GROUP FORMATION USING SHORTEST PATH APPROACH

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GROUP FORMATION USING SHORTEST PATH APPROACH

A thesis submitted to the Graduate School in partial
fulfillment of the requirement for the degree
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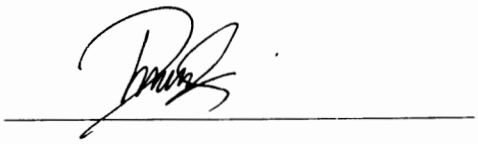
(Signature) : 

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ABSTRACT

Group work is becoming more important in education. Working in groups give students the ability to share ideas, to enhance problem solving skills and to improve communication skills. Thus, group formation becomes a crucial issue in order to increase group capability. However in UUM, several colleges are located remotely and majority of the students do not own personal transport. These create constraints for group meetings and it will effect the group performance. Therefore, this paper proposes method for identifying groups using shortest path approach and we hope this approach is useful for lecturers who have a large class. We also believe that the approach can be integrated with other existing methods in group formation.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Now a day, many organizations, especially in education institution are shifting away from individual work performed in hierarchical work structures and toward group operation. This project purposes to introduce the alternative guideline for increasing student group efficiency through the discussion on how to solve the problems of group formation which stated on time consuming and students' location in Universiti Utara Malaysia. Initially, an overview of this project includes a project's background, problem statement, objectives, scope, and significance are discussed in this chapter.

1.1 Background of the study

Group work is becoming more important in education. It is used to serve a variety of functions for organization. In academic institutions normally use the group structure as a place for students share and show their ability to manage and dissolve project problem, to enhance problem solving skills and to improve communication skills. Group formation is the starting point of all group development and performance (Anewalt, Polack-Wahl, Beidler, & Smarkusky, 2003). On the other aspect, group work could be seen as a good preparation for student to industry because most of the software industries have been developing software in teamwork(Brown & Dobble,

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