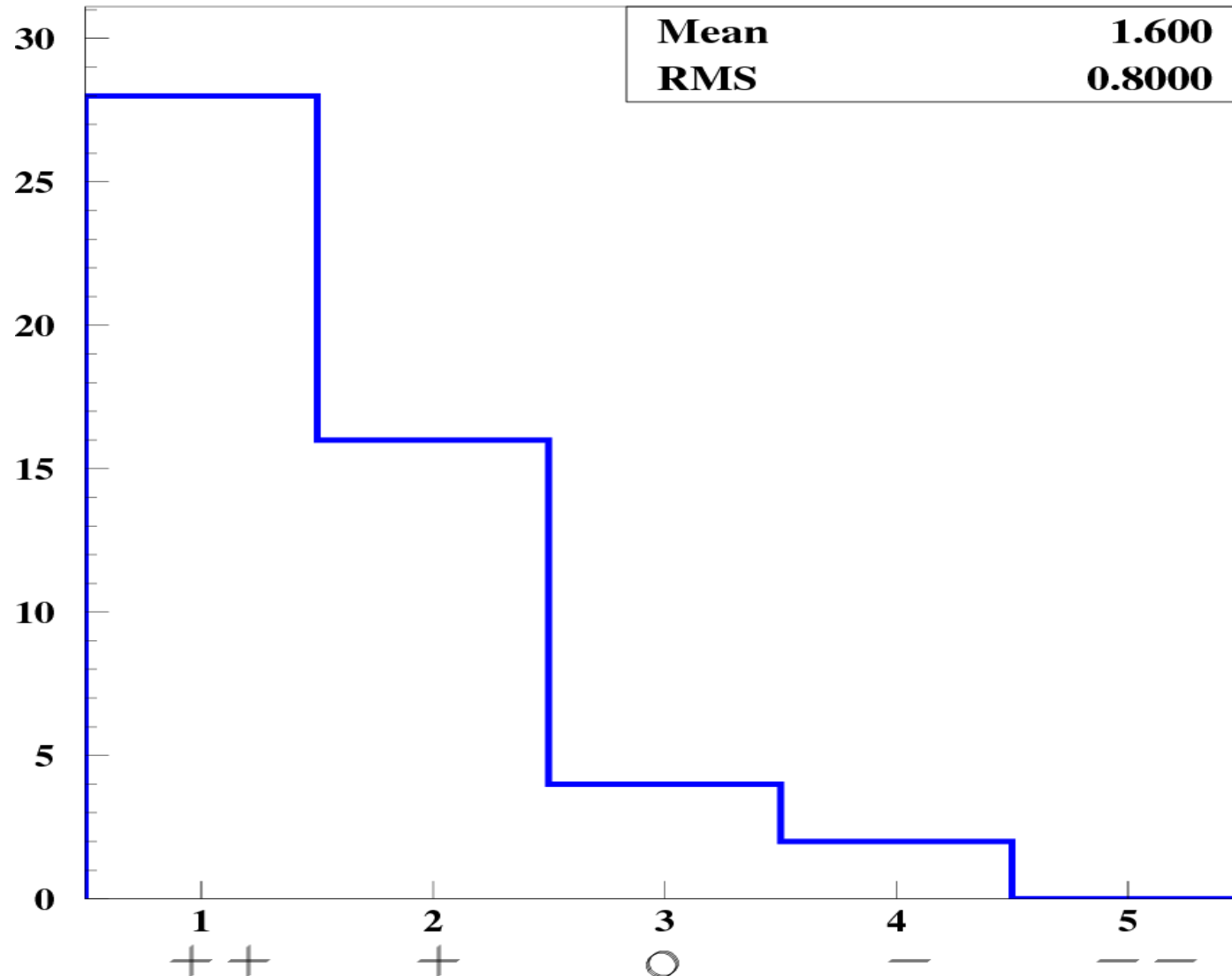
- Administration / Organisation
- Housing
- Work in the group
- Lectures in general
- Specific lectures
- Tours, events, ..
- What I liked
- What I did not like
- Further comments

Administration / Organization

- Registration was fast, almost students had no works with documents – that pleasantly surprised. Andrea Schrader brilliantly performed her job.
- Easy
- Registration was possible without any problems, so that no negative aspects concerning this topic came into my mind.
- Everything fine and uncomplicated
- Official confirmation took long
- Too much information

Administration / Organization – your rating

Administration



Administration / Organization



- Electronic application!!
- Information on salary, insurances and taxes beforehand
- Information on HVV tickets beforehand (e.g. leaflet)
- Clear instructions = to do list of administrative matters at the beginning, (all papers in english)
- Separate the email stream for important organisational/administrative things from the stream for leisure activities

