



KTH Electrical Engineering

Electric Power Systems Lab

EG201X DEGREE PROJECT IN ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEMS

8 November 2011

Exercise

Evaluation of Final Presentation

In this exercise, you will attend at least two final presentations of other master degree projects, and write a small evaluation of the presentation and the following discussion.

Background

Being able to evaluate and critically assess one's own and others' scientific results is an important skill for modern engineers—in particular for those who want to proceed as researchers after their master degree. Evaluation and critical assessment can be performed either as a written review or in a direct discussion. In this exercise, you will train the latter skill by observing and reflecting on how other students or engineers behave during a technical presentation and the following discussion.

There are many objectives of discussing a presentation. The most obvious objective is that the discussion allows the speaker to elaborate such issues that might be unclear to the audience, or which is of such importance that the audience would like to learn further details. Another objective is to provide relevant feedback to the speaker. When doing this, you may of course have critical point of view, but you should always be polite and constructive when pointing out mistakes and errors. Moreover, remember that all criticism does not have to be negative—if you see something that you like, do not hesitate to give the authors appropriate appreciation. Finally, a direct discussion is a good environment to mutually develop ideas and solutions, and the discussion can result in ideas for practical applications and further studies. Hence, it might be very rewarding for all participants if the audience is also asking open questions related to possibilities and limitations of technology and its role in society rather than only technical details.

Instructions

As preparation for this exercise, you should read the instructions for presenting a master thesis in electric power systems (if you have not already done that). The instructions are available on the course web page.

The assignment is to attend at least two final presentations of master degree projects. The topic of the presented projects is not that important, but it is of course preferable if there is some relation to electric power systems. If you are performing your degree project outside KTH and do not have the possibility to attend any final presentations, you should attend two other technical pres-

entations (for example in a seminar, workshop or internal company meeting). The requirement is that it should be technical presentations of an advanced topic with a following discussion. Investigate your possibilities and agree with your supervisor what to do.

Bring the opponent form to the presentations you attend. This form should be signed by the responsible supervisor at the presentation. The opponent form you can find on the course web page. When you have all signatures on your opponent form you should hand it in to the course responsible. This is important since attending two final presentations and performing the critical review are requirements to pass the course.

After the presentations, you should write a short evaluation of the presentation and the discussion. Start with a very brief summary of the topic of the presentation (the title of the presentation and a few sentences of the main content is sufficient). The focus of the evaluation should then be the performance of the speaker and the audience. Was the presentation clear (cf. the instructions for master thesis presentation, but remember that other institutions might have other requirements)? How was the discussion after the presentation? What kind of questions were asked, about technical details or about the implications of the work for the society and technical development? If there was an opponent, did he or she do a good job, i.e., providing relevant feedback on the work? Was the speaker able to provide good answers to the questions raised by the opponent and the audience? Was there any questions that were not asked, but which you think would have been important?

The evaluation should be about a half to one A4 page (using normal font size and line spacing) for each of the presentations. Submit your evaluation to your supervisor and discuss it in a telephone meeting or a direct meeting. If possible, several students can meet in a seminar and have a group discussion of their observations together with a KTH teacher.