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Report on QT Marathon 2015

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Copies of reports and other material can also be accessed via <http://cracker-project.eu>.
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1 Aim

One of the key goals of the CRACKER Coordination and Support Action is to foster education, training, research and research cross-fertilisation as well as open-source tool development in the field of machine translation. This goal is attained through several CRACKER instruments, e.g., the organisation of evaluation campaigns (WMT, IWSLT), the META-FORUM conference series, and the two QT Marathons.

This report describes the 2015 QT Marathon as organised by the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics (ÚFAL), Charles University in Prague, and held in Prague in September 7–12, 2015.

This report summarises the QT Marathon and reports on the survey conducted after the event using an online feedback form to learn for future Marathons.

The full text of the feedback form and a detailed summary of the responses is contained in Sections 5 and 6.

2 Introduction

The 2015 Marathon was the tenth in the series, and the first of the two Marathons organised by CRACKER.

The marathons traditionally mix introductory lectures and labs for newcomers, advanced research talks and, most importantly, projects. The overall aim is to foster the development and use of open source MT software.

While the event is called “QT Marathon” in the CRACKER Description of Action, we preferred to clearly indicate that this is the continuation of the well-known MT Marathons. We thus advertised the project as “MT/QT Marathon” or simply “MT Marathon” (MTM).

The target audience of MT Marathons are MT developers, researchers and users.

There are four main parts to the MT Marathon:

- collaborative hacking projects,
- open source convention, i.e., presentation of papers on new open-source tools for MT,
- the summer school with lectures and labs given by leading researchers in the field,
- invited talks on current MT-related topics.

The Marathon in Prague in 2015 happened to be collocated with several other NLP events, which hopefully attracted further attention:

- YRRSDS, Aug 31-Sept 1 (Workshop on Spoken Dialogue Systems for PhDs, PostDocs and New Researchers); the same building.
- SIGdial, Sept 2-4 (Meeting on Discourse and Dialogue); the same building.
- Deep Machine Translation Workshop, Sept 3-4; the same building.
- Prague-Hamburg 25 year anniversary workshop (Friday Sept 11); programme aligned with MT Marathon.
- TSD, Sept 14-17, Conference on Text, Speech and Dialogue; Pilsen, Czech Republic.
- EMNLP, Sept 17-21; includes WMT 2015 (Sept 17-18); Lisbon, Portugal.

The marathon website is available at <http://www.statmt.org/mtm15> and includes the programme with links to video recordings wherever available.

3 The QT/MT Marathon

3.1 Participation

The first call for participation in MTM15 was issued in June. In addition to public announcements, we also specifically sent out invitations to a few companies that are interested in or already use MT in order to support one of the CRACKER goals: an “industry stream” in the Marathons.

By the time the event started we had 73 registered participants (including invited speakers and lecturers and seven on-site registrations). From the past we know that there can be also additional participants who arrive without registering. Only six of the registered people have not been able to make it to Prague in the end. In total, we had 67 attendees. We were pleased to see such a low rate of no-shows, given that registration is free.

The participation in 2015 was slightly lower than in the previous years, since an American version of the event was held in May 2015 in Illinois: the First MT Marathon in the Americas.¹

The feedback form results (submitted by 27 attendees, almost 50% again, as we have seen in 2013) provide more detail on the participants: 37% were affiliated with industry (researchers, developers, managers or taking more than one of these roles), 41% were postgraduate students and 14% were researchers in academia, see Section 6 for the breakdown per role.

3.2 Projects

MTM open source projects are week-long hacking sessions, conducted in small groups formed on the first day, aiming to implement or to extend open source MT software, or to try out a new research idea. For those more experienced in the field, projects are the most important component of the MTM.

We followed best practice and collected project proposals in advance. What proved particularly useful and at times almost interactive, was to use a shared online list of project proposals to which anybody could contribute. This document, both in its editable version as well as a snapshot in PDF, is available from the corresponding MTM15 web page.²

The actual project groups were formed on Monday, after each proposer presented his or her project. What worked particularly well and was also positively mentioned in the feedback forms, was to use the blackboard where project leaders indicated where they are waiting for prospective team members and everybody marked with a simple tick their interest in the various projects. This allowed project leaders to see if their team was likely to reach critical size, and perhaps also contributed to some load-balancing since everybody saw which projects were going to be crowded.

