Condensed Matter Physics FKA091, fall 2015

Information about the oral exam in January

To pass the course (grade 3 [Chalmers], grade G [GU]), it is sufficient to obtain $\geq 40\%$ of the maximum total score on the *graded homework problems*, HW1 - HW5. You do not need to take the oral exam.

To obtain grade 4/5 [Chalmers] or grade VG [GU] you need to obtain $\geq 60\%/80\%$ [Chalmers] or $\geq 70\%$ [GU] of the maximum total score on the *graded homework problems*, HW1 - HW5. In addition, you need to take the oral exam and do well on it.

I will send out individual e-mails no later than January 5, informing you about your percentage score on the graded homework problems, HW1 - HW4. (Since the deadline for HW5 is January 5, this particular set will be graded later.) On basis of this information, you can then decide whether you want to take the oral exam or not. If you decide to take the oral, you should inform me via e-mail no later than noon, January 8. The orals (conducted in groups of 2-4 students) will be scheduled in the **exam week January 11-15**. In your e-mail you should tell me what days and times in the exam week that you *cannot* take your oral. I will then schedule your oral and inform you about day, time, and place in the evening of January 8.

About an hour in advance of your oral, you will receive an e-mail from me where I ask you to orally account for your solution to one specified homework problem, HW1-HW5. You should prepare for a maximum 15 min account using a whiteboard. (Your graded solutions to HW1-3 will be returned on Dec 15 and Dec 17. Your graded solutions to HW4 can be picked up in the box marked "Condensed Matter Physics" outside the elevator, floor 3, south wing, Origo building, after January 5. Your graded solutions to HW5 will not be available before the oral, so please take copies of your solutions to HW5 so that you can prepare an account if asked to do so.)

To prepare for the oral, use your lecture notes as a guide. I will ask questions only about things that we have discussed in class, or things that have come up in the homework problems. There will be no pesky questions about specific materials (of which there has been very little in the course!). Instead, focus on central concepts, ideas, and phenomena. I will also not ask about mathematical derivations of formulas or their technical details. To excel on the oral you should show that you have studied the literature beyond your lecture notes, and that you have internalized the course content.