

Computer Science

Bachelor of Science

Subject-specific Examination Regulations for Computer Science (Fachspezifische Prüfungsordnung)

The subject-specific examination regulations for Computer Science are defined by this program handbook and are valid only in combination with the General Examination Regulations for Undergraduate degree programs (General Examination Regulations = Rahmenprüfungs-ordnung). This handbook also contains the program-specific Study and Examination Plan (Chapter 6).

Upon graduation, students in this program will receive a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree with a scope of 180 ECTS (for specifics see Chapter 4 of this handbook).

Version	Valid as of	Decision	Details
Fall 2023.V1.3		Sep 18, 2023	Editorial changes in the study schemes
Fall 2023-V1.2		Aug 02, 2023	Editorial changes in all study schemes
Fall 2023-V1.1		May 26, 2023	Editorial changes in all handbooks
Fall 2023 – V1	Sep 01, 2023	Apr 26, 2023	Substantial change approved by the Academic Senate
		Jun 26, 2019	Originally approved by Academic Senate

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1 Program Overview

1.1 Concept

1.1.1 The Constructor University Educational Concept

Constructor University aims to educate students for both an academic and a professional career by emphasizing three core objectives: academic excellence, personal development, and employability to succeed in the working world. Constructor University offers an excellent research driven education experience across disciplines to prepare students for graduate education as well as career success by combining disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary breadth with supplemental skills education and extra-curricular elements. Through a multi-disciplinary, holistic approach and exposure to cutting-edge technologies and challenges, Constructor University develops and enables the academic excellence, intellectual competences, societal engagement, professional and scientific skills of tomorrows leaders for a sustainable and peaceful future.

In this context, it is Constructor University's aim to educate talented young people from all over the world, regardless of nationality, religion, and material circumstances, to become citizens of the world who are able to take responsible roles for the democratic, peaceful, and sustainable development of the societies in which they live. This is achieved through a high-quality teaching as well as manageable study loads and supportive study conditions. Study programs and related study abroad programs convey academic knowledge as well as the ability to interact positively with other individuals and groups in culturally diverse environments. The ability to succeed in the working world is a core objective for all study programs at Constructor University, both in terms of actual disciplinary subject matter and also to the social skills and intercultural competence. Study-program-specific modules and additional specializations provide the necessary depth, interdisciplinary offerings and the minor option provide breadth while the university-wide general foundation and methods modules, optional German language and Humanities modules, and an extended internship period strengthen the employability of students. The concept of living and learning together on an international campus with many cultural and social activities supplements students' education. In addition, Constructor University offers professional advising and counseling.

Constructor University's educational concept is highly regarded both nationally and internationally. While the university has consistently achieved top marks over the last decade in Germany's most comprehensive and detailed university ranking by the Center for Higher Education (CHE), it has also been listed by the renowned Times Higher Education (THE) magazine as one of the top 300 universities worldwide (ranking group 251-300) in 2019 as well as in 2021. Since 2022 Constructor University is considered to be among the top 30 percent out of more than 1600 universities worldwide and is ranked the most international university in Germany. The THE ranking is considered as one of the most widely observed university rankings. It is based on five major indicators: research, teaching, research impact, international orientation, and the volume of research income from industry.

1.1.2 Program Concept

Computer Science lies at the core of all modern industries and plays a major role in most areas of science as well. Computer technology changes constantly, but the fundamental principles underlying these technologies have now developed into a mature science. The Computer Science Bachelor of

Science program at Constructor University focuses on the understanding of these principles and their application in practice.

Students will obtain core computer science competencies and skills (e.g., programming and software engineering) and they will learn about fundamental abstractions and abstract notions of computing (e.g., formal languages, logic, and computability theory). They will learn about the principles behind and the proper usage of core technologies (e.g., databases, operating systems, and computer networks). Finally, students will develop an understanding of the limitations of technology and side effects of computing systems (e.g., security, dependability, legal, and ethical aspects). Because computer science is rooted in mathematics, students will take mathematical methods modules covering calculus, linear algebra, probability theory, and numerical methods or discrete mathematics.

The job market for computer scientists has been very favorable in the last few years, and there is no indication that this will change in the near future. Because of the rapid changes in the field, it is important to focus the education on the fundamental principles, as well as, subfields of promising future relevance. Cross-disciplinary breadth and flexibility, as well as social and work organization skills are increasingly important. The minor option allows the combination of the education in computer science with a different discipline, thereby facilitating a cross-disciplinary specialization. The academic qualifications and personal profiles for academic and industrial careers differ. Constructor University's Computer Science program responds to the needs of both areas by offering a Computer Science major designed for students who plan to work in the information technology industry or join graduate programs related to the discipline. Students choosing the minor option can acquire basic skills in a specific application domain, which makes them very well suited to work in a specific industrial sector. The minor option can also be used to obtain specific knowledge in a closely related discipline to develop a strong portfolio of knowledge at the intersection of computer science with related disciplines.

1.2 Specific Advantages of Computer Science at Constructor University

The Computer Science program at Constructor University aims to be rigorous with respect to the foundations, while at the same time being very contemporary with an international orientation.

- The educational approach of the faculty is to relate the theoretical contents of the discipline to their contemporary application in industry and research. The instructors aim to include recent developments of the topics covered to demonstrate how basic methods or techniques are applied today and how the material covered relates to research challenges.
- Early involvement in research projects is an essential aspect of student education. Students can obtain a vivid research experience at a very early stage, which often develops into interdisciplinary collaborations later on.
- This distinctive educational approach, together with the positive teaching environment, has been acknowledged in several rankings: In the computer science ranking published by the Centre for Higher Education (CHE) in 2015, the support by instructors and the relationship to research were ranked 1st of 68 study programs. In the European U-Multirank ranking published in 2018, the overall learning experience in computer science was ranked 10th and research-oriented teaching in computer science was ranked 2nd of 304 European universities offering Computer Science programs.
- The involvement of students and alumni in the program development process using a direct and open dialogue ensures that the program is constantly fine-tuned to the specific needs of

students, such as covering certain topics at a certain time with respect to the preparation of internship or job applications.

- The program has a successful student exchange program with Carnegie Mellon University (USA). Every year, some of the best students move to Pittsburgh to study for a semester abroad at CMU. In addition, CS students have studied abroad with great success at Rice University (USA) and the University of Pennsylvania (USA).
- Student teams participate regularly in international programming competitions. Constructor University hosted the Northwestern European Regional Contest (NWERC) of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest on campus in 2010 and 2011. Student teams participate in NWERC competitions since then on an annual basis. In 2014, students organized the first JacobsHack! hackathon on campus, which was sponsored, among others, by Google, Microsoft, and SAP. The 2018 edition of JacobsHack!, sponsored, among others, by Facebook, Skyscanner, GitHub and Bloomberg, attracted participants from all over Europe.

1.3 Program-Specific Educational Aims

1.3.1 Qualification Aims

The main subject-specific qualification aim is to enable students to take up qualified employment in modern industries involving information technology or to enter graduate programs related to computer science. Graduates of the Computer Science program have obtained the following competencies:

- Computer science competence

Graduates are familiar with the theoretical foundations of computer science and they are able to design and develop computer systems addressing a given application scenario. They are able to analyze and structure complex problems and they are able to address them using methods of computer science. Graduates are able to construct and maintain complex computer systems using a structured, analytic, and creative approach.

- Communication competence

Graduates are able to communicate subject-specific topics convincingly in both spoken and written form to fellow computer scientists or to customers.

- Teamwork and project management competence

Graduates are able to work effectively in a team and they are able to organize workflows in complex development efforts. They are familiar with tools that support the development, testing, and maintenance of large software systems and they are able to take design decisions in a constructive way.

- Learning competence

Graduates have acquired a solid foundation enabling them to assess their own knowledge and skills, learn effectively, and remain up to date with the latest developments in the rapidly evolving field of computer science.

- Personal and professional competence

Graduates are able to develop a professional profile, justify professional decisions based on theoretical and methodical knowledge, and critically reflect on their behavior with respect to their consequences for society.

The design of the Computer Science program follows national guidelines published by the Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI) (GI: Empfehlungen für Bachelor- und Masterprogramme im Studienfach Informatik an Hochschulen, July 2016) and international guidelines published jointly by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) (ACM/IEEE: Computer Science Curricula 2013, December 2013).

1.3.2 Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program, students will be able to

1. work professionally in the highly dynamic computer science field and enter graduate programs related to computer science;
2. apply fundamental concepts of computer science while solving problems;
3. think in an analytical way at multiple levels of abstraction;
4. develop, analyze and implement algorithms using modern software engineering methods;
5. understand the characteristics of a range of computing platforms and their advantages and limitations;
6. choose from multiple programming paradigms, languages and algorithms to solve a given problem adequately;
7. describe the fundamental theory of computation and computability;
8. apply the necessary mathematical methods;
9. recognize the context in which computer systems operate, including interactions with people and the physical world;
10. describe the state of published knowledge in their field or a specialization within it;
11. analyze and model real-life scenarios in organizations and industries using contemporary techniques of computer science, also taking methods and insights of other disciplines into account;
12. appropriately communicate solutions of problems in computer science in both spoken and written form to specialists and non-specialists;
13. draw scientifically founded conclusions that consider social, professional, scientific, and ethical aspects;
14. work effectively in a diverse team and take responsibility in a team;
15. take responsibility for their own learning, personal and professional development and role in society, reflecting on their practice and evaluating critical feedback;
16. adhere to and defend ethical, scientific, and professional standards.