There were more than 18 projects announced on the first day of the Marathon and ten made it up to the last day, delivering a brief summary on Saturday. The slides for

¹ <http://www.statmt.org/mtma15>

² <http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/mtm15/projects.html>

all project sessions (boaster session on Monday, interim reports on Wednesday, final reports on Friday) are available in the MTM15 SVN repository and linked from the programme web page³. Here are the project titles from the final presentations:

- Appraise++ (5 members)
- MT-ComparEval and Translate5 (5 members)
- Moses on Docker (1-2 members)
- Interactive Experiment Management System (2 members)
- MTs for NLTK (5 members on site, 3 remote)
- Segmentation-Aware Language Model (4 members)
- PDF 2 Bitext (1 member)
- Prefetching and Pipelining/Batching for Language Models (1 member)
- Open-source unsupervised morphology a.k.a. Unsophology (3 members)
- Vowpal Wabbit Features for Document-level Context (2 members)

Many of the projects nicely illustrate the value of Marathons to the community, research and industry, as supported by CRACKER.

For example, the Appraise++ discussed the details of future evaluation campaigns at WMT, organised by CRACKER. The tools Translate 5 and MT-ComparEval are both aimed at a more analytic and quality-driven approach to MT development and evaluation. While Translate 5 is in fact also supported by CRACKER (Task 3.5), MT-ComparEval is developed in QTLeap, a project linked to CRACKER through the Cracking the Language Barrier federation. Thanks to the Marathon, the developers had a unique opportunity to synchronise their work plans.

Based on the feedback form, both experienced researchers and newcomers recognise that projects are the cornerstone of MT Marathon. Following the advice of participants in 2013, we tried to cut down on extra activities, so that people would not get distracted from the projects. The percentage of people who did not attend projects but wanted to attend the event however remained very similar: 22% in 2013 and 19% in 2015. The percentage of participants fully involved in projects (including those who would have wanted to spend even more time on projects) was also comparable: 47% in 2013 and 44% in 2015.

The project presentations (midweek and final reports) were also well perceived; only two respondents deliberately skipped them.

The comments in the feedback form highlight the importance of keeping track of past projects. Since 2013, the respective organiser of the MT Marathon asks past project leaders if there are any updates six months after the Marathon has ended. The summaries then appear online, on separate web pages⁴. We agree that this scattered information is not easy and inviting to follow. One of the participants suggested setting up a general MTM forum or wiki to collect the details on projects over all years. We agree with this and suggest, that even the running projects should be set up in the same system. On the other hand, our experience from the three Marathons we have organised so far tells us that people use many different working

³ <http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/mtm15/programme.html>

⁴ <http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/mtm13/projects.html> for 2013, <http://www.statmt.org/mtm14/index.php?n=Projects.ProjectsAfter6Months> for 2014, the summary for 2015 will appear at <http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/mtm15/projects.html>.

environments and they are rarely willing to stick to a provided environment. We offered a Wiki+SVN every year (with accounts pre-registered) – only very few projects used it.

Except for one “do not care” response, all respondents said that the form of projects should be kept as it is for future Marathons. One of the respondents commented that project participation prerequisites should be announced, but this was generally the case.

3.3 Open Source Convention: Papers

The call for papers asked for submissions describing new open source MT software, and extensions to existing tools. This call gives MT researchers and developers the opportunity to share information about implementations, and to disseminate their software – an opportunity which is generally not available at typical research conferences. The accepted papers are published in the Prague Bulletin for Mathematical Linguistics (PBML)⁵.

We received nine submissions for MTM15 and after two independent reviews, eight were accepted for publication in PBML and presentation at the MTM. Of these, seven were selected for publication in Volume 104, printed and made available at MTM15. The remaining paper is scheduled for Volume 105 due April 2016. This division is mainly driven by physical constraints of the printed version of PBML but it allows us to provide more space to the articles that deserve it, at the cost of a later publication date.

