



Aniket Kulkarni <anikerry@gmail.com>

Thesis Regulations at Bosch

3 messages

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Wed, 26 Mar at 18:27

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Hello all,

I discussed internally regarding the requirements for master's thesis we talked about in our meeting this afternoon. Please find the details below:

- This master's thesis is funded by an EU funded project. According to the consortium agreements, code sharing is only permitted with the involved parties, which unfortunately does not apply to THWS. Additionally, as per Bosch rules (also included in the contract), it is highly unlikely we can open access the code. In case of consortium rules, there might be a possibility to open-access code only after 3-5 years following the end of the consortium contract i.e., around 2029 or 2031. Bosch however has stricter rules regarding this and as I understand, the code would belong to Bosch.
- Regarding possibility of journal publication, it typically requires at least a year's work to achieve quality results. In case of a master thesis, generally, we don't see that quality of results that could technically fruition to journal articles within 6 months. A workshop paper I imagine could be feasible, depending on the outcome of the thesis and approval from the higher body within our department.

I believe it is crucial to be transparent from the beginning to avoid any misunderstandings regarding expectations and outcomes. Taking these things into consideration please let me know if these requirements are still feasible or if we need to rethink the contract.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen / Best regards

Shreya Kshirasagar

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Hi all,

thanks for checking this so quickly. You rightly understood that this may be a critical point. Unfortunately, company standard protecting their own company interests often go against academic rules protecting the interests of the students.

As for publication, I totally agree that it is very difficult if not outright impossible to reach within 6 months sufficiently good results so that the outcomes can be published within a journal. And I totally understand and agree that if the work were to be turned into a journal publication, more people from the project (I guess primarily from Bosch but perhaps also from Eindhoven) need to be involved. And this could easily take 12 months or more. Whether the outcomes could be good enough for a workshop is also questionable but even then, Bosch and Eindhoven collaborators would need to get involved. Both of these scenarios are, however, fairly irrelevant for the Master thesis itself and we do not really need to discuss them at this point. They will only become relevant if the outcomes are truly excellent and one of the involved parties is interested in pursuing the journal/workshop publication.

So on this point, I think we totally agree and journal/workshop publication is by no means a condition for Aniket's master thesis

Aniket cannot, however, finish his Master's program simply through an internship for Bosch without having anything in his hands in the end. By the rules of the THWS, Aniket has to deliver a Master thesis which has to be a result of his independent scientific work.

Nevertheless, since the Master thesis is still part of Aniket's educational process, he obviously does not have to work on it completely alone but it is expected he delivers it under a supervision. If this supervision comes from a company due to Aniket's involvement in a bigger project, even better. But Aniket still needs to finish with a document in the end which has been fully developed by him as the single author taking full responsibility for its content. Strictly speaking this means that neither I nor you can "tell" Aniket what to write. We can "advise" him, but it is his decision if and how he does it.

In case of company driven project, the rules are similar with the fundamental difference that the company can tell Aniket what **NOT** to write about and what **CANNOT** be included in the manuscript because it relates to sensitive company (or partner) information. For example, the code could be an example of such a restriction (though I personally still very much disagree for a Master thesis in AI but can live with). If necessary, the company can also check the manuscript before submission. But Aniket has to be able to have in the end a document that he can submit to THWS as a certification of his work and use in the future as an example of his own scientific work, e.g. when searching for future jobs.

This is an absolutely critical point but I hope this has been clear from the beginning - it is in the end a Master thesis.

An important point related to the above: as I have explained, we have now relaxed the rules for the manuscript itself from the hefty 80+ to a lighter cca 20page journal-like format. In principle, this should make it easier for the company as well (shorter document to review). We, however, still have to be able to evaluate Aniket's work in terms of scientific contribution. This means that these 20pages have to be very content heavy. If the code has to be left out, I am getting a little worried here. If there were even more restrictions on the content from the company side, e.g. leaving out analytical results etc., I am afraid we would have to go back to the usual 80+ pages to complement the missing practical parts (due to being blocked by the company) with more theoretical discussion and analysis and perhaps even experiments unrelated to the work in Bosch. For example, spiking neural networks are a topic on its own without any proprietary rights of the Bosch consortia. If necessary, I could imagine Aniket working on this independent part of research after finishing his internship in Bosch and hence delivering the thesis quite a bit later. I would have no problem with such a setup if it seemed easier for everybody involved. This is very much for Aniket to consider and perhaps discuss with you.

If anything is not quite clear or still needs to be discussed, please feel free to bring it up. It is really important to avoid any misunderstandings on these points early on.

Quite honestly, I am much less worried about the work itself than these legal proprietary stuff. It pains me that there is still a great misalignment between company and academic interests complicating the opportunities for our students.

And yes, I do realize that you are just the poor PhD in the middle. :(

Best

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Gregorová, Magda <magda.gregorova@thws.de>

Wed, 26 Mar at 21:37

To: Kulkarni, Aniket <aniketdattatraya.kulkarni@study.thws.de>, Shreya.Kshirasagar@de.bosch.com

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Hi all,

on a more scientific and hence interesting note: I have remembered that there is a regular workshop on the topic at the biggest European conference: <https://sites.google.com/view/dlnh-ecmlpkdd24>

Perhaps there might be some interesting material to read :)

Best

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