

REFERENCE GROUP MEETING, JANUARY 30

- Project:
 - I will hand out the project during February, and the deadline for the submission will be April 12 (i.e., one week after easter).
 - The project will deal with one specific constrained optimization problem and include both theoretical and numerical parts, the latter also requiring some programming.
 - During the duration of the project (or at least for the last month of the project) the exercise sessions will be devoted to the project. If possible, both Torbjørn and I will be present at these sessions. After easter (that is, after the deadline for the project), a huge exercise sheet covering the content of the lecture during the duration of the project will follow.
 - The students may implement the numerical parts of the project in any language they like, but Torbjørn and I can guarantee to be of (some) help only in the case of Matlab-problems.
 - The students may work on the project either alone or in pairs. I will provide a possibility for students to find project partners.
 - The students have reminded me that they have several other projects to work on in their other courses, which I should take into account when formulating the problems in the project. It would be good for the students to have some estimate of myself about how much time they are expected to work on the project. (I do not have an estimate yet, but will provide some with the project.)
- Office hours: Some of the students don't have time at my regular office hours and would therefore prefer some different time for them. Since this might lead to problems for other students, we decided not to move the office hours. However, all students are welcome to stop by my office any time (though writing an e-mail the day can be a good idea in order to ensure that I am actually in the office and have time).
- Exam: Since this is the first time that I read the course and the exam is different from (most) previous years in that it is an open books exam (more precisely: Nocedal & Wright, Numerical Optimization may be used in the exam), some students are a bit worried. Some clarifications:
 - The exam will contain both numerical computations and theoretical questions; the latter might also include some proofs. These might either be modifications of proofs found in Nocedal & Wright or applications of the results in this books to certain situations, or proofs concerning results not or hardly covered in the book (e.g.: convex analysis).
 - Last year's exam should give a good impression on how an open books exam might look like.
 - The problems on the exercise sheets should give some indication on what to expect at the exam; in particular those exercises that are not taken from Nocedal & Wright.
 - Note: Matlab (or any form of implementation) is not part of the exam.
- Teaching:

- After having completed a proof, it would be good if I could give again an overview of the different steps and how they are connected. Especially in longer proofs it is easy to get lost: one understands each single step, but still does not understand how everything fits together.
- I should work a bit on my time management: the lectures always tend to end a few minutes over time.
- Organisation:
 - It would be good if the solutions of the exercises could be given out a bit earlier.
 - Some additional handouts/links would be nice, in particular if I mention topics that are not (or only very briefly) covered in Nocedal & Wright.