The accepted papers were:

- *Box: Natural Language Processing Research Using Amazon Web Services* by Amittai Axelrod
- *CloudLM: a Cloud-based Language Model for Machine Translation* by Jorge Ferrández-Tordera, Sergio Ortiz-Rojas, Antonio Toral
- *Evaluating MT systems with BEER* by Miloš Stanojević, Khalil Sima'an
- *Grasp: Randomised Semiring Parsing* by Wilker Aziz
- *Joshua 6: A phrase-based and hierarchical statistical machine translation system* by Matt Post, Yuan Cao, Gaurav Kumar
- *MT-ComparEval: Graphical evaluation interface for Machine Translation development* by Ondřej Klejch, Eleftherios Avramidis, Aljoscha Burchardt, Martin Popel
- *Sampling Phrase Tables for the Moses Statistical Machine Translation System* by Ulrich Germann
- *TmTriangulate: A Tool for Phrase Table Triangulation* by Duc Tam Hoang, Ondřej Bojar

We followed the recent practice of presenting all contributions as posters at the Marathon, with a booster session giving 3–5 minutes to each presenter. Based on the feedback we received, everyone was happy with this setup.

⁵ <http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/pbml>

3.4 Invited Talks

This year we had four invited talks solicited for MT Marathon and two shared with the Prague-Hamburg workshop:

- *Real-World Application of an Machine Translation Workflow*, Tomáš Fulajtár (Moravia IT)
- *From n-gram Translation Models to large-scale, discriminatively trained conditional, Translation Models*, François Yvon (LIMSI, University Paris Sud)
- *Neural Network Models in Google Translate*, Keith Stevens (Google)
- *Text Representations for NLP and MT*, Hinrich Schütze (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)
- *Preserving Vagueness: the central mission of next generation Digital Humanities*, Walther von Hahn (Universität Hamburg)
- *Cross-modal Interaction between Language and Vision*, Wolfgang Menzel (Universität Hamburg)

Moravia IT and Google sponsored the travel costs of their employees, CRACKER covered François Yvon and Hinrich Schütze and the Prague-Hamburg workshop covered Walther von Hahn and Wolfgang Menzel.

Each of the invited talks was very interesting in its way, providing unique experiences or visions. We received one very positive comment about the talks and one complaint about too much sales pitch. It is difficult to guess whether this applied to the Google or the Moravia talk, both mixed high-level overview and some technical details.

The aligned programme with the Prague-Hamburg workshop was generally accepted well – Marathon participants freely chose whether they want to attend any of the workshop talks or whether they prefer to work on projects – although one participant complained that it was difficult for him to follow the Friday morning lectures and another participant questioned the compatibility of the deeply technical Marathon content with the Prague-Hamburg keynote talks which fell more into the area of Digital Humanities.

The videorecordings from the talks are available on the MT Marathon 2015 web page except for Hinrich Schütze's talk since the author preferred not to be recorded.

In our survey, none of the respondents said they would have deliberately skipped the talks. On the contrary, 70% of the respondents fully followed the talks and another 15% not only fully followed them but would have liked more.

We believe that inspiring talks are an essential component of the Marathon and we hope to assemble a good set for the next event as well.

3.5 Summer School

The summer school is a series of lectures with accompanying labs designed to provide a full introduction to statistical MT.

3.5.1 Lectures

In the following we list the lectures in the summer school this year:

- *MT Evaluation*, Yvette Graham (DCU)

- *Introduction to Machine Translation and Phrase-Based Machine Translation*, Aleš Tamchyna (Charles University in Prague)
- *Language Modelling*, Kenneth Heafield (University of Edinburgh)
- *Discriminative Training*, Miloš Stanojević (ILLC, University of Amsterdam)
- *Deep Syntactic MT and TectoMT*, Martin Popel (Charles University in Prague)
- *Syntax-Based Models and Decoding*, Hieu Hoang (New York University, Abu Dhabi)

Based on the feedback form, lectures were well attended, 63% of respondents paid full attention to them (and some of those would have even like more lectures).

The comments indicate that people value lectures for clarifying things even if they know the content before. More space might be desirable for fundamental aspects such as language models.

Since 89% of respondents said they like the lectures as they were, we probably should not change the structure and (as we have already been doing) only update the topics minimally, based on the availability of lecturers.