1.4 Career Options and Support

Computer science is one of the key disciplines of the 21st century, which affects almost all modern industries. Consequently, the possible career paths are very broad for graduates with a computer science degree and the job market is highly favorable. The job market includes jobs such as software engineer, system integrator, information systems manager, data analyst, database administrator, application developer, cyber security analyst, IT consultant, and system analyst.

Graduates of the Computer Science program at Constructor University have obtained positions in companies of the information technology sector such as Amazon, Cleversoft, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, SAP, Skype, 360 Treasury Systems, Twitter, Research Gate, and VMware, as well as within companies that use information technology extensively such as the BMW Group, Deutsche Bank, KPMG, and Uber. Some graduates have founded their own companies such as Deep Web Solutions GmbH, Take Off Labs, and techOS GmbH.

Past graduates have also chosen to continue their education by enrolling into graduate programs at other German universities such as the RWTH Aachen, the Technical University Berlin, and the Technical University München; at other European universities such as the University of Amsterdam, the University of Cambridge, EPFL Lausanne, the University College London, the University of Oxford, and ETH Zürich; or at international universities such as Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, and the University of Montreal.

The [Career Service Center \(CSC\)](#) helps students in their career development. It provides students with high-quality training and coaching in CV creation, cover letter formulation, interview preparation, effective presenting, business etiquette, and employer research as well as in many other aspects, thus helping students identify and follow up on rewarding careers after graduating from Constructor University. Furthermore, the Alumni Office helps students establish a long-lasting and worldwide network which provides support when exploring job options in academia, industry, and elsewhere.

1.5 Admission Requirements

Admission to Constructor University is selective and based on a candidate's school and/or university achievements, recommendations, self-presentation, and performance on standardized tests. Students admitted to Constructor University demonstrate exceptional academic achievements, intellectual creativity, and the desire and motivation to make a difference in the world.

The following documents need to be submitted with the application:

- Recommendation Letter (optional)
- Official or certified copies of high school/university transcripts
- Educational History Form
- Standardized test results (SAT/ACT) if applicable
- Motivation statement
- ZeeMee electronic resume (optional)
- Language proficiency test results (TOEFL Score: 90, IELTS: Level 6.5 or equivalent)

Formal admission requirements are subject to higher education law and are outlined in the Admission and Enrollment Policy of Constructor University.

For more detailed information about the admission visit: <https://constructor.university/admission-aid/application-information-undergraduate>

1.6 More Information and contacts

For more information, please contact the study program chair:

Name: Prof. Dr. Alexander Omelchenko

Email: aomelchenko@constructor.university

or visit our program website: <https://constructor.university/programs/undergraduate-education/computer-science>

For more information on Student Services please visit:

[Student services | Constructor University](#)

2 The Curricular Structure

2.1 General

The curricular structure provides multiple elements for enhancing employability, interdisciplinarity, and internationality. The unique CONSTRUCTOR Track, offered across all undergraduate study programs, provides comprehensive tailor-made modules designed to achieve and foster career competency. Additionally, a mandatory internship of at least two months after the second year of study and the possibility to study abroad for one semester give students the opportunity to gain insight into the professional world, apply their intercultural competences and reflect on their roles and ambitions for employment and in a globalized society.

All undergraduate programs at Constructor University are based on a coherently modularized structure, which provides students with an extensive and flexible choice of study plans to meet the educational aims of their major as well as minor study interests and complete their studies within the regular period.

The framework policies and procedures regulating undergraduate study programs at Constructor University can be found on the website (<https://constructor.university/student-life/student-services/university-policies>).

2.2 The Constructor University 4C Model

Constructor University offers study programs that comply with the regulations of the European Higher Education Area. All study programs are structured according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), which facilitates credit transfer between academic institutions. The three-year undergraduate programs involve six semesters of study with a total of 180 ECTS credit points (CP). The undergraduate curricular structure follows an innovative and student-centered modularization scheme, the 4C Model. It groups the disciplinary content of the study program in three overarching themes, CHOICE-CORE-CAREER according to the year of study, while the university-wide CONSTRUCTOR Track is dedicated to multidisciplinary content dedicated to methods as well as intellectual skills and is integrated across all three years of study. The default module size is 5 CP, with smaller 2.5 CP modules being possible as justified exceptions, e.g., if the learning goals are more suitable for 2.5 CP and the overall student workload is balanced.

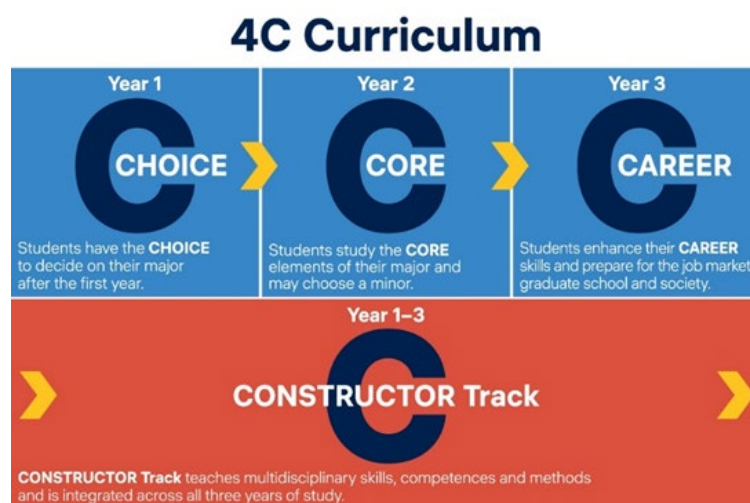


Figure 1: The Constructor University 4C-Model

2.2.1 Year 1 – CHOICE

The first study year is characterized by a university-specific offering of disciplinary education that builds on and expands upon the students' entrance qualifications. Students select introductory modules for a total of 45 CP from the CHOICE area of a variety of study programs, of which 15-45 CP will belong to their intended major. A unique feature of our curricular structure allows students to select their major freely upon entering Constructor University. The team of Academic Advising Services offers curriculum counseling to all Bachelor students independently of their major, while Academic Advisors, in their capacity as contact persons from the faculty, support students individually in deciding on their major study program.

To pursue Computer Science as a major, the following CHOICE modules (30 CP) need to be taken as mandatory (m) modules:

- CHOICE Module: Programming in C and C++ (m, 7.5 CP)
- CHOICE Module: Algorithms and Data Structures (m, 7.5 CP)
- CHOICE Module: Introduction to Computer Science (m, 7.5 CP)
- CHOICE Module: Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent Systems (m, 7.5 CP)

The first two modules, Programming in C and C++ and Algorithms and Data Structures, introduce students to imperative and object-oriented programming and basic algorithms and data structures. The Introduction to Computer Science module discusses abstract and concrete notions of computing machines and algorithms, and the representation of information. Students are also exposed to a pure functional programming language. The Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent Systems module addresses the interaction of computers with the physical world and it lays the foundation for intelligent systems.

The remaining CHOICE modules (15 CP) can be selected in the first year of studies according to interest and/or with the aim to allow a change of major up until the beginning of the second year, when the major choice becomes fixed (see 2.2.1.1 below).

Students can still change to another major at the beginning of their second year of studies if they have taken the corresponding mandatory CHOICE modules in their first year of studies. All students must participate in an entry advising session with their Academic Advisors to learn about their major change options and consult their Academic Advisor prior to changing their major.

Students that would like to retain a further option are strongly recommended to additionally register for the CHOICE modules of one of the following study programs in their first year:

- International Relations: Politics and History (IRPH)
CHOICE Module: Introduction to International Relations Theory (7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Introduction to Modern European History (7.5 CP)
- Integrated Social and Cognitive Psychology (ISCP)
CHOICE Module: Essentials of Cognitive Psychology (7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Essentials of Social Psychology (7.5 CP)

To allow further major changes after the first semester the students are strongly recommended to register for the CHOICE modules of one of the following study programs

- Mathematics, Modeling and Data Analytics
CHOICE Module: Analysis (m, 7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Programming in Python and C++ (m, 7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Linear Algebra (m, 7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Mathematical Modelling (m, 7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Core Algorithms and Data Structures (me, 7.5 CP) or
CHOICE Module: Algorithms and Data Structures (me, 7.5 CP)
- Physic and Data Science (PHDS)
CHOICE Module: Classical Physics (m, 7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Programming in Python and C++ (m, 7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Modern Physics (m, 7.5 CP)
CHOICE Module: Mathematical Modeling (m, 7.5 CP)

The module descriptions can be found in the respective Study Program Handbook.

2.2.2 Year 2 – CORE

In their second year, students take a total of 45 CP from a selection of in-depth, discipline-specific CORE modules. Building on the introductory CHOICE modules and applying the methods and skills acquired so far (see 2.3.1), these modules aim to expand the students' critical understanding of the key theories, principles, and methods in their major for the current state of knowledge and best practice.