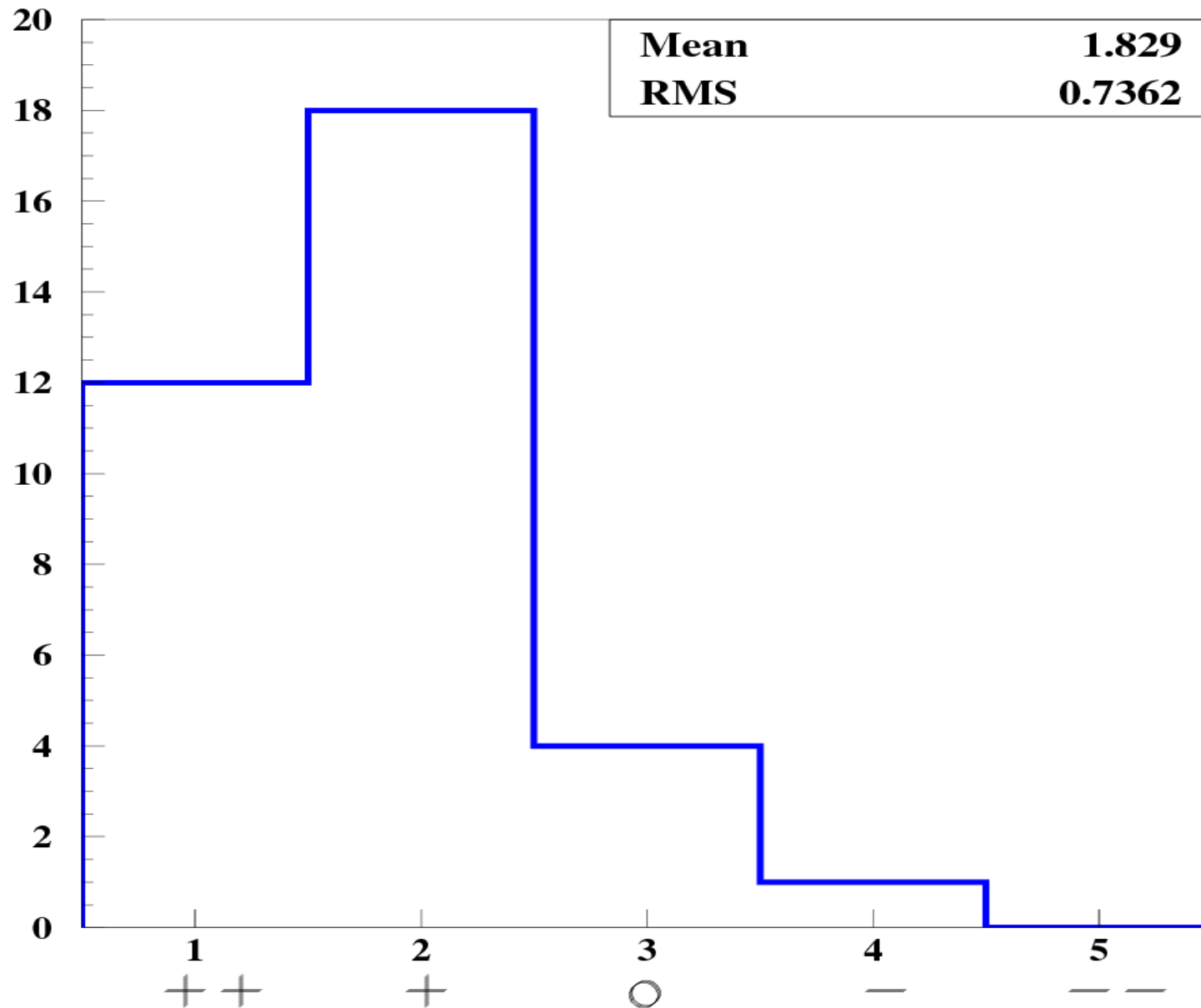
Housing

- I lived in the guesthouse 32, in a single room. A good place, clean and inside DESY, perfect!
- I stayed at the DESY guest house, building 33. The room is clean, the beds are very comfortable, everything is fine.
- I'm in the wooden hostel and i'm happy of the choice!
- Housing service: terrible! You can't answer ten days before the start with room in german. I don't know german.
- .. it would be better if each room had its own broom.



Housing – your rating

Housing



Housing



- Faster response/confirmation of reservation!!!
- Add cleaning equipment for rooms (mop and broom)
- Kitchen: add microwave oven, electric cattle, fridge with better freezing function, more space for food in fridges and cupboards, more sponges, bigger dumpster
- All machines: provide instructions also in english, problem with driers
- Exchange of towel service: clearer instructions and outside the lectures times
- Improve wifi (either not working at all, or slow)
- Specifically improve conditions in building 8: currently no wifi, sometimes no hot water, kitchen equipment insufficient, have to carry dishes from kitchen to room, no washing machines in the vicinity
- Provide more information on equipment beforehand (towels, dryer etc.)
- Intrinsic problem?? "due to regular parties no normal conditions for cooking and excessive noise"