3.5.2 Labs

This year we had four labs, two of which were repetitions from the previous years:

- *Translate5 – Towards a General-Purpose MT Evaluation Tool*, Marc Mittag (MittagQI)
- *Efficient Experimenting with Moses and Eman* (Eman Intro and Eman Lab), Aleš Tamchyna, Ondřej Bojar (Charles University in Prague)
- *Box – Moses Suite on Amazon EC2*, Amittai Axelrod
- *Treex for automatic post-editing or transfer-based translation* (see also Treex website), Martin Popel and Dušan Variš (Charles University in Prague)

Based on the feedback form, only two respondents were fully involved in the labs overall and a little more than 20% of the participants did not want to attend any labs at all. 67% of respondents were involved intermittently. These results are not surprising, since different labs targeted different groups of people from a rather wide spectrum of experience and background. This is confirmed by the fact that 78% of respondents suggest to keep the (structure of the) labs as it is.

Opinions vary on the utility of labs: some (including us) expect that the labs are very good for novices or if one wants to try something which would be difficult to start on their own, some found the 2015 labs not very interesting. One of the commenters asked for online support material, so that the commands can be easily copied. We certainly agree with the comment but are sceptical about “copy and paste labs” in which everyone reaches the goal without actually learning anything.

4 Assessment

Based on the positive feedback from the participants, we are confident that the MT Marathon 2015 was a successful event. The attendance of the whole event and its individual parts was very good and the programme was broad enough to provide something for everyone at all levels.

The format of the event has been more or less stable throughout the various years and this makes the tradition of MT Marathons stronger. Participants know what to expect and word of mouth spreads awareness about the event among students and also users from industry. The mix of introductory lectures and labs with advanced keynote talks and research papers, and most importantly the group projects make the programme attractive both for newcomers as well as regular attenders. The stimulating environment provably allows new students to jump-start their research career in machine translation or natural language processing in general.

We are delighted to have received feedback again from almost half of the participants. We followed the advice from 2013 and avoided any additional activities aside the core MT Marathon parts. This proved to be well perceived and the majority of respondents to our questionnaire wanted each of the activities to be preserved as it was.

A few specific issues were mentioned in the comments:

- The registration form (reimplemented this year) accepted online payments but there were some issues with Mastercard cards, beyond the control of Charles University. These issues must be resolved for the next Marathon 2016.
- One of the participants suggested to actually use microphones and speakers. The acoustics in the lecture room is generally good but we will investigate if we can improve the experience.

Overall, we were very happy with this MT Marathon and look forward to the next one.

5 Feedback Form

The following pages contain the printed version of an online feedback form sent to all participants of MT Marathon 2015.

[Edit this form](#)

MT Marathon 2015 Feedback Form

* Required

Where do you come from? *
 What best describes your current occupation?

- undergrad (studying for Master)
- postgrad (studying for Ph.D.)
- postdoc (Ph.D. finished, young researcher)
- researcher in a research institute or university
- (small) academic research group leader
- translator in a company / freelancer
- researcher in a company
- developer in a company
- manager in a company

How do you feel about the following toolkits after the MT Marathon?

	Knew well enough before	Confident I can use it on my own	Not afraid, but will seek assistance	Still afraid	Didn't use this toolkit during this Marathon
Moses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joshua	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
cdec	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TectoMT/Treex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other tools or useful toolkits you learned about?
 Provide names or even links to toolkits that you did not know before at all or were not familiar with them and this MT Marathon allowed you to start using them.



How much did you attend to various regular MTM tracks? *

(sitting in the lecture theatre but working on a project counts as project work ;-)

	Did not attend (Did not want to)	Did not attend (But wanted to)	Intermittently	Fully involved	Fully involved and would have liked more
Introductory morning lectures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keynote talks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Poster and demo presentations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work on projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Following other project reports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General networking (meeting people)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Is there anything you would suggest changing in next Marathons? *

	Keep	Change (details below)	Drop altogether	I don't care
Introductory lectures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keynote talks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Papers on tools (presented as posters and demos this year)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Project presentations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Detailed comments

Please tell us what did you like or not like about each of the activities. How could they be improved. (This is the place to propose any changes.)