To pursue Computer Science as a major, at least the following mandatory CORE modules (30 CP) need to be taken:

- CORE Module: Databases and Web Services (m, 7.5 CP)
- CORE Module: Software Engineering (m, 7.5 CP)
- CORE Module: Operating Systems (m, 7.5 CP)
- CORE Module: Automata, Computability, and Complexity (m, 7.5 CP)

Students decide to complement their studies by taking the discipline-specific mandatory elective (me) CORE modules (15 CP):

- CORE Module: Computer Networks (me, 5 CP)
- CORE Module: Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science (me, 2.5 CP)
- CORE Module: Secure and Dependable Systems (me, 5 CP)
- CORE Module: Academic Skills in Computer Science (me, 2.5 CP)

or substitute these modules with CORE modules from other study programs according to interest and with the aim of pursuing a minor in a second field.

Computer Science students can take CORE modules (or more advanced Specialization modules) from a second discipline, which allows them to incorporate a minor study track into their undergraduate education, within the 180 CP required for a bachelor's degree. The educational aims of a minor are to broaden the students' knowledge and skills, support the critical reflection of statements in complex contexts, foster an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving, and to develop an individual academic and professional profile in line with students' strengths and interests. This extra qualification will be highlighted in the transcript.

The Academic Advising Coordinator, Academic Advisor, and the Study Program Chair of the minor study program support students in the realization of their minor selection; the consultation with the Academic Advisor is mandatory when choosing a minor.

As a rule, this requires Computer Science students to

- select two CHOICE modules (15 CP) from the desired minor program in the first year and
- substitute the mandatory elective Computer Science CORE modules Computer Networks (me, 5 CP), Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science (me, 2.5 CP), Secure and Dependable Systems (me, 5 CP), and Academic Skills in CS (me, 2.5 CP) in the second year with the default minor CORE modules of the minor study program. Note that the substituted CORE modules can still be selected in the third year as specialization modules.

The requirements for each specific minor are described in the handbook of the study program offering the minor (Chapter 3.2) and are marked in the respective Study and Examination Plans. For an overview of accessible minors, please check the Major/Minor Combination Matrix which is published at the beginning of each academic year.

2.2.3 Year 3 – CAREER

During their third year, students prepare and make decisions about their career path after graduation. To explore available choices and to gain professional experience, students undertake a mandatory summer internship. The third year of studies allows Computer Science students to take Specialization modules within their discipline, but also focuses on the responsibility of students beyond their discipline (see CONSTRUCTOR Track).

The fifth semester also opens a mobility window for a diverse range of study abroad options. Finally, the sixth semester is dedicated to fostering the students' research experience by involving them in an extended Bachelor thesis project.

2.2.3.1 Internship / Start-up and Career Skills Module

As a core element of Constructor University's employability approach students are required to engage in a mandatory two-month internship of 15 CP that will usually be completed during the summer between the second and third years of study. This gives students the opportunity to gain first-hand practical experience in a professional environment, apply their knowledge and understanding in a professional context, reflect on the relevance of their major to employment and society, reflect on their own role in employment and society, and find a professional orientation. The internship can also establish valuable contacts for the students' Bachelor's thesis project, for the selection of a Master program graduate school or further employment after graduation. This module is complemented by career advising and several career skills workshops throughout all six semesters that prepare students for the transition from student life to professional life. As an alternative to the full-time internship, students interested in setting up their own company can apply for a start-up option to focus on developing of their business plans.

For further information, please contact the Career Service Center (CSC) (<https://constructor.university/student-life/career-services>).

2.2.3.2 Specialization Modules

In the third year of their studies, students take 15 CP from major-specific or major-related, advanced Specialization modules to consolidate their knowledge and to be exposed to state-of-the-art research in the areas of their interest. This curricular component is offered as a portfolio of modules, from which students can make free selections during their 5th and 6th semester. The default specialization module size is 5 CP, with smaller 2.5 CP modules being possible as justified exceptions.

To pursue CS as a major, 15 CP from the following mandatory elective Specialization Modules need to be taken:

- CS Specialization: Computer Graphics (me, 5 CP)
- CS Specialization: Image Processing (me, 5 CP)
- CS Specialization: Distributed Algorithms (me, 5 CP)
- CS Specialization: Web Application Development (me, 5 CP)
- RIS CORE: Computer Vision (me, 5 CP)
- RIS Specialization: Human Computer Interaction (me, 5 CP)
- RIS CORE: Artificial Intelligence (me, 5 CP)
- RIS CORE: Robotics (me, 5 CP)
- RIS CORE: Machine Learning (me, 5 CP)
- ECE Specialization: Digital Design (me, 5 CP)
- ECE CORE: Information Theory (me, 5 CP)
- DE Specialization: Parallel and Distributed Computing (me, 5 CP)

Students pursuing a minor in a second field of studies can additionally select Specialization Modules from:

- CS CORE: Computer Networks (5 CP)
- CS CORE: Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science (2.5 CP)
- CS CORE: Secure and Dependable Systems (5 CP)
- CS CORE: Academic Skills in Computer Science (2.5 CP)

It is highly recommended that students pursuing a minor take the modules:

- CS CORE: Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science (2.5 CP)
- CS CORE: Academic Skills in Computer Science (2.5 CP).

2.2.3.3 Study Abroad

Students have the opportunity to study abroad for a semester to extend their knowledge and abilities, broaden their horizons and reflect on their values and behavior in a different context as well as on their role in a global society. For a semester abroad (usually the 5th semester), modules related to the major with a workload equivalent to 22.5 CP must be completed. Modules recognized as study abroad CP need to be pre-approved according to Constructor University study abroad procedures. Several exchange programs allow students to directly enroll at prestigious partner institutions worldwide. Constructor University's participation in Erasmus+, the European Union's exchange program, provides an exchange semester at a number of European universities that include Erasmus study abroad funding.

For further information, please contact the International Office (<https://constructor.university/student-life/study-abroad/international-office>).

Computer Science students that wish to pursue a study abroad in their 5th semester are required to select their modules at the study abroad partners such that they can be used to substitute between 10-15 CP of major-specific Specialization modules and between 5-15 CP of modules equivalent to the non-disciplinary New Skills modules (see CONSTRUCTOR Track). In their 6th semester, according to the study plan, returning study-abroad students complete the Bachelor Thesis/Seminar module (see next section), they take any missing Specialization modules to reach the required 15 CP in this area, and they take any missing New Skills modules to reach 15 CP in this area.

2.2.3.4 Bachelor Thesis/Seminar Module

This module is a mandatory graduation requirement for all undergraduate students. It consists of two module components in the major study program guided by a Constructor University faculty member: the Bachelor Thesis (12 CP) and a Seminar (3 CP). The title of the thesis will appear on the students' transcripts.

Within this module, students apply the knowledge skills, and methods they have acquired in their major discipline to become acquainted with actual research topics, ranging from the identification of suitable (short-term) research projects, preparatory literature searches, the realization of discipline-specific research, and the documentation, discussion, and interpretation of the results.

With their Bachelor Thesis students demonstrate mastery of the contents and methods of the computer science research field. Furthermore, students show the ability to analyze and solve a well-defined problem with scientific approaches, a critical reflection of the status quo in scientific literature, and the original development of their own ideas. With the permission of a Constructor University Faculty Supervisor, the Bachelor Thesis can also have an interdisciplinary nature. In the seminar, students present and discuss their theses in a course environment and reflect on their theoretical or experimental approach and conduct. They learn to present their chosen research topics concisely and comprehensively in front of an audience and to explain their methods, solutions, and results to both specialists and non-specialists.

2.3 The CONSTRUCTOR Track

The CONSTRUCTOR Track is another important feature of Constructor University's educational model. The Constructor Track runs orthogonal to the disciplinary CHOICE, CORE, and CAREER modules across all study years and is an integral part of all undergraduate study programs. It provides an intellectual tool kit for lifelong learning and encourages the use of diverse methodologies to approach cross-disciplinary problems. The CONSTRUCTOR track contains Methods, New Skills and German Language and Humanities modules.

2.3.1 Methods Modules

Methods such as mathematics, statistics, programming, data handling, presentation skills, academic writing, and scientific and experimental skills are offered to all students as part of the Methods area in their curriculum. The modules that are specifically assigned to each study programs equip students with transferable academic skills. They convey and practice specific methods that are indispensable for each students' chosen study program. Students are required to take 20 CP in the Methods area. The size of all Methods modules is 5 CP.

To pursue Computer Science as major, the following Methods modules (20 CP) are mandatory

- Methods Module: Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I (me, 5 CP)
- Methods Module: Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II (me, 5 CP)
- Methods Module: Probability and Random Processes (m, 5 CP)

Students who have a strong mathematical background can also choose Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus I and II (me, 5 CP each) instead of Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I and II.

For the remaining 5 CP CS students can choose between the Methods module

- Methods: Numerical Methods (me, 5 CP)

and the Mathematics, Modeling and Data Analytics CORE module:

- CORE Module: Discrete Mathematics (me, 5 CP)

2.3.2 New Skills Modules

This part of the curriculum constitutes an intellectual and conceptual tool kit that cultivates the capacity for a particular set of intellectual dispositions including curiosity, imagination, critical thought, and transferability. It nurtures a range of individual and societal capacities, such as self-reflection, argumentation and communication. Finally, it introduces students to the normative aspects of inquiry and research, including the norms governing sourcing, sharing, withholding materials and research results as well as others governing the responsibilities of expertise as well as the professional point of view

All students are required to take the following modules in their second year:

- New Skills Module: Logic (m, 2.5 CP)
- New Skills Module: Causation and Correlation (m, 2.5 CP)

These modules will be offered with two different perspectives of which the students can choose. The module perspectives are independent modules which examine the topic from different point of views. Please see the module description for more details.