Work in Group

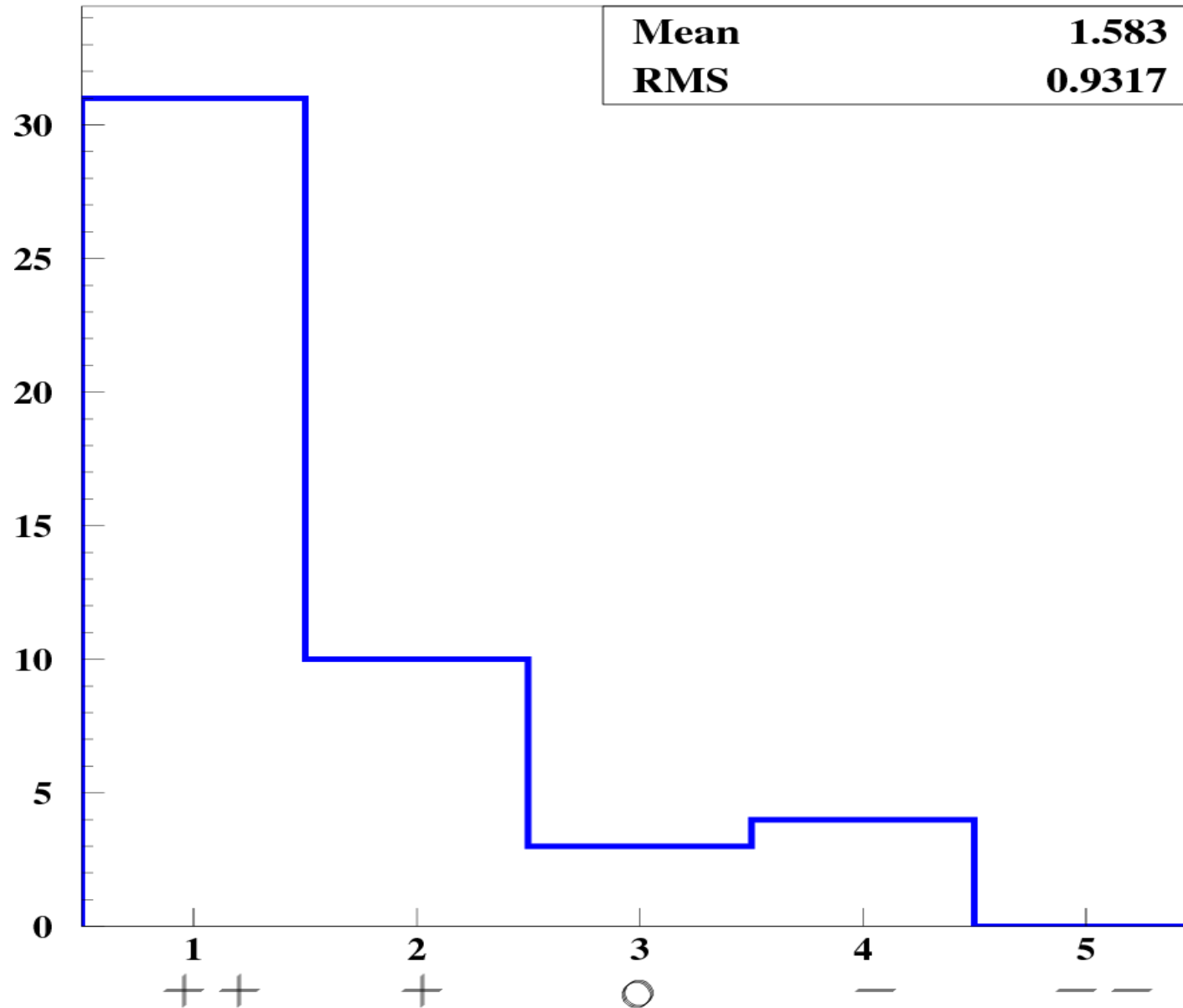
- Well, I really enjoyed working at DESY, I have learned very much from this program.
- Very interesting. A lot new experience. Helpful team.
- I really enjoyed working with my group: it has been a great experience. I would like to continue for my master thesis and/or for my Phd.
- Very good, I learn a lot!
- I loved it!
- Interesting, people are very helpful
- Working in a lab was never before so exciting for me! I really enjoyed the work in my group.
- The work in my group did not have enough physics in it. Mostly spent my time programming.
- Challenging
- A little unclear in the first weeks, but then great.
- I am working in the office for three people. The work with my supervisor is normal.
- I thought I would get something to do with more physics involved. But the first task I had to do, which took me more than half of my stay here was programming without a real “physical” background.

