

Reference Group Meeting II

Date: Tuesday, 9th of March, 2021.

Attendance: Henriksen, Malene, Pang, Tjernshaugen (full)

Lectures:

- (1) a request to re-evaluate curriculum and shorten lectures to fit into officially allotted time was made; fifteen minutes breaks preferable, even at the expense of learning less
- (2) connection between definitions: it would be helpful if more emphasis were placed on explaining why things are defined the way they are
- (3) lectures are fast --- this is difficult to gauge in real time because the zoom chat does not indicate this
- (4) in person lectures are preferable but 8 am is difficult
- (5) lecture schedule not up to lecturer, and in-person lecture raises the threshold for attendance. switching to in-person lectures and switching back in February resulted in major attrition of live attendees. many who said they intend to attend did not in fact attend. It would be to students' disservice if they intend to watch all lectures at end of course.
- (6) lecturer will consult on in-person lectures

Exercises:

- (1) are a bit hard: fuller solutions, simpler questions were requested
- (2) exercises are supposed to be a little challenging, and allow students to wrestle with ideas and develop mathematical maturity --- fuller solutions can be provided
- (3) "show that/prove" problems are an important part of the course

Text:

- (1) Schaeffer and Cain is nice but sometimes seemingly not relevant enough

Miscellaneous:

- (1) notes should be made searchable
- (2) lecturer believes that exams should be slightly harder than past papers, but easier than problem sheets, in the sense that problems should not take as long to work out; some problem sheet problems were directly taken from past papers.

(3) point was raised that exams should not be harder than usual --- if people know that it is going to be hard, then people might pre-emptively organise to collaborate/cheat

(4) but in response to 3: to achieve a similar distribution of grades, which is a quantitative measure of fairness, different situations probably require different exams --- in this exam all inanimate aids are allowed, quite unlike previous exams

(5) there has been little help on ensuring integrity of exams from the administration

(6) actionable items from Reference group Meeting I completed.