In the third year, students take three 5 CP modules that build upon previous modules in the track and are partially constituted by modules that are more closely linked to each student's disciplinary field of study. The following module is mandatory for all students:

- New Skills Module: Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (m, 5 CP)

This module will also be offered with two different perspectives of which the students can choose.

In their fifth semester, students may choose between:

- New Skills Module: Linear Model/Matrices (me, 5 CP) and
- New Skills Module: Complex Problem Solving (me, 5 CP).

The sixth semester also contains the choice between two modules, namely:

- New Skills Module: Agency, Leadership and Accountability (me, 5 CP) and
- New Skills Module: Community Impact Project (me, 5 CP).

Students who study abroad during the fifth semester and are not substituting the mandatory Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication module, are required to take this module during their sixth semester. Students who remain on campus are free to take the Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication module in person in either the fifth or sixth semester as they prefer.

2.3.3 German Language and Humanities Modules

German language abilities foster students' intercultural awareness and enhance their employability in their host country. They are also beneficial for securing mandatory internships (between the 2nd and 3rd year) in German companies and academic institutions. Constructor University supports its students in acquiring basic as well as advanced German skills in the first year of the Constructor Track. Non-native speakers of German are encouraged to take 2 German modules (2.5 CP each), but are not obliged to do so. Native speakers and other students not taking advantage of this offering take alternative modules in Humanities in each of the first two semesters:

- Humanities Module: Introduction to Philosophical Ethics (2.5 CP)
- Humanities Module: Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (2.5 CP)
- Humanities Module: Introduction to Visual Culture (2.5 CP)

3 Computer Science as a Minor

3.1 Qualification Aims

Students obtaining a minor in Computer Science learn the basic principles of software development and modern software development processes. They acquire an understanding of how modern information systems are designed and implemented. Upon completion of the minor, they will have obtained sufficient knowledge about computer science concepts such that they can effectively work together with professionals with a Computer Science degree. Students obtaining a minor in Computer Science can help to drive digitalization processes, as they can effectively translate requirements of the field of their major into terminology and technology used by Computer Science professionals. Students majoring in a technical discipline can obtain a minor to strengthen their understanding of how to use software and hardware components effectively, thereby achieving efficient solutions for problems in their domain.

3.1.1 Intended Learning Outcomes

With a minor in Computer Science, students will be able to

1. develop solutions to problems in computer science in close collaboration with computer science professionals;
2. communicate requirements appropriately to their audience and understand computer science aspects of a solution;
3. apply programming concepts and basic algorithms to solve software development problems of moderate complexity in an adequate way;
4. understand how design choices impact the efficiency of solutions.

3.2 Module Requirements

A minor in Computer Science requires 30 CP. The default option to obtain a minor in Computer Science is marked in the Study and Examination Plan in chapter 6. It includes the following mandatory CHOICE and CORE modules:

- CHOICE Module: Programming in C and C++ (m, 7.5 CP)
- CHOICE Module: Algorithms and Data Structures (m, 7.5 CP)
- CORE Module: Databases and Web Services (m, 7.5 CP)
- CORE Module: Software Engineering (m, 7.5 CP)

Upon the consultation with the Academic Advisor and approval by the CS Study Program Coordinator, individual CORE modules from the default minor can be replaced by other advanced modules (CORE or Specialization) from the CS major.

3.3 Degree

After successful completion, the minor in Computer Science will be listed on the final transcript under PROGRAM OF STUDY and BA/BSc – [name of the major] as “(Minor: Computer Science).”

4 Computer Science Undergraduate Program Regulations

4.1 Scope of these Regulations

The regulations in this handbook are valid for all students who entered the Computer Science undergraduate program at Constructor University in Fall 2023. In case of a conflict between the regulations in this handbook and the general Policies for Bachelor Studies, the latter applies (see <https://constructor.university/student-life/student-services/university-policies>).

In exceptional cases, certain necessary deviations from the regulations of this study handbook might occur during the course of study (e.g., change of the semester sequence, assessment type, or the teaching mode of courses).

In general, Constructor University reserves therefore the right to change or modify the regulations of the program handbook according to relevant policies and processes also after its publication at any time and in its sole discretion.

4.2 Degree

Upon successful completion of the study program, students are awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

4.3 Graduation Requirements

To graduate, students need to obtain 180 CP. In addition, the following graduation requirements apply:

- Students need to complete all mandatory components of the program as indicated in the Study and Examination Plan in chapter 6 of this handbook.
- Students graduating in Computer Science without a minor have to obtain
 - 20 CP in Methods modules (mathematics),
 - 90 CP in Computer Science modules, and
 - 15 CP for the Bachelor thesis and the associated seminar.
- Students graduating in Computer Science with a minor in a second discipline have to obtain
 - 20 CP in Methods modules (mathematics),
 - 75 CP in Computer Science modules, and
- Students have to obtain 15 CP for the Bachelor thesis and the associated seminar.

5 Schematic Study Plan for Computer Science

Figure 2 shows schematically the sequence and types of modules required for the study program. A more detailed description, including the assessment types, is given in the Study and Examination Plans in following section.

C>ONSTRUCTOR							
C>ONSTRUCTOR UNIVERSITY		Computer Science (180 CP)				CONSTRUCTOR Track 45 CP	
		CHOICE / CORE / CAREER 3 x 45 = 135 CP					
3rd Year	Bachelor Thesis / Seminar m, 15 CP			Summer Internship / Start-Up (after 2nd year) m, 15 CP		Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication** m, 5 CP	Agency, Leadership & Accountability OR Community Impact Project me, 5 CP
	CAREER	Specialization I me, 5 CP	Specialization II me, 5 CP				Specialization III me, 5 CP
2nd Year	Software Engineering m, 7.5 CP	Automata, Computability, Complexity m, 7.5 CP	Secure and Dependable Systems me, 5 CP	Academic Skills in CS me, 2.5 CP	Numerical Methods OR Discrete Mathematics me, 5 CP	Causation / Correlation** m, 2.5 CP	
	CORE	Databases and Web Services m, 7.5 CP	Operating Systems m, 7.5 CP	Computer Networks me, 5 CP	Legal and Ethical Aspects me, 2.5 CP	Probability and Random Processes m, 5 CP	Logic** m, 2.5 CP
1st Year	Algorithms and Data Structures m, 7.5 CP	Introduction to Robotic and Intelligent Systems m, 7.5 CP	Own Selection me, 7.5 CP		Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II me, 5 CP	German / Humanities me, 2.5 CP	
	CHOICE	Programming in C and C++ m, 7.5 CP	Introduction to Computer Science m, 7.5 CP	Own Selection me, 7.5 CP		Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I me, 5 CP	German / Humanities me, 2.5 CP
Minor Option in CS (30 CP)		CP: Credit Points		m: mandatory me: mandatory elective	Study abroad Option in 5 th Semester (22.5 CP)	**Different module perspectives available	