Work in Group

- I'm little disappointed with work in my group
- The ... group was fantastic! I can not thank them enough for their time and would highly recommend another student to apply there.
- Interesting work and a welcoming group atmosphere for summer students.
- I enjoy the work in my work. It is interesting and varying. I 'm learning many exciting things. The supervision is good due to two supervisors. They are very friendly and make time for me. I don't know anything to complain about. Thank you :)
- Very good atmosphere with superb supervisors, of course extended repetitive measurement periods can be quite boring, but that is how research works sometimes unfortunately.
- There was a lot to learn at the start but once I got started it was very good. I found the work interesting and always had things to do. Might have benifitted from knowing more about it earlier so I could have learnt some before arriving.
- Overall, an interesting and useful experience. The aims were clear from the start and there were always people around to ask for assistance.
- Everything was nice. I was supplied with everything I needed. Comfortable working conditions. Everybody in the group was eager to help, answer my questions, etc. I've got a lot of priceless experience working in my group.

Work in Group – your rating

Work at DESY



Lectures in General

- Good, but some lectures were repetitive (90%)
- The program covered a large spectrum of HEP, I think. It's understandable that every lecture only scratched the surface of each part of HEP but it definitely gave a good overview so one can decide better which specialisation one will choose. The introducing lectures were quite boring because they overlapped a lot and I think nearly everyone who studies particle physics knows these basics.
- The lecture program gave a nice overview on the topics which are worked on DESY in special and in HEP in general. The details, that were discussed in the special lectures in HEP and computing were quite interesting and I learned a lot of new physics and computing stuff.
- I attended all but one of the lectures. In general the program was very interesting, though there was a lot of repetition of simple stuff, and I found the lectures too long. Maybe 45 mins with a scheduled 10 min break would be better so it is easier to concentrate.
- I've participated in all lectures. I like the program in general. It covers various topics in a way different from lectures at university. This gives me the opportunity to learn new things. ... the point I don't like is the repetition of some aspects in different lectures. It is good to hear some aspects twice. But some are repeated often by different lecturers. Maybe they should send each other an overview of the topics they will cover before the lectures.
- In general nicely diversified, maybe too many lectures, especially in 4th and 5th week..

Lectures in General

- In general they have been interesting and useful. However in some cases I think that some lectures were hard for those who have not enough knowledge about quantum field theory.
- 60 slides for 1 hour and half isn't possible!!



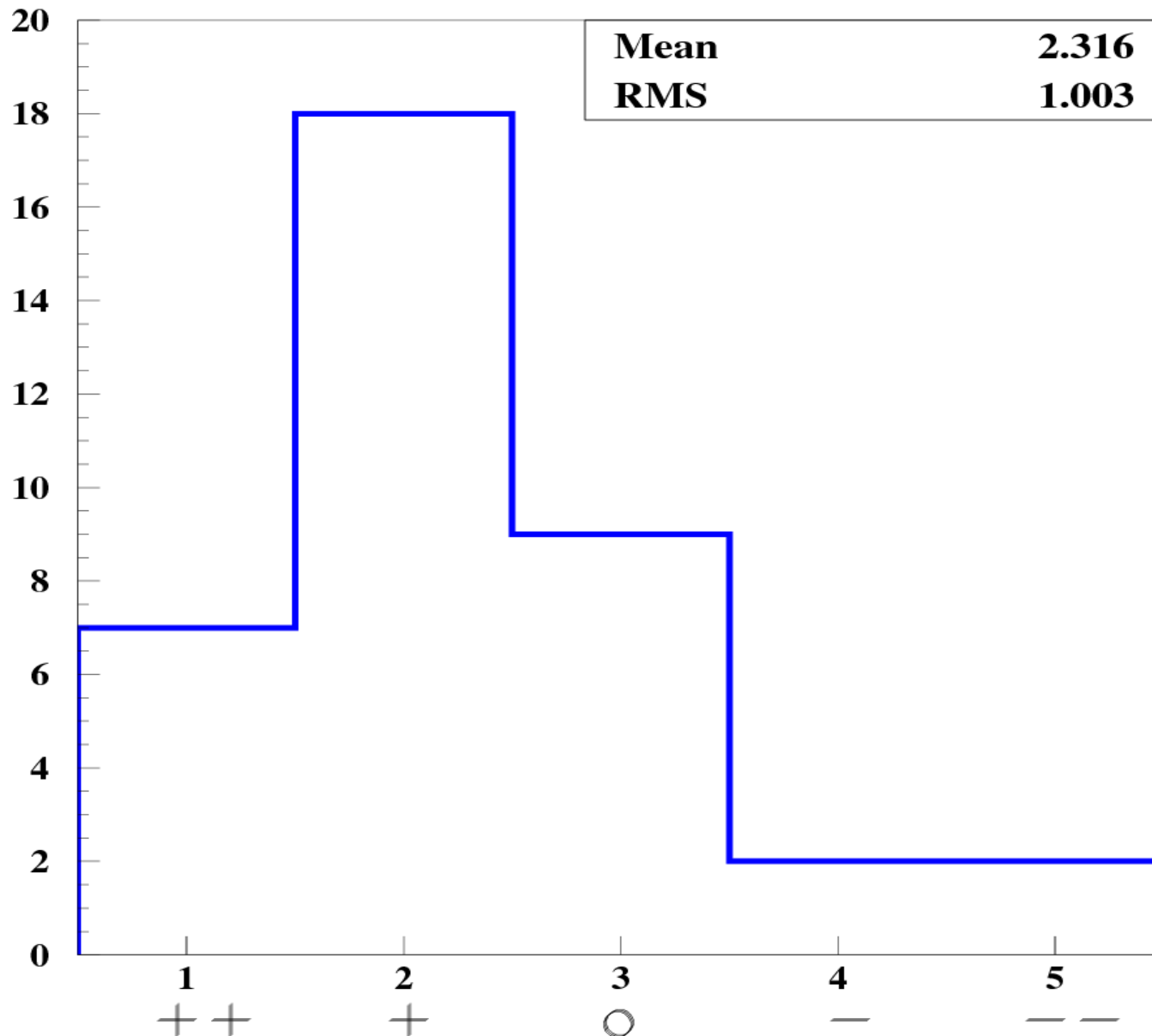
- Actually it was only one lecture dedicated accelerator technique and I was surprised about it because the accelerator courses are very important for understanding processes which are investigated at DESY. But the quality of the lectures was good.
- I participated all the lectures of my part of the school (synchrotron radiation). Some of the lectures were really good, some were too informative to remember, but nevertheless useful. To my mind there was not enough theory lectures to make some subjects more clear.
- I personally think I would gain more from having less different topics but more depths.
- I really enjoyed most of the lectures. Even though it was different from what I expected. I thought the lectures would be more like courses.
- Good, but it can be more interactive with the students.

