

# The Supervisor



AARHUS  
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

# Teaching vs. supervision

- Supervision is *not* teaching!
  - What does this mean?

## **Teacher:**

- controls
- gives assignments
- corrects
- evaluates

## **Supervisor:**

- discusses
- facilitates
- suggests
- a consultant to the group



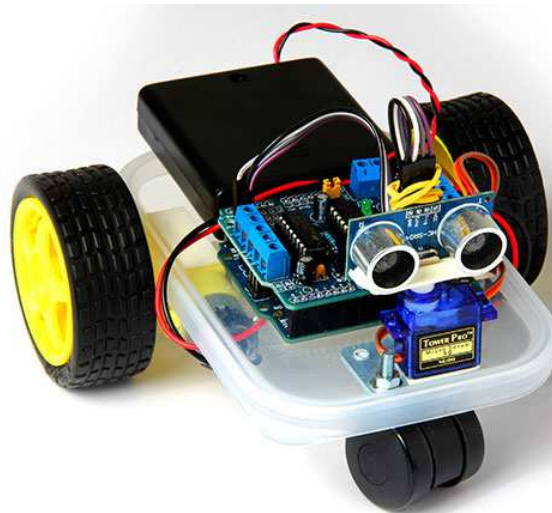
## 4 general types of supervision:

- *Product oriented* supervision
- *Process oriented* supervision
- *Laissez-faire* supervision
- *Control* supervision



# Type 1: Product oriented supervision

- Focus on professional / technical knowledge
- Values a logical and comprehensive project report
- Is result-oriented (the final product counts)



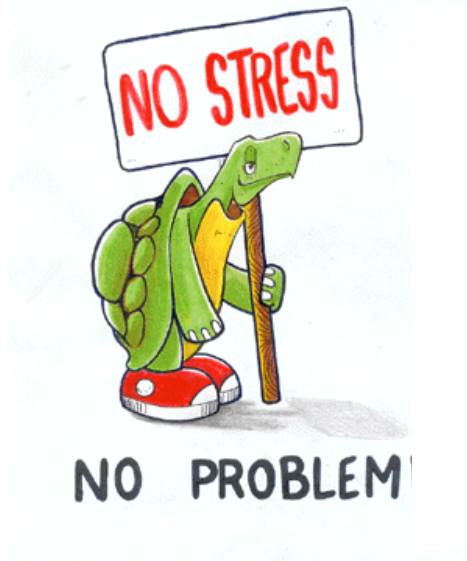
## Type 2: Process oriented supervision

- Views the project work as a perception and cognitive process
- Facilitates the team work aspect
- Initiates reflective processes
- Asks questions instead of giving answers



## Type 3: Laissez-faire supervision

- The group is left on it's own
- No commitment
- General and superficial comments
- Uses a minimum of time on the group



## Type 4: Control supervision

- The group is tested
- Focuses on the evaluation
- The project period is one long exam
- Interested in the capacity of the group members



