Guidelines for SS-TP Project, Michaelmas 2012

The first scheduled meeting of this class is **Thursday 27th September at noon** and the last scheduled meeting is **22nd November**. Project supervisors may be available for further consultation after this date.

The class will meet for one hour each week and you will be asked to give a short presentation on your work (15 minutes) two or three times during the project. All members of the class must attend all of these meetings. You will also meet your supervisor to discuss your project during the week.

Deadline for submission of reports is the **beginning of Hilary term, 14th January 2011** (strict deadline, see below).

Although students work in pairs, each student needs to hand in **3 copies** of her/his own **individual report** to the School Office, SNIAM first floor (these copies will then be distributed to supervisor, second reader, and myself). Not only are you required to write individual reports, but evidence of independent thought in your analysis and write-up will be recognized in the marking process.

Length of report: 10 printed pages (including figures, tables, 12 point, 1.5 spacing) + abstract + list of references; please add page numbers.

Appendices **may** be added to this showing **additional** material (figures, tables). An appendix should not be used to circumvent the above ten pages limit. Please **don't append computer code**, and also **don't** include such material in the main text (nobody reads computer code!)

The report should have a general introduction, where relevant literature is discussed. This introduction should not be more than about 3-4 pages. Then describe in detail the work you carried out. A final section will contain a discussion of your results and also comments on possible extensions of the work. Note that the focus of your report should be the description of your own work and results.

Please avoid references to web-sites. Material from such sources may be unreliable, but more importantly, websites tend to frequently change and even disappear. References to books and journals are preferred for these reasons.

The reports will be read by both your supervisor and a second reader. You will also be individually invited to a short interview (some time in Hilary term 2013) to briefly summarize your project and to reply to queries of both supervisor and a second reader. You can bring your own copy of the report to the interview. The aim of the interview is to assess your understanding of the project and assist supervisor and second reader in agreeing on a mark for it. The mark will only be finalized at the examiners meeting towards the end of term.

**Important:**
Report submission is always your personal responsibility. If you fail to submit a report you can obtain no marks for it.

If an *ad misericordiam* reason, such as illness, appears likely to prevent you from handing in your project report on time you must contact Charles.Patterson@tcd.ie as soon as the problem arises. An *ad misericordiam* reason will not be considered if it is offered after the submission deadline.

Charles Patterson, 20th August 2012