Further lecture wishes:

- I already told Olaf, that probably, it would be quite useful for some people to have some linux/shell introduction and also a how-to work with DESY computers etc. (maybe IT could help?)
 - I would have liked one or two lectures on statistics, e.g. confidence levels, limits, and so on. This would facilitate understanding the plots shown by the LHC experiments on new physics, where the y axis has obfuscated labelling, such as "95% CL limit on σ/σ_{SM} ". Besides, understanding statistical methods used in experiments is very important and was in my experience not covered enough during university studies.
- Can recommend you our *Terrascale alliance* statistics schools with lots of exciting courses/tutorials/interactive stuff, twice per year, e.g. see <https://indico.desy.de/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=3247>

Lectures in General

Lectures in general



Lectures – clear ideas for improvements next year:

- Throughout shorter 45 minute lectures and obligatory 10 minutes breaks
- Less lectures, in particular for HEP part
- Try to achieve better coordination between the lecturers – avoid excessive repetitions and redundances
- Style: more lecture and less presentation like -> more on black board/white /electronic board than powerpoint
- More interactive with the students, course like.



Our personal recommendations sent before this years program to the lecturers:

Concerning the lectures styles: We want to encourage the lecturers to follow the recommended **sandwich scheme**:

20-25 minutes lecture

3-10 minutes students activation

20-25 minutes lecture

...

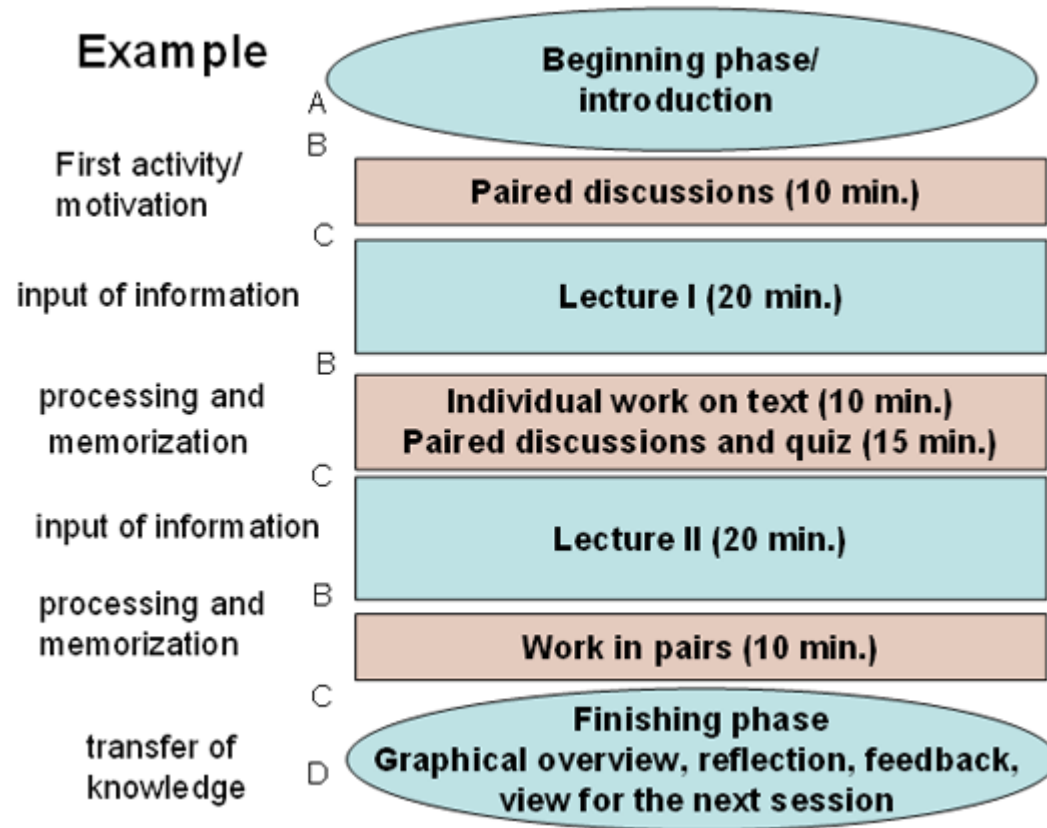
The activation phase can be many different things, e.g. small interactive (paper) exercises, discussions among the students, some stimulating questions, Quiz, etc.

