

## Reference group report

**Date:** May 2017

**Course code and title:** TMA4212 Numerical solution of differential equations by difference methods

**Dates of reference group meetings held:** 21<sup>st</sup> of February, one meeting in March(17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>), 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2017

**Students who have participated in the reference group. Name and programme of study:**

Kristoffer Skuland (MTFYMA), Maximilian Friedrich Irenaeus Kieler (exchange student),  
Gina Magnussen (MTFYMA).

(Mira Vik (MTFYMA) withdrew from the course early in the semester)

**The reference group's report on the quality of the course:**

**Exercises:**

Time consuming and some of them hard to solve, but they are a good preparation for the project and understanding how the theory is implemented. Examples in the lectures related closer to the exercises would be appreciated, and also slightly extended deadlines, if possible.

**Project:**

- The project helped with understanding and using the theoretical concepts in practice, which was good.
- Most groups received great help from the student assistants and the lecturer(the exception was the few groups that had a particularly hard equation). Necessary with two or more student assistants for guidance, like this year.
- Both good and bad that the project is so open and varies depending on the equation the group solves. Assistance and guidance in the process is therefore necessary.

**Lectures:**

- Overall speed in lectures OK, but sometimes the theory is a little hard to follow. The examples given are good for understanding the concepts, but it would be appreciated with examples that are closer related to the exercises, to not make them so hard to solve.

**Measures proposed by the reference group:**

- If it fits in the current semester (e.g. when easter is and so on), some longer time to complete each compulsory exercise would be appreciated, if only just one or two days extension for each exercise.
- More examples bringing lectures and compulsory exercises closer together would be good.
- Two assistants in addition to the lecturer is necessary during the project. Keep it like this year.
- If possible, maybe lecture the finite element method earlier in the course? (Since it is an important part of the learning outcome.)