Introductory lectures

Keynote talks

Labs

Poster presentations

Projects

Project presentations

Project follow-up reports

Some Marathon projects will run longer. We have no control over what is going to happen with them, but still: is there anything specific we should try to make you benefit more from such on-going projects?

Organization

Please tell us more on your experience with the organization of the Marathon.

Any comments on the registration process?

This year, we tried to set up online payment for those who ordered something along with their registration. The process was not very smooth on our side yet. (The university is not quite used to accepting cards... and there was an issue with MasterCard cards). Taking all this into account, is there anything else we should try to fix or improve for the next year's registrations?

Was the information before Marathon sufficient?

We tried to provide you with all relevant information on the web page just in time to help you in all decisions and steps. Was there anything missing? Would you like to have received more details, at different times or in a different manner?

Lunches at the venue



The restaurant in the basement would prefer to know more precisely, how many people will be coming for the lunch each day. Next year, we may be forced to allow only the people who have pre-paid their lunch to sit at the reserved tables. (Other tables in the restaurant will remain available to the general public including you.) What is your opinion on this:

- I don't care, I don't eat at the venue.
- I am happy to pre-pay or be forced to sit elsewhere if I don't.
- As above, on a day to day basis: I am happy to pre-pay 24 hours in advance or be forced...
- Please fight to keep the flexibility we had this year.
- Other:

Anything to add?

Anything you want to add? Any other comments?

Any other impact or impression MT Marathon 2015 has made on you?

Submit

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6 Automatic Summary of Responses

The following pages contain the printed version of a detailed automatic summary of all the responses we collected using our online form.

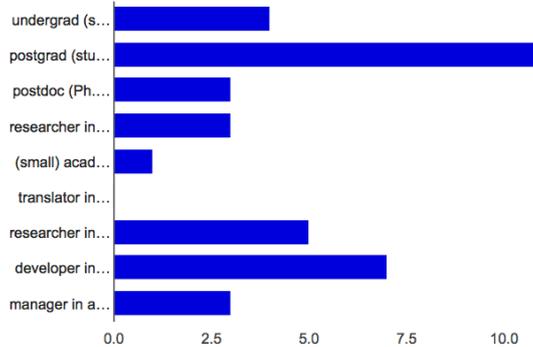
ondrej.bajar@gmail.com - [Edit this form](#)

27 responses

[View all responses](#) [Publish analytics](#)

Summary

Where do you come from?



undergrad (studying for Master)	4	14.8%
postgrad (studying for Ph.D.)	11	40.7%
postdoc (Ph.D. finished, young researcher)	3	11.1%
researcher in a research institute or university	3	11.1%
(small) academic research group leader	1	3.7%
translator in a company / freelancer	0	0%
researcher in a company	5	18.5%
developer in a company	7	25.9%
manager in a company	3	11.1%

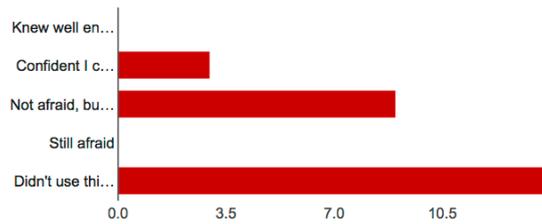
Moses [How do you feel about the following toolkits after the MT Marathon?]





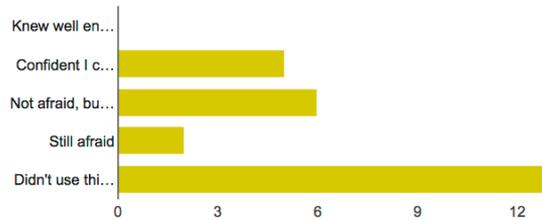
Knew well enough before	11	42.3%
Confident I can use it on my own	8	30.8%
Not afraid, but will seek assistance	3	11.5%
Still afraid	0	0%
Didn't use this toolkit during this Marathon	4	15.4%

Joshua [How do you feel about the following toolkits after the MT Marathon?]