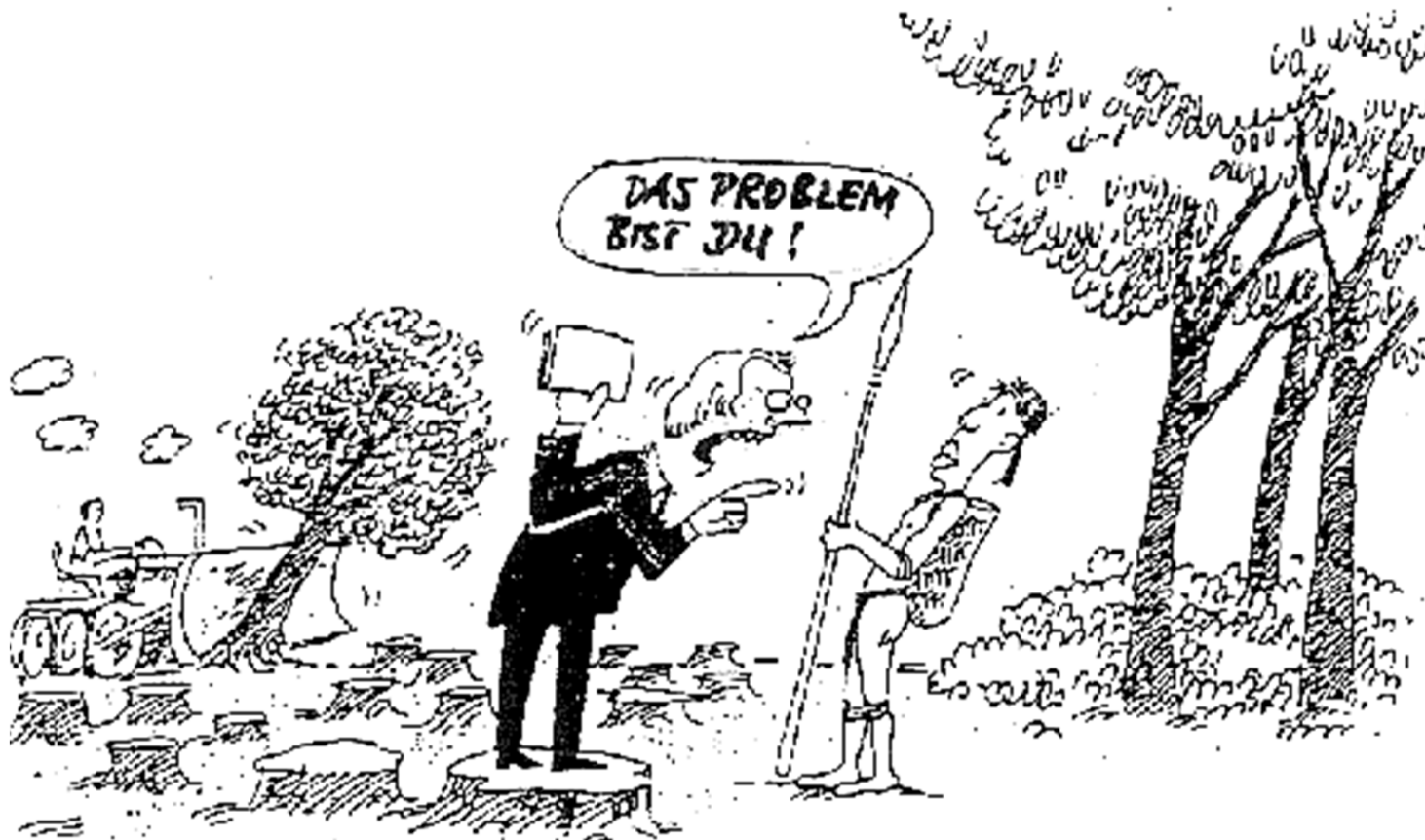
# In your project groups discuss:

1. How would you characterize the pros and cons of the individual types of supervision?
  1. Product supervision
  2. Process supervision
  3. Laissez-faire supervision
  4. Control supervision





# What can go wrong between supervisor and the group?



# Different expectations - alignment

- Your expectations must match those of the supervisor
- Hence, they must be made explicit!

*Assumption is the mother of all fuckups!*

- To have a good collaboration, you must *align* your expectations with those of the supervisor
  - Discuss with your supervisor
  - Make an Group-Supervisor Agreement of Cooperation (GS-AC)



AARHUS  
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

# AC: Group-Supervisor

- The Group-Supervisor AC should contain...
  - The expectations of the supervisor for the group
    - Level of commitment, participation, ...
  - The expectations of the group for the supervisor
    - The supervisors role as group member, chairman, judge, observer..

Remember:

- The supervisor is not a teacher.
- Mutual expectations must be aligned
- Different elements of the project work may require different types of supervision.



# Your assignment

- In the group:
  - Discuss your expectations for the supervisor
  - Discuss what expectations the supervisor may have for you
  - Write the group-supervisor Agreement of Cooperation (AC)
  - Send it to your supervisor
  - Discuss the AC at your next meeting with the supervisor. Make sure he expresses his expectations to you!
  - Revise the AC and put it in your progress report.