This scheme avoids the long tiresome 45-60 minutes powerpoint presentation style .

Also the last years general evaluation of the summer students program showed that many students expressed the wish for more active participation during the courses.

More information on the sandwich principle teaching can be found e.g <http://www.bhmed-emanual.org/book/export/html/30>
(Please don't hesitate to ask for further practical advice on that)

Example of a sandwich architecture lecture at the Sarajevo Medical Faculty (sandwich SA example)



The sandwich teaching principle should be the standard at universities! But it requires extra work by the lecturers to provide the interactive exercises/quiz, etc. Hope we can have more of it next year! (it is a challenge!)

Specific lectures:

The students were asked to rate the lectures, average ratings are:

COMMON LECTURES :

Almost all lectures received good - very good grades besides one.
C++ and Root Tutorials were very useful for many students (not for all)

HEP LECTURES

Almost all lectures good – very good, with very few exceptions

SYNCHROTRON RADIATION LECTURES :

Almost all lectures good – very good, with very few exceptions

Tours , Events

- Really liked the guided tour
- Cool!
- Guided tour, it would be also interesting to see more of the HERA tunnel!
- Guided tour was interesting, though I hear that the quality of the guides varied significantly
- Like the DESY tour very much, but why not make several tours for different experiments instead of one big which can't cover enough of the DESY site



- Very useful tips and hints concerning DESY and Hamburg.
- We visited several museums in Hamburg, made one day trips to north- and east-sea and enjoyed some sunny days at ELBE-beach. Hamburg is a really nice town, what I have to recommend to everybody is the exhibition 'Dialog in the dark'.

What I liked

- Beside my work and the lectures ad DESY I really liked the exchange with the large number of international students.
- It was great fun meeting people with similar interests. I liked how everyone got stuck in and started organising events and activities. DESY organisers seemed willing to help – e.g. with film nights.
- The opportunity of working in a real scientific environment outside of university, which was also very international. Enjoyed meeting people from all over the world.
- The work with the supervisor, the lectures I rated 1, the possibility of see how work life is in DESY.
- Great atmosphere between the students but also with supervisors. Hamburg is really a great place to visit, there is so much to see.

Liveability ranking and overview 2011:

The Economist Intelligence Unit's Liveability and ranking overview, part of the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey, quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in 140 cities worldwide.