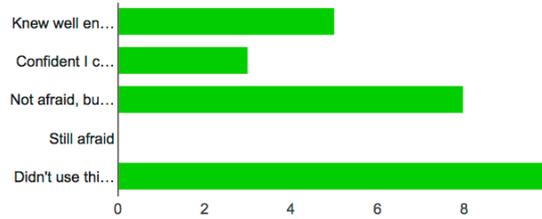
Knew well enough before	0	0%
Confident I can use it on my own	3	11.5%
Not afraid, but will seek assistance	9	34.6%
Still afraid	0	0%
Didn't use this toolkit during this Marathon	14	53.8%

cdec [How do you feel about the following toolkits after the MT Marathon?]



Knew well enough before	0	0%
Confident I can use it on my own	5	19.2%
Not afraid, but will seek assistance	6	23.1%
Still afraid	2	7.7%
Didn't use this toolkit during this Marathon	13	50%

TectoMT/Treex [How do you feel about the following toolkits after the MT Marathon?]

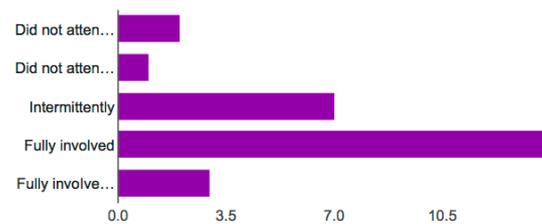


Knew well enough before	5	19.2%
Confident I can use it on my own	3	11.5%
Not afraid, but will seek assistance	8	30.8%
Still afraid	0	0%
Didn't use this toolkit during this Marathon	10	38.5%

Any other tools or useful toolkits you learned about?

- ComparEval, Docker
- MT-ComparEval
- TRANSLATE5 <http://www.translate5.net/> MT-COMPAREVAL wmt.ufal.cz
- Word2vec
- www.translate5.net
- MT - ComparEval
- iEMS, Vowpal Wabbit
- TectoMT
- MT-ComparEval Eman iEMS

Introductory morning lectures [How much did you attend to various regular MTM tracks?]

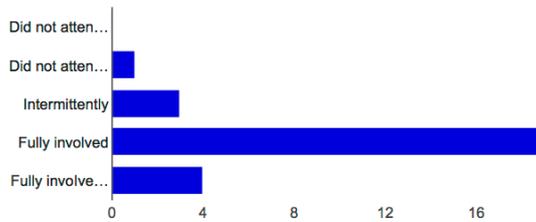


Did not attend (Did not want to)	2	7.4%
Did not attend (But wanted to)	1	3.7%



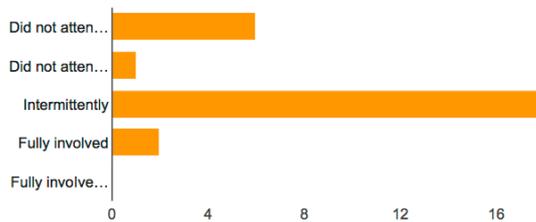
Intermittently	7	25.9%
Fully involved	14	51.9%
Fully involved and would have liked more	3	11.1%

Keynote talks [How much did you attend to various regular MTM tracks?]



Did not attend (Did not want to)	0	0%
Did not attend (But wanted to)	1	3.7%
Intermittently	3	11.1%
Fully involved	19	70.4%
Fully involved and would have liked more	4	14.8%

Labs [How much did you attend to various regular MTM tracks?]



Did not attend (Did not want to)	6	22.2%
Did not attend (But wanted to)	1	3.7%
Intermittently	18	66.7%
Fully involved	2	7.4%
Fully involved and would have liked more	0	0%

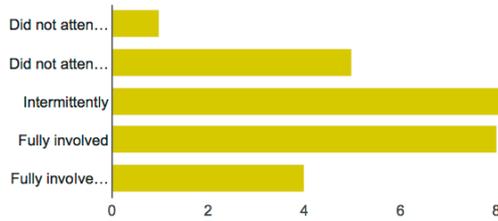
Poster and demo presentations [How much did you attend to various regular MTM tracks?]





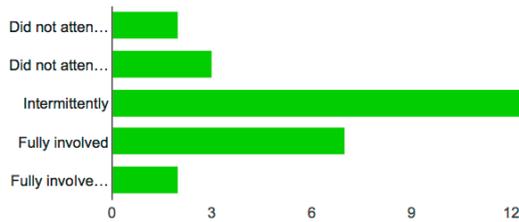
Did not attend (Did not want to)	1	3.7%
Did not attend (But wanted to)	4	14.8%
Intermittently	14	51.9%
Fully involved	6	22.2%
Fully involved and would have liked more	2	7.4%

Work on projects [How much did you attend to various regular MTM tracks?]