Figure 2: Schematic Study Plan

6 Study and Examination Plan

Computer Science (CS) BSc

Program-Specific Modules							Type	Assessment	Period	Status ¹	Sem.	CP	CONSTRUCTOR Track Modules (General Education)							Type	Assessment	Period	Status ¹	Sem.	CP
Year 1 - CHOICE													15												
Take the mandatory CHOICE modules listed below, this is a requirement for the Computer Science program.																									
Unit: Programming, Algorithms, and Data Structures (default minor choice modules)													Unit: Methods												
CH-230 Module: Programming in C and C++													CTMS-MAT-09 Module: Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I												
CH-230-A	Programming in C and C++	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									CTMS-09	Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period								
CH-230-B	Programming in C and C++ Tutorial	Tutorial	Practical assessment	During the semester									CTMS-MAT-10	Module: Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II											
CH-231 Module: Algorithms and Data Structures													CTMS-10 Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II												
CH-231-A	Algorithms and Data Structures	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									Students who have a strong mathematical background can also choose:												
Unit: Computer Science, Robotics, and Intelligent Systems													CTMS-MAT-22 Module: Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus I												
CH-232 Module: Introduction to Computer Science⁵													CTMS-22 Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus I												
CH-232-A	Introduction to Computer Science	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									CTMS-MAT-23	Module: Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus II	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period								
CH-220 Module: Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent Systems													CTMS-23 Matrix Algebra & Advanced Calculus II												
CH-220-A	Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent Systems	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									Unit: German Language and Humanities (choose one module for each semester)⁶												
CH-220-B	Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent Systems Lab	Lecture Lab	Written examination	Examination period									German is default language and open to Non-German speakers (on campus and online). ⁶												
Unit: CHOICE (own selection)													CTLA-xxx Module: Language 1												
Take two further CHOICE modules from those offered for all other study programs. ²													CTLA-xxx Language 1												
													CTLA-xxx Module: Language 2												
													CTLA-xxx Language 2												
													CTHU-HUM-001 Humanities Module: Introduction to Philosophical Ethics												
													CTHU-001 Introduction into Philosophical Ethics												
													CTHU-HUM-002 Humanities Module: Introduction to the Philosophy of Science												
													CTHU-002 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science												
													CTHU-HUM-003 Humanities Module: Introduction to Visual Culture												
													CTHU-003 Introduction to Visual Culture												
Year 2 - CORE													15												
Take all CORE modules listed below or replace mandatory elective (me) modules with suitable CORE modules from other study programs. ²																									
Unit: Advanced Computer Science I (default minor advanced modules)													Unit: Methods												
CO-560 Module: Databases and Web Services													CTMS-MAT-12 Module: Probability and Random Processes												
CO-560-A	Databases and Web Services	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									CTMS-12	Probability and Random Processes	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period								
CO-560-B	Databases and Web Services - Project	Project	Project assessment	During the semester									Take one of the two listed mandatory elective methods modules:												
CO-561 Module: Software Engineering													CO-501 Module: Discrete Mathematics												
CO-561-A	Software Engineering	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									CO-501-A	Discrete Mathematics	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period								
CO-561-B	Software Engineering Project	Project	Project assessment	During the semester									CTMS-MAT-13	Module: Numerical Methods ⁴											
Unit: Advanced Computer Science II													CTMS-13 Numerical Methods												
CO-562 Module: Operating Systems																									
CO-562-A	Operating Systems	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									Unit: New Skills												
CO-563 Module: Automata, Computability, and Complexity													CTNS-NSK-01 Module: Logic (perspective I)												
CO-563-A	Automata, Computability, and Complexity	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									CTNS-01	Logic (perspective I)	Lecture (online)	Written examination	Examination period								
Unit: Advanced Computer Science III													CTNS-NSK-02 Module: Logic (perspective II)												
CO-564 Module: Computer Networks													CTNS-02 Logic (perspective II)												
CO-564-A	Computer Networks	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									Choose one of the two modules												
CO-565 Module: Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science													CTNS-NSK-03 Module: Causation and Correlation (perspective I)												
CO-565-A	Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science	Lecture	Poster presentation	Examination period									CTNS-03	Causation and Correlation (perspective I)	Lecture (online)	Written examination	Examination period								
CO-566 Module: Secure and Dependable Systems													CTNS-NSK-04 Module: Causation and Correlation (perspective II)												
CO-566-A	Secure and Dependable Systems	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period									CTNS-04	Causation and Correlation (perspective II)	Lecture (online)	Written examination	Examination period								
CO-567 Module: Academic Skills in Computer Science																									
CO-567-A	Academic Skills in Computer Science	Seminar	Project assessment	Examination period																					

Year 3 - CAREER										45	15	
CA-INT-900	Module: Summer Internship							m	4/5	15		
CA-INT-900-0	Summer Internship		Report/Business Plan	During the 5 th semester								
CA-CS-800	Module: Thesis / Seminar CS							m	6	15		
CA-CS-800-T	Thesis CS	Thesis	Thesis	15th of May						12		
CA-CS-800-S	Seminar CS	Seminar	Presentation	During the semester						3		
Unit: Specialization CS										m	5/6	15
Take a total of 15 CP Specialization Modules												
CA-S-CS-801	Module: Computer Graphics							me	5	5		
CA-S-CS-801-A	Computer Graphics	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period								
CA-S-CS-802	Module: Image Processing							me	6	5		
CA-S-CS-802-A	Image Processing	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period						6		
CA-S-CS-803	Module: Distributed Algorithms							me	5	5		
CA-S-CS-803	Distributed Algorithms	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period						5		
CA-S-CS-804	Module: Web Application Development ¹							me	6	5		
CA-S-CS-804-A	Web Application Development	Lecture	Written examination	Examination period						2.5		
CA-S-CS-804-B	Web Application Development - Project	Project	Project assessment	During the semester						2.5		
CA-S-xxx	Specialization electives (from RIS, ECE, DE study programs) ²			Lecture	Written examination	Examination period		me	5/6	5		
Total CP												180
Unit: New Skills												
Choose one of the two modules												
CTNS-NSK-05	Module: Linear Model and Matrices							me	5	5		
CTNS-05	Linear Model and Matrices	Seminar (online)	Written examination	Examination period								
CTNS-NSK-06	Module: Complex Problem Solving							me	5	5		
CTNS-06	Complex Problem Solving	Lecture (online)	Written examination	Examination period								
Choose one of the two modules												
CTNS-NSK-07	Module: Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication							me	5/6	5		
CTNS-07	Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (perspective I)	Lecture (online)	Written examination	Examination period						5		
CTNS-NSK-08	Module: Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication							me	5/6	5		
CTNS-08	Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (perspective II)	Lecture (online)	Written examination	Examination period						6		
Choose one of the two modules												
CTNS-NSK-09	Module: Agency, Leadership & Accountability							me	6	5		
CTNS-09	Agency, Leadership & Accountability	Online Lecture	Written examination	Examination period								
CTNC-CIP-10	Module: Community Impact Project							me	5/6	5		
CTNC-10	Community Impact Project	Project	Project	During the Semester								

¹ Status (m = mandatory, me = mandatory elective)

² For a full listing of all CHOICE / CORE / CAREER / CONSTRUCTOR Track modules please consult the CampusNet online catalogue and/or the study program handbooks.

³ For details please see the CS program handbook.

⁴ Students who take a minor in Mathematics have to choose Numerical Methods module. Students can choose Discrete Mathematics instead of Numerical Methods.

⁵ Students can optionally also take the module in the 2nd semester.

⁶ German native speakers will have alternatives to the language courses (in the field of Humanities).

Figure 3: Study and Examination Plan

7 Computer Science Modules

7.1 Programming in C and C++

Module Name Programming in C and C++			Module Code CH-230	Level (type) Year 1 (CHOICE)	CP 7.5
Module Components					
Number		Name		Type	CP
CH-230-A		Programming in C and C++		Lecture	5
CH-230-B		Programming in C and C++ - Tutorial		Tutorial	2.5
Module Coordinator Dr. Kinga Lipskoch		Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS, RIS, minor CS and minor RIS Mandatory elective for ECE	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture attendance (17,5 hours) Tutorial attendance (35 hours) Independent study (115 hours) Exam preparation (20 hours)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None				
			Duration	Workload	
			1 semester	187.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation					
It is recommended that students install a suitable programming environment on their notebooks. It is recommended to install a Linux system such as Ubuntu, which comes with open-source compilers such as gcc and g++ and editors such as vim or emacs. Alternatively, the open-source Code: Blocks integrated development environment can be installed to solve programming problems.					
Content and Educational Aims					
<p>This course offers an introduction to programming using the programming languages C and C++. After a short overview of the program development cycle (editing, preprocessing, compiling, linking, executing), the module presents the basics of C programming. Fundamental imperative programming concepts such as variables, loops, and function calls are introduced in a hands-on manner. Afterwards, basic data structures such as multidimensional arrays, structures, and pointers are introduced and dynamically allocated multidimensional arrays and linked lists and trees are used for solving simple practical problems. The relationships between pointers and arrays, pointers and structures, and pointers and functions are described, and they are illustrated using examples that also introduce recursive functions, file handling, and dynamic memory allocation.</p> <p>The module then introduces basic concepts of object-oriented programming languages using the programming language C++ in a hands-on manner. Concepts such as classes and objects, data abstractions, and information hiding are introduced. C++ mechanisms for defining and using objects, methods, and operators are introduced and the relevance of constructors, copy constructors, and destructors for dynamically created objects is explained. Finally, concepts such as inheritance, polymorphism, virtual functions, and overloading are introduced. The learned concepts are applied by solving programming problems.</p>					

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, students will be able to

1. explain basic concepts of imperative programming languages such as variables, assignments, loops, and function calls;
2. write, test, and debug programs in the procedural programming language C using basic C library functions;
3. demonstrate how to use pointers to create dynamically allocated data structures such as linked lists;
4. explain the relationship between pointers and arrays;
5. illustrate basic object-oriented programming concepts such as objects, classes, information hiding, and inheritance;
6. give original examples of function and operator overloading and polymorphism;
7. write, test, and debug programs in the object-oriented programming language C++.

Indicative Literature

Brian Kernighan, Dennis Ritchie: The C Programming Language, 2nd edition, Prentice Hall Professional Technical Reference, 1988.

Steve Oualline: Practical C Programming, 3rd edition, O'Reilly Media, 1997.

Bruce Eckel: Thinking in C++: Introduction to Standard C++, Prentice Hall, 2000.

Bruce Eckel, Chuck Allison: Thinking in C++: Practical Programming, Prentice Hall, 2004.

Bjarne Stroustrup: The C++ Programming Language, 4th edition, Addison Wesley, 2013.

Michael Dawson: Beginning C++ Through Game Programming, 4th edition, Delmar Learning, 2014.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module introduces the programming languages C and C++ and several other modules build on this foundation. Certain features of C++ such as templates and generic data structures and an overview of the standard template library will be covered in the Algorithms and Data Structures module.

