

## Reference Group Meeting III

Date: Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 2021.

Attendance: Nylaeder, Pang, Tjernshaugen

### Miscellaneous:

- (1) It would be helpful to have the full set of notes compiled in one searchable document on the wiki page.
- (2) It would also be helpful to have a list of suggested problems from the book.
- (3) It would further be helpful to have a Blackboard/other forum for discussing problems. Pang is unwilling to monitor this, though, but is still reachable by email.
- (4) All actionable items from previous meeting have been addressed.

### Exams:

(1) Problems will be pitched at a level between past papers and exercises. This statement is qualified in the following ways:

(a) the module had slightly different emphases year-to-year, some topics may simply not have appeared in past papers;

(b) exercise sheets problems and exam problems do not differ too much in difficulty, and some exercise problems were simply taken from past papers;

(c) the fact that the examination is time-constrained is accounted for.

(2) There has been no help from the central administration on the issue of examination integrity. Given how mass cheating has occurred and been reported upon in the press, if the university does not put some effort into fixing this, the situation as it stands unfairly leaves all students open to suspicion.

(3) It would be helpful to have a tutorial-type session some days before exams. This can be done but Pang can only offer one such session, at most 1.5 hours, unrecorded. It was suggested that it should be timed not to coincide with other examinations. The day of the 30<sup>th</sup> of May was tentatively put forward. A formal proposal will be announced on the wiki page.

### Exercises:

(1) Exercises have been all right in pitch and length, reference group meeting 2 discussions notwithstanding, or improvements have occurred since then.

(2) There have been one or two questions that use theorems not discussed in lectures until many weeks later.

(3) It was suggested that next year, the exercises be made mandatory, as it creates pressure to work on this module when pressure builds up in other modules as well through the term. This was in fact proposed to the department in light of the situation this year, to keep students on top of the work, but was this proposal was rejected.

Lectures:

(1) These have been satisfactory overall.

(2) There have been less people following lectures after Easter as many projects in other modules were due. (Comment: this is fair --- in university people are expected to take their own initiatives in learning and use their time as they see fit.)