Did not attend (Did not want to)	1	3.7%
Did not attend (But wanted to)	5	18.5%
Intermittently	9	33.3%
Fully involved	8	29.6%
Fully involved and would have liked more	4	14.8%

Following other project reports [How much did you attend to various regular MTM tracks?]

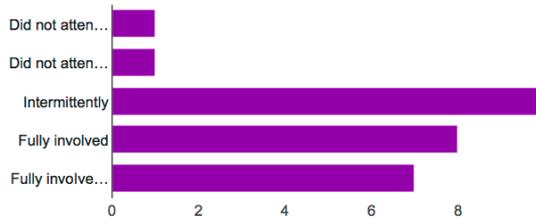


Did not attend (Did not want to)	2	7.4%
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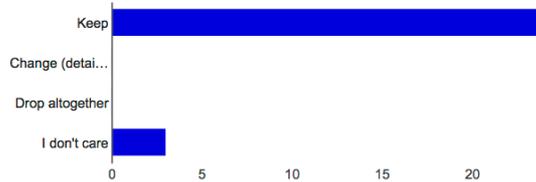
Did not attend (But wanted to)	3	11.1%
Intermittently	13	48.1%
Fully involved	7	25.9%
Fully involved and would have liked more	2	7.4%

General networking (meeting people) [How much did you attend to various regular MTM tracks?]



Did not attend (Did not want to)	1	3.7%
Did not attend (But wanted to)	1	3.7%
Intermittently	10	37%
Fully involved	8	29.6%
Fully involved and would have liked more	7	25.9%

Introductory lectures [Is there anything you would suggest changing in next Marathons?]



Keep	24	88.9%
Change (details below)	0	0%
Drop altogether	0	0%
I don't care	3	11.1%

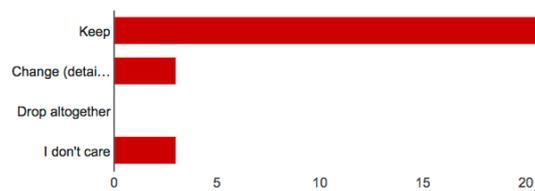
Keynote talks [Is there anything you would suggest changing in next Marathons?]





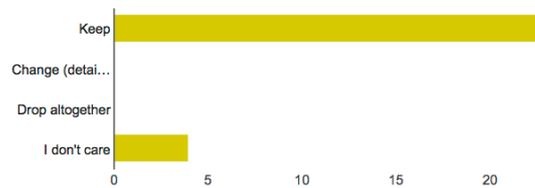
Keep	24	88.9%
Change (details below)	2	7.4%
Drop altogether	0	0%
I don't care	1	3.7%

Labs [Is there anything you would suggest changing in next Marathons?]



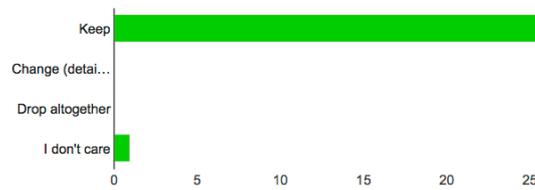
Keep	21	77.8%
Change (details below)	3	11.1%
Drop altogether	0	0%
I don't care	3	11.1%

Papers on tools (presented as posters and demos this year) [Is there anything you would suggest changing in next Marathons?]



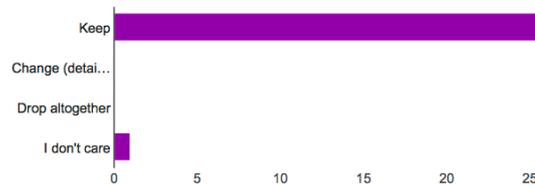
Keep	23	85.2%
Change (details below)	0	0%
Drop altogether	0	0%
I don't care	4	14.8%

Projects [Is there anything you would suggest changing in next Marathons?]