Examination Type: Module Component Examinations**Component 1: Lecture**

Assessment types: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 67%

Scope: All theoretical intended learning outcomes of the module

Component 2: Tutorial

Assessment: Program code

Weight: 33%

Scope: All practical intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination of each module component has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.2 Algorithms and Data Structures

Module Name Algorithms and Data Structures			Module Code CH-231	Level (type) Year 1 (CHOICE)	CP 7.5
Module Components					
Number	Name	Type	CP		
CH-231-A	Algorithms and Data Structures	Lecture	7.5		
Module Coordinator Dr. Kinga Lipskoch	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Science (CS) 			Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS, RIS, and minor in CS Mandatory elective for PHDS, and MMDA	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class attendance (52.5 hours) Independent study (115 hours) Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Programming in C and C++ or Programming in Python and C++	Duration	Workload	
			1 semester	187.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation					
Students should refresh their knowledge of the C and C++ programming language and be able to solve simple programming problems in C and C++. Students are expected to have a working programming environment.					
Content and Educational Aims					
Algorithms and data structures are the core of computer science. An algorithm is an effective description for calculations using a finite list of instructions that can be executed by a computer. A data structure is a concept for organizing data in a computer such that data can be used efficiently. This introductory module allows students to learn about fundamental algorithms for solving problems efficiently. It introduces basic algorithmic concepts; fundamental data structures for efficiently storing, accessing, and modifying data; and techniques that can be used for the analysis of algorithms and data structures with respect to their computational and memory complexities. The presented concepts and techniques form the basis of almost all computer programs.					
Intended Learning Outcomes					
By the end of this module, students will be able to					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> explain asymptotic (time and memory) complexities and respective notations; able to prove asymptotic complexities of algorithms; illustrate basic data structures such as arrays, lists, queues, stacks, trees, and hash tables; describe algorithmic design concepts and apply them to new problems; explain basic algorithms (sorting, searching, graph algorithms, computational geometry) and their complexities; summarize and apply C++ templates and generic data structures provided by the standard C++ template library. 					
Indicative Literature					
Thomas H. Cormen, Charles E. Leiserson, Ronald L. Rivest, and Clifford Stein: Introduction to Algorithms, 3rd edition, MIT Press, 2009.					

Donald E. Knuth: The Art of Computer Programming: Fundamental Algorithms, volume 1, 3rd edition, Addison Wesley Longman Publishing, 1997.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Familiarity with basic algorithms and data structures is fundamental for almost all advanced modules in computer science. This module additionally introduces advanced concepts of the C++ programming language that are needed in advanced programming-oriented modules in the 2nd and 3rd years of the CS and RIS programs.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.3 Introduction to Computer Science

Module Name Introduction to Computer Science		Module Code CH-232	Level (type) Year 1 (CHOICE)	CP 7.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CH-232-A	Introduction to Computer Science	Lecture	7.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schönwälder	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS, ECE, RIS, and minor RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Every semester (Fall/Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class (52.5 hours) • Independent study (115 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	187.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
It is recommended that students install a Linux system such as Ubuntu on their notebooks and that they become familiar with basic tools such as editors (vim or emacs) and the basics of a shell. The Glasgow Haskell Compiler (GHC) will be used for implementing Haskell programs.				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>The module introduces fundamental concepts and techniques of computer science in a bottom-up manner. Based on clear mathematical foundations (which are developed as needed), the course discusses abstract and concrete notions of computing machines, information, and algorithms, focusing on the question of representation versus meaning in Computer Science.</p> <p>The module introduces basic concepts of discrete mathematics with a focus on inductively defined structures, to develop a theoretical notion of computation. Students will learn the basics of the functional programming language Haskell because it treats computation as the evaluation of pure and typically inductively defined functions. The module covers a basic subset of Haskell that includes types, recursion, tuples, lists, strings, higher-order functions, and finally monads. Back on the theoretical side, the module covers the syntax and semantics of Boolean expressions and it explains how Boolean algebra relates to logic gates and digital circuits. On the technical side, the course introduces the representation of basic data types such as numbers, characters, and strings as well as the von Neuman computer architecture. On the algorithmic side, the course introduces the notion of correctness and elementary concepts of complexity theory (big O notation).</p>				

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, students will be able to

1. explain basic concepts such as the correctness and complexity of algorithms (including the big O notation);
2. illustrate basic concepts of discrete math (sets, relations, functions);
3. recall basic proof techniques and use them to prove properties of algorithms;
4. explain the representation of numbers (integers, floats), characters and strings, and date and time;
5. summarize basic principles of Boolean algebra and Boolean logic;
6. describe how Boolean logic relates to logic gates and digital circuits;
7. outline the basic structure of a von Neumann computer;
8. explain the execution of machine instructions on a von Neumann computer;
9. describe the difference between assembler languages and higher-level programming languages;
10. define the differences between interpretation and compilation;
11. illustrate how an operating system kernel supports the execution of programs;
12. determine the correctness of simple programs;
13. write simple programs in a pure functional programming language.

Indicative Literature

Eric Lehmann, F. Thomson Leighton, Albert R. Meyer: Mathematics for Computer Science, online 2018.

David A. Patterson, John L Hennessy: Computer Organization and Design: The Hardware/Software Interface, 4th edition, Morgan Kaufmann, 2011.

Miran Lipovaca: Learn You a Haskell for Great Good!: A Beginner's Guide, 1st edition, No Starch Press, 2011.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module introduces key mathematical concepts and various notions of computing machines and computing abstractions and is particularly important for subsequent courses covering theoretical aspects of computer science. This module is also important for courses that require a basic understanding of computer architecture and program execution at the hardware level.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Module achievement: 50% of the assignments correctly solved

This module introduces the functional programming language Haskell. Students develop their functional programming skills by solving programming problems. The module achievement ensures that a sufficient level of practical programming and problem-solving skills has been obtained.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.4 Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent System

Module Name Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent Systems		Module Code CH-220	Level (type) Year 1 (CHOICE)	CP 7.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CH-220-A	Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent Systems	Lecture	5	
CH-220-B	Introduction to Robotics and Intelligent Systems - Lab	Lab	2.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Francesco Maurelli	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS) 		Mandatory Status Mandatory for RIS, CS and minor RIS	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching
Pre-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Co-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture (35 hours) Lab (17.5 hours) Private study (115 hours) Exam preparation (20 hours)
			Duration 1 semester	Workload 187.5 hours
Recommendations for Preparation				
Review basic linear algebra concepts, vector and matrix operations.				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This module represents an initial introduction to robotics and intelligent systems, starting from the basics of mathematics and physics applied to simple robotics scenarios. It will cover transformation matrices and quaternions for reference systems. Students will then learn and the basics of trajectory planning and robotic systems. The second part of the module offers an introduction to the modeling and design of linear control systems in terms of ordinary differential equations (ODEs). Students learn how to analyze and solve systems of ODEs using state and frequency space methods. The concepts covered include time and frequency response, stability, and steady-state errors. This part culminates with a discussion on P, PI, PD, and PID controllers. The lab is designed to guide students through practical hands-on work with various components of intelligent systems. It will focus on the interfacing of a microcontroller with commonly used sensors and actuators.</p>				

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, successful students will be able to

1. compute 3D transformations;
2. understand and apply quaternion operations;
3. apply trajectory planning techniques;
4. model common mechanical and electrical systems;
5. understand and apply the unilateral Laplace transform and its inverse;
6. explore linear systems and tune their behavior;
7. program the open-source electronic prototyping platform Arduino;
8. interface Arduino to several different sensors and actuators.

Indicative Literature

R. V. Roy, Advanced Engineering Dynamics. R. V. Roy, 2015.

R. N. Jazar, Theory of Applied Robotics. Springer, 2010.

N.S. Nise, Control Systems Engineering. Wiley, 2010.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module is the foundation of the CORE modules in the following years.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Module achievement: Laboratory report

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.5 Databases and Web Services

Module Name Databases and Web Services		Module Code CO-560	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 7.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-560-A	Databases and Web Services	Lecture	5	
CO-560-B	Databases and Web Services - Project	Project	2.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Peter Baumann	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS and minor CS Mandatory elective for RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Project (97.5 hours) • Independent Studies (35 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Algorithms and Data Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	187.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
<p>Working knowledge of basic data structures, such as trees, is required as well as familiarity with an object-oriented programming language such as C++. Basic knowledge of algebra is useful. For the project work, students benefit from having basic hands-on skills using Linux and, ideally, basic knowledge of a scripting language such as Python (the official Python documentation is available on https://docs.python.org/).</p>				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This module offers a combined introduction to databases and web services. The database part starts with database design using the Entity Relationship (ER) and Unified Modeling Language (UML) models, followed by relational databases and querying them through SQL, relational design theory, indexing, query processing, transaction management, and NoSQL/Big Data databases. In the web services part, the topics addressed include markup languages, three-tier application architectures, and web services. Security aspects are addressed from both perspectives.</p> <p>A hands-on group project complements the theoretical aspects: on a self-chosen topic, students implement the core of a web-accessible information system using Python (or a similar language), MySQL, and Linux, guided through homework assignments.</p>				

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, students will be able to

1. read and write ER and UML diagrams;
2. design and normalize data models for relational databases;
3. write SQL queries and understand their evaluation by a database server;
4. explain the concept of transactions and how to use transactions in application design;
5. use web application frameworks to create dynamic websites;
6. describe the differences of selected NoSQL data models and make a requirement-driven choice;
7. restate three-tier architectures and their components;
8. discuss the principles and basic mechanisms of reactive website design;
9. summarize the security and privacy issues in the context of databases and web services.

