

# Guidelines for the written summaries

## The idea

The purposes of the written summaries are:

- for you to have a chance to check your understanding of the material you have read, and to practice formulating and structuring, in your own way, the mathematics you have learned about.
- to give the other participants of the seminar a document which they can refer to. If someone misses a session, they may read about the material that was covered. Or if someone is preparing a talk at a later date which builds on the results that you presented, they can refer back to your summary to help them remember the material. Also, later in your studies you may want to be able to look back and remind yourself of some of the material that we are learning about.

## Format

Please send me a *PDF file*. There is no minimum or maximum length, but the length will likely be somewhere between four and ten pages. **The aim:** to write a *summary* which retells the *main stories* contained in the material that you studied, in a way which is understandable and helpful to a fellow student who might not have attended your presentation. This means that it should neither be a bullet-point list, nor a full re-writing of the texts that you read. Try to write a text which *explains* the main ideas to the reader; *focuses* on the essential, main parts of the material; and is both *precise and rigorous* when appropriate, but *not overly technical* where unnecessary (most proofs, if not essential for the ideas, may be omitted). Learning and practicing how to do this is part of the exercise!

If you have questions or need help, don't hesitate to write me an email!

## Deadline

Please send me your summary by the *Friday before* your presentation.

After looking at your summary, I may ask you to correct errors or revise certain parts if necessary. (But don't panic, I won't be overly picky and hard on you!)