Group Work reflections:

The successes that the group has had over the project thus far have been quite well achieved with the first being is in intergroup communication both in meetings and through indirect channels (#3 https://bitbucket.org/kartik7gupta/physics-lab-booking-project/issue/5/group-communication-issues) and the other being role delegation (#16 <https://bitbucket.org/kartik7gupta/physics-lab-booking-project/issue/16/designating-team-roles>) . As communication is a key issue in group work it was the first area that was targeted, with meetings established twice weekly and Hipchat a third party software used for group messaging. The Hipchat software was found to not meet the group’s needs due to no notifications being pushed meaning we missed messages and was then changed to Facebook messenger as it was the most reliable in delivering messages. Doing this has allowed the group much a much easier time collaborating and is a key success area. Quickly assigning roles to each group member was another key early success, by making sure that all group members had jobs it meant there was less time with people were not actively doing specific work. This translated into the group being able to get on top of what we need to do to deliver on the project. It also meant that when two group members were added later roles that were not filled adequately could now be filled.. The group processes and communication have meant that we have as a group been able to share the load and more importantly share work which allows us to maximise the quality of work.

On the other hand the group also has a number of key areas that are still in need of improvement, the group still needs to work out a more equal work distribution model in accordance with XP, as the load of each job is ill defined when assigned and can result in some members doing more than others, which can be seen on the assigned issue page (https://bitbucket.org/kartik7gupta/physics-lab-booking-project/issues/2?sort=-id). Currently we have tried to shift the jobs around and in accordance with XP made a pair system but the system still needs time to settle before we can see results. Another issue that the group requires work in is in the tracking user story progress of each other group member (#17 https://bitbucket.org/kartik7gupta/physics-lab-booking-project/issue/17/communicate-work-done). At the moment group members can only find out how group members are progressing in meetings or by sending a message and waiting for a response, which is to slow when sharing information and needs to be improved.

Overall the group has learnt how to work together through meetings and messages with great emphasis being placed on the communal aspects of the XP methodology. As a group there are still issues that need addressing but generally we have managed to get together and work for the client.