Indicative Literature

Hector Garcia-Molina, Jeffrey D. Ullman, Jennifer D. Widom: Database Systems: The Complete Book. 2nd edition, Pearson, 2008.

Ragu Ramakrishnan: Database Management Systems. 3rd edition, McGraw Hill, 2003.

James Lee: Open Source Web Development with LAMP. Pearson, 2003.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module introduces components that are widely used by modern applications and information systems. Students can apply their knowledge in the software engineering module. This module serves as a default advanced level minor module.

Examination Type: Module Component Examinations**Module Component 1: Lecture**

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 67%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the excluding the practical aspects

Module Component 2: Project

Assessment Type: Project assessment

Weight: 33%

Scope: All practical aspects of the intended learning outcomes

Completion: To pass this module, the examination of each module component has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.6 Software Engineering

Module Name Software Engineering		Module Code CO-561	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 7.5
Module Component				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-561-A	Software Engineering	Lecture	2.5	
CO-561-B	Software Engineering Project	Project	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Peter Baumann	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS and minor in CS Mandatory elective for RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Independent study (10 hours) • Development work (132.5 hours) • Exam preparation (10 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Databases and Web Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	187.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Students are expected to be able to develop software using an object-oriented programming language such as C++, and they should have access to a Linux system and associated software development tools.				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This module is an introduction to software engineering and object-oriented software design. The lecture focuses on software quality and the methods to achieve and maintain it in environments of "multi-person construction of multi-version software." Based on their pre-existing knowledge of an object-oriented programming language, students are familiarized with software architectures, design patterns and frameworks, software components and middleware, Unified Modeling Language (UML)-based modelling, and validation by testing. Furthermore, the course addresses the more organizational topics of project management and version control.</p> <p>The lectures are accompanied by a software project in which students have to develop a software solution to a given problem. The problem is described from the viewpoint of a customer and students working in teams have to execute a whole software project lifecycle. The teams have to create a suitable software architecture and software design, implement the components, and integrate the components. The teams have to ensure that basic quality requirements for the solution and the components are defined and satisfied. The students produce various artifacts such as design documents, source code, test cases and user documentation. All artifacts need to be maintained in a version control system and the commits should allow the instructor and other team members to track in a meaningful way the changes and who has been contributing them.</p>				

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, students will be able to

1. understand and apply object-oriented design patterns;
2. read and write UML diagrams;
3. contrast the benefits and drawbacks of different software development models;
4. design and plan a larger software project involving a team development effort;
5. translate requirements formulated by a customer into computer science terminology;
6. evaluate the applicability of different software engineering models for a given software development project;
7. assess the quality of a software design and its implementation;
8. apply tools that assist in the various stages of a software development process;
9. work effectively in a team toward the goals of the team.

Indicative Literature

Ian Sommerville: Software Engineering, Pearson, 2010.

Roger Pressman: Software Engineering – a Practitioner's Approach, McGraw-Hill, 2014.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules**Examination Type: Module Component Examinations****Module Component 1: Lecture**

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 60 min

Weight: 33%

Scope: The first three intended learning outcomes of the module (the lecture module component)

Module Component 2: Project

Assessment Type: Project Assessment

Weight: 66%

Scope: The remaining intended learning outcomes of the module (the project module component)

Completion: To pass this module, the examination of each module component has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.7 Operating Systems

Module Name Operating Systems		Module Code CO-562	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 7.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-562-A	Operating Systems	Lecture	7.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schönwälder	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS and SDT	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (52.5 hours) • Independent study (115 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Algorithms and Data Structures or Core Algorithms and Data Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to understand data representation and program execution at the machine instruction level as covered in the module Introduction to Computer Science. 		1 semester	187.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Students are expected to have a working Linux installation, which allows them to compile and run sample programs provided by the instructor and to implement their own solutions for homework assignments.				
Content and Educational Aims				
This module introduces concepts and principles used by operating systems to provide programming abstractions that enable an efficient and robust execution of application programs. Students will gain an understanding of how an operating system kernel manages hardware components and how it provides abstractions such as processes, threads, virtual memory, file systems, and inter-process communication facilities. Students learn the principles of event-driven and concurrent programming and the mechanisms that are necessary to solve synchronization and coordination problems, thereby avoiding race conditions, deadlocks, and resource starvation. The Linux kernel and runtime system will be used throughout the course to illustrate how key ideas and concepts have been implemented and how application programs can use them.				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of this module, students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. explain the differences between processes, threads, application programs, libraries, and operating system kernels; 2. describe well-known mutual exclusion and coordination problems; 3. use semaphores to achieve mutual exclusion and solve coordination problems; 4. use mutual exclusion locks and condition variables to solve synchronization and coordination problems; 5. illustrate how deadlocks can be avoided, detected, and resolved; 6. summarize the different mechanisms to realize virtual memory and their trade-offs; 7. solve basic inter-process communication problems using signals and pipes; 				

8. use socket inter-process communication primitives;
9. multiplex I/O activities using suitable system calls and libraries;
10. describe file system programming interfaces and the design of file systems at the operating system kernel level;
11. explain how memory mapping can improve I/O performance;
12. restate the functionality of a linker and the difference between static linking and dynamic linking;
13. outline how different device types are supported by Unix-like kernels;
14. discuss virtualization mechanisms such as containers or virtual machines.

Indicative Literature

Abraham Silberschatz, Peter B. Galvin, Greg Gagne: Applied Operating System Concepts, John Wiley, 2000.
 Andrew S. Tanenbaum, Herbert Bos: Modern Operating Systems, Prentice Hall, 4th edition, Pearson, 2015.
 William Stallings: Operating Systems: Internals and Design Principles, 8th edition, Pearson, 2014.
 Robert Love: Linux Kernel Development, 3rd edition, Addison Wesley, 2010.
 Robert Love: Linux System Programming: Talking Directly to the Kernel and C Library, 2nd edition, O'Reilly, 2013.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module enables students to write programs that make efficient use of the services provided by the operating system kernel. This is particularly important for advanced modules on computer networks, robotics, and embedded systems.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Module achievement: 50% of the assignments correctly solved

This module includes hands-on assignments so that students can develop their system programming skills. The module achievement ensures that a sufficient level of practical system programming skills has been obtained.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.8 Automata, Computability, and Complexity

Module Name Automata, Computability, and Complexity		Module Code CO-563	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 7.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-563-A	Automata, Computability, and Complexity	Lecture	7.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Alexander Omelchenko	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (52.5 hours) • Independent study (115 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Computer Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Recommendations for Preparation				
None				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This module introduces the mathematical theory of computation. Several types of abstract computational machines (called automata) are introduced together with the associated theory of formal languages. A formal language is a set of words over a defined alphabet that are well-formed according to a specific set of rules, called the grammar of the language. After studying the relationship between automata models and classes of formal languages, this course addresses the fundamental question "What problems can a computer possibly solve?" by characterizing those solvable problems, equivalently, through Turing machines, random access machines, recursive functions and lambda calculus. A full answer to the related question, "How many computational resources are needed for solving a given problem?" is not known today. However, the basic outlines of today's theory of computational complexity will be presented up to the most famous open problem in computer science, namely the "P = NP" question: if a computer could guess the right answer to a computational problem (and only needs to check its correctness), would that computer be faster than another one that cannot guess the right solution? This may seem to be a ridiculously obvious case of a clear YES answer, but in fact it is considered by many to be the deepest open question in contemporary mathematics (and computer science, of course).</p> <p>This module provides the core education in theoretical computer science. The material covered in this module gives students access to any field in computer science, which is based on discrete-mathematical formal foundations, such as the theory of automata and formal languages or compiler design.</p>				

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, students will be able to

1. explain discrete automata models (finite state machines, pushdown automata, Turing machines);
2. describe the Chomsky hierarchy of formal languages and classify formal languages;
3. characterize classes of formal languages by automata models and grammars;
4. define formal models of computation such as Turing machines;
5. explain the equivalences of formal models of computation;
6. illustrate the nature and impact of the Church–Turing hypothesis;
7. construct diagonalization arguments;
8. give examples of functions that are not computable;
9. contrast central complexity classes (L, P, NP, EXP, ...);
10. apply reduction techniques both for decidability and complexity;
11. create a reduction-based check of whether a problem is NP-complete.

Indicative Literature

Michael Sipser: Introduction to the Theory of Computation, 2nd edition, PWS Publishing Company, 1997. (Primary Literature).

