

MVE385: Instructions for the ”reflection on the project work”

November 5, 2015

1 Background

One of the main challenges in interdisciplinary collaborations is to communicate across the discipline boundaries. There are many reasons for this: sometimes it is just the knowledge about certain facts and terminology that creates obstacles, sometimes confusion arises because a word may have different meanings in different areas of science, and sometimes there is a more fundamental difference in the way of thinking, such as the approach to problem solving. With experience, knowledge of the background of the collaborators, and awareness of the potential problems, many of these issues may be more easily resolved.

The purpose of this task is to make you aware of the problem and reflect on your experiences. Hopefully this will help you to develop your communication skills based on future collaborative experiences. The reflections will also provide useful input to me regarding your experience of working in the projects, and may suggest issues to change for next year.

2 The task

Your task is to write a short reflection of approximately one A4 page on your experiences of working in your project, with special emphasis on communication. You have all met partners from different backgrounds and discussed your projects with them. Probably you have come across situations where you did not quite understand each other, at least not initially. You can also reflect on the communication within your group and with you supervisor at Chalmers (me or Vera), and on your project work in general.

Some questions to answer are:

- Did you come across situations with communication difficulties during your project? Describe what happened.
- Any hypothesis on why they happened?
- How did you resolve them? Or did you not?
- If there were no difficulties, why do you think that was?

- Did your partners seem to be aware of potential misunderstandings, and did they try to avoid them?
- Was it easier to communicate in the group or with me? Why?
- In retrospect, is there anything you would like to have done differently in your project?
- Is there anything about your specific project or partner that you would like me to know for the future?

The reflection should be submitted individually as a pdf file via PingPong, at the latest on January 16. Note that I will be the only one reading your reflection and it is not part of the grades for the course (except that you need to hand it in to pass).