Keep	26	96.3%
Change (details below)	0	0%
Drop altogether	0	0%
I don't care	1	3.7%

Project presentations [Is there anything you would suggest changing in next Marathons?]



Keep	26	96.3%
Change (details below)	0	0%
Drop altogether	0	0%
I don't care	1	3.7%

Detailed comments

Introductory lectures

It is good to have lectures and it made some things more clear, even if most of the content I knew before.

Probably some fundamental things like language modeling would deserve more space.

Keynote talks

These were really great!

I understand that industry and research should meet on occasions such as the MT Marathon, but I prefer not to attend sales pitches. It would be nice to hear research-focused industry instead.

Labs

Copying prepared commands to terminal doesn't learn me much, I don't like this approach... Especially annoying was retyping exact commands and URLs from shown presentations. I would appreciate online tutorials instead (so that I could copy the commands directly and I wouldn't get lost when the presentation slide changes).
Nice opportunity to try something what can be else pretty hard to start on my own.
Labs are very useful and next time I want to go to more of them.
not the most interesting labs this year, I must admit!

Poster presentations

Projects

Maybe, it could be useful to announce some pre-requisites: if you want to join us, you should know some C++ and neural networks, for example.

Project presentations

Project follow-up reports

Move the list of projects from the GoogleDoc to <http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/mtm15/projects.html> and add links to the final presentation pdfs (without password). Ideally add a short paragraph description to each project (based on the google doc or slides) and highlight a URL to development repository or homepage of the project. This way there is much higher chance that someone will look at it.

It would be nice to have a general MTM forum or wiki for ongoing projects and documentations and links with further information. Maybe a blog would be also a good idea for making it easier to follow.

It would be great to let some tracks to allow to find them and their results later.

Organization

Any comments on the registration process?

All good.

Aside from the CC issue, it was fine.

For me it would have been easier if I could use a card with another name than my own.

Was the information before Marathon sufficient?

I didn't receive any info mail, but fortunately my colleagues did so, thus I did not try to resolve the problem.

I was not planning on participating in the projects, so staying a day (actually two because

of the flight the day after the project reports) extra could have been avoided. I understand that "conducting interdisciplinary research" can be exciting, but to my taste, the "hardcoreness" of the MT Marathon is difficult to combine with general lectures in digital humanities. If I knew before, I would have shortened my stay even more.

Yes

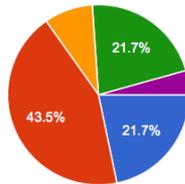
yes

It would be nice if after the payment process there are more informations about when the money will be transfer and that you will get the receipt at the first day on the ground.

Another point is that for a newbie it would be a good information that it is the best to get a Linux system. I had a Laptop from my company with Windows and that was a source of trouble.

All good.

Lunches at the venue



I don't care, I don't eat at the venue.	5	21.7%
I am happy to pre-pay or be forced to sit elsewhere if I don't.	10	43.5%
As above, on a day to day basis: I am happy to pre-pay 24 hours in advance or be forced...	2	8.7%
Please fight to keep the flexibility we had this year.	5	21.7%
Other	1	4.3%

Anything to add?

Anything you want to add? Any other comments?

Thank you for the organization of this great event!

I think it would be VERY useful to use microphones not only for recording but also for amplifying the speakers. Sometimes, I could hardly understand them because they spoke too quietly and indistinctly. (The room is just to large for using regular voice.)

Keep up the good work and see you in September!

thanks for this well-organised event!

Very interesting, very useful. Thank you!

The MTM was very interesting and useful and I would be glad to come again. But about friday morning I was not happy because the join with the Hamburg-Prague-Workshop was inexpedient for me and tiring to hear a volley of lectures at one time (I felt like that).

Smoother switching between presentations would be nice

Ondrej, test

Thank you very much for the excellent event. Indeed very well done. Lots of information, interesting people, tons of details to review. Prague is the the beautiful place. This is my first MTM and I really enjoyed it. I would definitely recommend it to my colleagues and come back next year.

My other commitments made the MTM a little too hectic for me and so not as involved as I would have liked. I look forward to coming back next year and being more active! Thanks very much for organizing. The only comment I have about MTM itself is that I have heard from several US-based researchers who would have liked to come, but the date was too early in the semester to take a week off.

Number of daily responses

