UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE

1 January 2016

School of Information Sciences
Degree Programme in Mathematics and Statistics

Evaluation criteria for a Bachelor's thesis in the Degree Programme in Mathematics and Statistics

1. Grading criteria

Examiners consider the following when evaluating a Bachelor's thesis:

1. *Familiarity with the topic evidenced by the presentation.* Does the approach demonstrate that the author has studied the topic thoroughly and understood the subject matter well? Is the thesis free of mathematical errors? Is previous research reviewed independently and critically? Have typos or other mistakes in the source material been corrected in the thesis? Are examples original and illustrative? Is the structure clear and appropriate? Does the thesis form a coherent and logical whole that is pleasant to read?

2. *Formal features and mathematical writing.* Does the structure of the thesis conform to the conventions of mathematical theses? Does the author express the definition, theorem and proof structure correctly? Are mathematical notations appropriate? Are mathematical expressions integrated in the text logically and in a grammatically correct manner?

3. *Linguistic form, word processing and references.* Is the language of the thesis clear? Has word processing been used correctly? Are charts, tables and texts in them finished and easy to read? Does the text contain references to the source literature in accordance with good scientific practice? Is the language precise and polished? Is the overall appearance of the thesis polished? Is the writing readable?

4. *Use of source literature.* Does the thesis demonstrate that the author has studied literature in the field extensively and thoroughly? Does the presentation differ from the presentation in the source material? Does the author discuss some ideas more extensively or better than in the source material?

5. *Difficulty of the topic.* How demanding is the topic? How much does the topic differ from the material presented during the courses? What is the level of abstraction of the thesis? Does the author combine different topics?

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6. *Empirical evidence.* Are research problems, hypotheses and presuppositions related to empirical research presented clearly and consistently? Are the observations that are being analysed described accurately enough? Are the methods and tools used for the analysis of the observations suitable? Has the author used diagnostic review to ensure that the models are applicable and the results reliable? Has the author interpreted the results of analyses and computer runs correctly? Is the presentation of findings and conclusions clear and easy to understand?

2. Grading

The grading scale for approved Bachelor's theses is as follows: excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), satisfactory (2) and sufficient (1).

A thesis is graded good (3) if it meets the evaluation criteria, is well-written and does not have any substantial mistakes. In other words, average theses are graded good.

A thesis is graded satisfactory (2) if it fails to meet some of the criteria of a good thesis but has other compensating merits that demonstrate the author's skills. The grade can also be lowered from good to satisfactory if the supervisor has played a major role in the process. A thesis is graded sufficient (1) if something relevant is missing from it but it still includes some material that can be approved.

A thesis is graded very good (4) if it meets all the criteria of a good thesis but is more in-depth than the average thesis or has other merits.

In order to be graded excellent (5), a thesis must have a particularly critical, in-depth and analytical approach, it may not contain errors and it must be polished. A thesis is graded excellent when it is written on a demanding topic, the use of source literature is extensive and the theoretical approach is mature. A thesis is graded very good (4) if it does not meet one or more of the criteria for an excellent thesis.