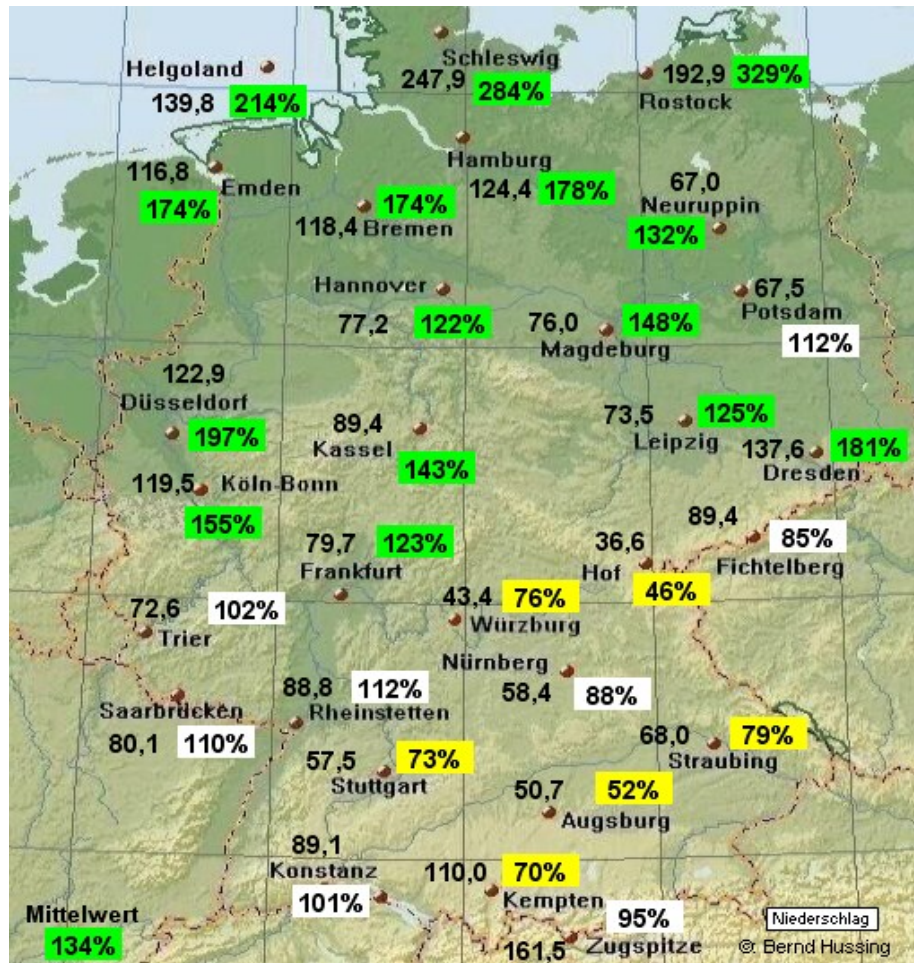
Country	City	Overall rating		Culture &				
		Rank (100=ideal)	Stability	Healthcare	Environment	Education	Infrastructure	
Canada	Vancouver	1	98.0	95	100	100	100	96.4
Austria	Vienna	2	97.9	95	100	96.5	100	100
Australia	Melbourne	3	97.5	95	100	95.1	100	100
Canada	Toronto	4	97.2	100	100	97.2	100	89.3
Canada	Calgary	5	96.6	100	100	89.1	100	96.4
Finland	Helsinki	6	96.2	100	100	91	91.7	96.4
Australia	Sydney	7	96.1	90	100	94.4	100	100
Australia	Perth	8	95.9	95	100	88.7	100	100
Australia	Adelaide	8	95.9	95	100	94.2	100	92.9
New Zealand	Auckland	10	95.7	95	95.8	97	100	92.9
Switzerland	Zurich	11	95.4	95	100	92.6	91.7	96.4
Japan	Tokyo	11	95.4	90	100	94.4	100	96.4
Switzerland	Geneva	13	95.2	95	100	92.1	91.7	96.4
Japan	Osaka	13	95.2	90	100	93.5	100	96.4
Sweden	Stockholm	15	95.0	95	95.8	91.2	100	96.4
Germany	Hamburg	15	95.0	90	100	93.5	91.7	100
Canada	Montreal	17	94.8	95	100	90	100	92.9
France	Paris	17	94.8	85	100	97.2	100	96.4
Germany	Frankfurt	19	94.7	85	100	97.2	91.7	100
Denmark	Copenhagen	20	94.4	85	100	95.4	100	96.4
Australia	Brisbane	21	94.2	95	100	93.5	91.7	89.3
Germany	Berlin	22	94.0	85	100	97.2	91.7	96.4
New Zealand	Wellington	23	93.8	95	91.7	95.4	100	89.3
Norway	Oslo	24	93.4	95	91.7	88.7	91.7	100
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	25	93.3	95	100	90.5	83.3	92.9
Netherlands	Amsterdam	26	92.8	80	100	97.2	91.7	96.4
Belgium	Brussels	27	92.7	85	100	91.4	100	92.9
Germany	Munich	28	92.6	85	100	97.2	91.7	89.3
US	Pittsburgh	29	92.3	85	91.7	90.7	100	100
US	Honolulu	30	92.1	90	91.7	88	100	96.4
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	31	92.0	95	87.5	85.9	100	96.4
US	Chicago	32	91.8	85	91.7	94.4	100	92.9
Germany	Dusseldorf	33	91.4	85	100	93.5	75	96.4
France	Lyon	34	91.3	85	100	88.7	100	89.3
Spain	Barcelona	35	91.2	80	91.7	94.4	100	96.4



