20200124

Evaluation of NGEN06/EXTQ05 HT-19

This course has been running for more than a decade, and it has not changed so much during the last years. This year it was 12 students, somewhat fewer than in recent years. Seven were science students, three LTH students and two fee-paying students. A main challenge with this course is the diverse background of the students. The exam result was quite ok (only one student failed in the exam) as well as the outcome of the project work.

The written evaluation (appended) was answered by 5 students. In the evaluation it is apparent that the students' diverse background affects their expectations and experience of the course. Four out of the five respondent thought that the workload was difficult or much too difficult in relation to the given ECTS credits.

In general the exercises were felt somewhat hard. But still some students mention the practical part of the course as what they like most. A discussion is whether the programming exercises should still use Matlab or if they should be switched to Python. A possible approach in 2020 would be that the student could select the language the prefer.

The lecture "Introduction to Algorithms" could be shortened to e.g. one hour. Possibly the other hour here could be the "Scientific writing" (?).
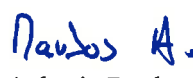
Around half of the students have not a sufficient background in mathematics (in e.g. linear algebra) for the course. One idea could be to add some extra material on the learning platform and/or hand out material in the course start. It is also important to introduce the mathematics in such a way that the student do not get scared.

Several students feel stressed with the first deadline of the project. Perhaps the project should be formulated so that the first deadline should only require a draft report. Another approach would be to have the first deadline later, perhaps even after Christmas (if the exam is before Christmas).

The course is planned to be slightly changed in autumn in 2020. The majority of the lectures and the exercises will remain. Some of the last lectures (likely text setting and generalization algorithms, and possibly curves), not connected to any exercise, we be replaced by lectures in 3D GIS and City Models. Perhaps there will be a new exercise as well. Perhaps the course should be renamed to "2D and 3D GIS architecture"

Another change to next year, not discussed in the evaluation, is that the course material will be added to the learning platform Canvas during 2020. One thing

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