

REFERENCE GROUP MEETING — TMA4130
14TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Participants. Markus Grasmair, Douglas Pacheco; Eila Bergene, Johanne Grindahl, Marie Hayashi Strand, Vineeth Subramaniam, Thea Karin Thormodsen.

Date and Time. 14th September 2022, 13:00–14:00.

Lectures:

- The students were generally satisfied with the lectures with only small comments concerning readability on the blackboard/i-pad.
- The question came up if we would be willing to record the lectures. We will not do this, but we will make recordings from previous years available to the students.
- The introductory lecture has been perceived as very difficult by many students, also because many were not familiar with the background from chemistry. In future iterations of the lecture, we should start with a simpler topic/example.
- The question came up, to which extent coding will be relevant for the exam. There will be coding related problems at the exam, but these will be mostly concerned with understanding of code or, possibly, with adding/modifying a few lines of code to/in a given python function. The students will not be asked to write a whole program.

Exercises:

- At the start of the term, we had way too few student assistants and exercise classes. Since then, we have hired 8 new student assistants. We hope that this will improve the situation.
- A suggestion for future years was to set up fewer exercise classes, but instead have them in larger rooms with several students assistants present at the same time.
- Especially the first two exercises were much too long; it took the students around 8 hours to solve each of them, which was not our intention.
- From the exercise text, it is often not clear what the difficulty level of an exercise is. The students suggested that we could indicate the difficulty of each exercise, or at least point out if an exercise was particularly hard.

Plenary exercises:

- They work generally pretty good. We will add a thread in the forum where students can provide suggestions for the topics to be covered in the plenary exercises.