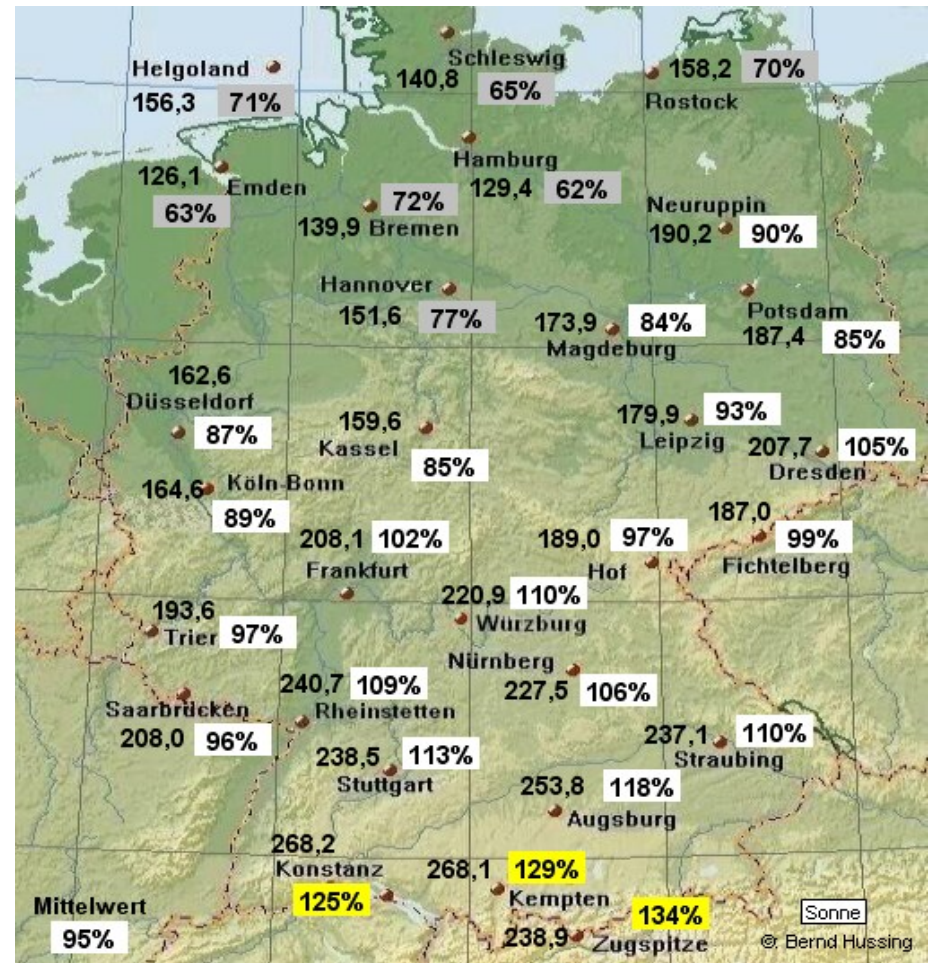
What I did not like

- The weather!!! (this point was raised about infinite times!)

Rain in august 2011



Sunshine in august 2011



It was the worst summer in Hamburg for many years, it can be really better!!! Of course it is not like Italy or Spain, Please be not deterred to come back to DESY

What I did not like

- The weather!!! (**this point was raised about infinite times!**)
- Sometimes dishes at canteen were terrible, ukrainian cuisine must be included in the menu !!!:)
- Nothing :-)
- My pillow and some days the canteen menu
- There is only one thing I can say – The weather! The colleagues from the meteorological institutes should definitely harder work on this issue

Further Comments

- So I hope this was only the very beginning of my cooperation with DESY
- Thank you very-very much for organising this program! I will never forget this 54 days of my life!
- Thanks for the opportunity to get and idea of what working in a research group is like.
- The summer students programme is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the work in a scientific area and to meet students from all over the world and to have also the time to see Hamburg and have fun together with the other students. Thank you very much!
- Thank you!!!



A fascinating analogy

Wo der Beat den Kontinent betrat



Am 18. August 1960 stand eine damals weithin unbekannte Band aus Liverpool auf der Bühne der Indra. Ihr Name: The Beatles. Damals noch in der Besetzung mit Pete Best und Stu Sutcliffe waren sie erst am Tag vorher in Hamburg angekommen. Dies war der erste von insgesamt 48 Auftritten, bei denen sie die Grundlagen des Showmanships erlernten und von einer talentierten aber schüchternen Band zu einer lokalen Sensation wurden.

Ihr weiterer Weg ist wohl nicht nur jedem Musikliebhaber bekannt: Es war der Beginn einer einzigartigen Weltkarriere.

You have been about seven weeks here at DESY, possibly the beginning of a unique international research career!

A fascinating analogy



You have been about seven weeks here at DESY, possibly the beginning of a unique international research career!

THANKS

to

- Administration : Mrs Hoppmann, Mrs. Pettersson and all others involved in V2
- International Office : Mrs. Killough and her crew
- Hostel : Mrs. Hummerjohann and her crew
- The Guides
- The Lecturers
- The Supervisors
- And all others behind the scene

AND TO

ANDREA SCHRADER

The summer student program ends today afternoon

I suppose some of you still have some work to do,
since I did not yet receive all work reports.

Please deliver yours still today.

Thanks to YOU, Summer Students 2011 for

- Your interest in DESY and its research
- All your (active) participation in the lectures
- Your superb project work
- The very nice presentations given today
- Your tolerance when things were not so smooth
- Your kind behavior in all respects

It was a pleasure to have you here.
I wish you all the best for your future and a safe trip home.

Good Bye Summies 2011!

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Yours Olaf, Doris and Andrea!