John Hopcroft, Rajeev Motwani, Jeffrey Ullman: Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages, And Computation, 3rd edition, Pearson, 2006.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module provides the core education in theoretical computer science.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.9 Computer Networks

Module Name Computer Networks		Module Code CO-564	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-564-A	Computer Networks	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schönwälder	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS Mandatory elective for SDT	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Private study (70 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Algorithms and Data Structures or Core Algorithms and Data Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operating Systems			
		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
<p>Students are expected to be familiar with the C programming language and to learn basics of higher-level scripting languages such as Python (the official Python documentation is available on https://docs.python.org/).</p>				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Computer networks such as the Internet play a critical role in today's connected world. This module discusses the technology of Internet services in depth to enable students to understand the core issues involved in the design of modern computer networks. Fundamental algorithms and principles are explained in the context of existing protocols as they are used in today's Internet. Students taking this course should finally understand the technical complexity behind everyday online services such as Google or YouTube.</p> <p>Students taking this module will understand how computer networks work and they will be able to assess communication networks, including aspects such as performance but also robustness and security. Students will learn that the design of communication networks is not only influenced by technical constraints but also by the necessity to define common standards, which often requires to take engineering decisions that reflect non-technical requirements.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
<p>By the end of this module, students will be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recall layering principles and the OSI reference model; 2. articulate the organization of the Internet and the organization involved in providing Internet services; 3. describe media access control, flow control, and congestion control mechanisms; 4. explain how local area networks differ from global networks; 5. illustrate how frames are forwarded in local area networks; 6. contrast addressing mechanisms and translations between addresses used at different layers; 7. demonstrate how the Internet network layer forwards packets; 8. present how routing algorithms and protocols are used to determine and select routes; 				

9. describe how the Internet transport layer provides different end-to-end services;
10. demonstrate how names are resolved to addresses and vice versa;
11. summarize how application layer protocols send and access electronic mail or access resources on the world-wide web;
12. design and implement simple application layer protocols;
13. recognize to which extent computer networks are fragile and evaluate strategies to cope with the fragility;
14. analyze traffic traces produced by a given computer network.

Indicative Literature

James F. Kurose, Keith W. Ross: Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach Featuring the Internet, 3rd Edition, Addison-Wesley, 2004.

Andrew S. Tanenbaum: Computer Networks, 4th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2002.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- The module should be taken together with the module Operating Systems, because a significant portion of the communication technology is implemented at the operating system level. An understanding of operating system concepts and abstractions will help students to understand how computer network technology is commonly implemented and made available to applications. The specialization module Distributed Algorithms discusses algorithms for solving problems commonly found in distributed systems that use computer networks to exchange information. The module Secure and Dependable Systems introduces cryptographic mechanisms that can be used to secure communication over computer networks.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.10 Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science

Module Name Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science		Module Code CO-565	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 2.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-565-A	Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computer Science	Lecture	2.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Alexander Omelchenko	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (17.5 hours) • Private study (35 hours) • Poster preparation (10 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	62.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
None				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Information technology has a profound impact on society. This module introduces the legal and ethical frameworks that are relevant for computer scientists taking up qualified employment or joining advanced study programs leading to a career in education and research. The module provides an overview of intellectual property rights and their regulations, data protection regulations, and ethical frameworks defined by professional organizations. Students are confronted with a collection of case studies to develop sensitivity to legal and ethical dilemmas with which people are sometimes faced during the construction or operation of advanced information processing systems.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of this module, students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recall principles of data protection regulations such as the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); 2. identify components of an IT system managing sensitive data that needs protection; 3. summarize regulations concerning intellectual property rights; 4. analyze the applicability of different closed-source and open-source software licensing models; 5. describe computer science ethics and ethical frameworks defined by professional organizations; 6. illustrate ethical dilemma resulting from the use of information processing systems; 7. discuss the interplay of legal frameworks and ethical principles and the design of information processing systems. 				
Indicative Literature				
Not specified.				

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Poster presentation

Duration: 10 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.11 Secure and Dependable Systems

Module Name Secure and Dependable Systems		Module Code CO-566	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-566-A	Secure and Dependable Systems	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schönwälder	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Independent study (70 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operating Systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
None				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This module introduces students to the fundamentals of computer security and techniques used to build and analyze dependable systems. This is an important topic given that computer systems are increasingly embedded in everyday objects (such as light bulbs) and taking over important control functions (such as driving cars). Furthermore, computer systems control complex communication systems that form critical infrastructure of the modern globalized world. Proper protection of information requires an applied understanding of cryptography and how cryptographic primitives are used to secure data and information exchanges. The aim of this module is to make students aware of what types of security vulnerabilities may arise in computing systems and how to prevent, identify, and fix them.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
<p>By the end of this module, students will be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recall dependability terminology and concepts; 2. explain control flow attacks and injection attacks and defense mechanisms; 3. describe network data plane and control plane attacks and defense mechanisms; 4. understand symmetric and asymmetric cryptographic algorithms; 5. explain how digital signatures and public key infrastructures work; 6. analyze key exchange protocols for weaknesses; 7. describe secure network protocols (e.g., PGP, TLS, and SSH); 8. recall anonymity terminology and concepts; 9. discuss information hiding mechanisms (e.g., steganography, and watermarking); 10. illustrate anonymization techniques (mixes, onion routing); 				

Indicative Literature

Bruce Schneier: Applied Cryptography, 20th Anniversary Edition, Wiley, 2015.

Wm.A. Conklin, Gregory White: Principles of Computer Security, 5th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2018.

Simon Singh: The Code Book: Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography, Anchor Books, 2000.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules**Examination Type: Module Examination**

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.12 Academic Skills in Computer Science

Module Name Academic Skills in Computer Science		Module Code CO-567	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 2.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-567-A	Academic Skills in Computer Science	Seminar	2.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Alexander Omelchenko	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)	Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS		
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Co-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (17.5 hours) • Private study (25 hours) • Presentation / poster preparation (20 hours) 	
Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		Duration 1 semester	Workload 62.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation None				
Content and Educational Aims This module introduces students to basic skills in reading, understanding, and evaluating scientific articles, and in presenting scientific results in presentations and publications. During the seminar, students will study some classic computer science papers with a special focus on how the papers are organized, written and how they present scientific results. Students will develop and discuss guidelines for effective writing and they will learn about techniques and tools that can be used to effectively search for literature relevant to a certain topic. Finally, students will be introduced to peer review processes. As a project, students will emulate the workflow of a scientific conference to demonstrate the academic skills they have learned.				
Intended Learning Outcomes By the end of this module, students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. effectively find research literature for a given topic; 2. critically read and assess research papers; 3. present a research result in the structure of a scientific paper; 4. describe how scientific peer review processes work; 5. orally communicate research results effectively to a scientific community; 6. describe common pitfalls in the presentation of data, algorithms, or math; 7. discuss ethical issues and guidelines related to scientific publications. 				
Indicative Literature Peter Zobel: Writing for Computer Science, 3rd edition, Springer, 2014.				
Usability and Relationship to other Modules				

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Project Assessment

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.13 Computer Graphics

Module Name Computer Graphics		Module Code CA-S-CS-801	Level (type) Year 3 (Specialization)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CA-CS-801	Computer Graphics	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Alexander Omelchenko	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS and RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Private study (70 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Algorithms and Data Structures or Core Algorithms and Data Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Recommendations for Preparation				
None				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This module deals with the digital synthesis and manipulation of visual content. The creation process of computer graphics spans from the creation of a three-dimensional (3D) scene to displaying or storing it digitally. Prominent tasks in computer graphics are geometry processing, rendering, and animation. Geometry processing is concerned with object representations such as surfaces and their modeling. Rendering is concerned with transforming a model of the virtual world into a set of pixels by applying models of light propagation and sampling algorithms. Animation is concerned with descriptions of objects that move or deform over time. This is an introductory module covering the concepts and techniques of 3D (interactive) computer graphics. It covers mathematical foundations, basic algorithms and principles, and some advanced methods and concepts. An introduction to the implementation of simple programs using a mainstream computer graphics library completes this module.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
<p>By the end of this module, students will be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. construct 3D geometry representations; 2. apply 3D transformations; 3. understand the algorithms and optimizations applied by graphics rendering systems; 4. explain the stages of modern computer graphics programmable pipelines 5. implement simple computer graphics applications using graphics frameworks such as OpenGL; 6. illustrate the techniques used to create animations. 				

Indicative Literature

John Hughes, Andries van Dam, Morgan McGuire, David F. Sklar, James D. Foley, Steven K. Feiner, Kurt Akeley, Computer Graphics - Principles and Practice, 3rd edition, Addison-Wesley, 2013.

Peter Shirley, Steve Marschner, Fundamentals of Computer Graphics, 4th edition, Taylor and Francis Ltd, 2016.

Matt Pharr, Wenzel Jakob, Greg Humphreys, Physically Based Rendering: From Theory to Implementation, 3rd edition, Morgan Kaufmann, 2016.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- Students with a strong interest in graphical user interfaces are encouraged to also select the Human–Computer Interaction specialization module, which discusses among other things how computer graphics can be used as a component of interactive graphical user interfaces.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.14 Image Processing

Module Name Image Processing		Module Code CA-S-CS-802	Level (type) Year 3 (Specialization)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CA-CS-802	Image Processing	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Alexander Omelchenko	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Private study (70 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Algorithms and Data Structures or Core Algorithms and Data Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		• None	1 semester	125 hours
Recommendations for Preparation				
None				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>The module provides a foundation of the theory and applications of digital image processing. The first part concentrates on morphological image processing, which is one of the most basic yet powerful tool sets in dealing with digital images, and it is the backbone of many of today's high-performance image analysis systems. The module starts by introducing concepts such as dilation, erosion, geodesic transformations, morphological filtering, and the watershed transform. It then develops into advanced strategies for image segmentation and texture analysis. The second part of the module will concentrate on understanding problems from real-world applications, such as in biomedical imaging, and provides an overview of the broader field of image processing. The course can be combined with other courses on machine learning and signal analysis. Homework assignments will cover C/C++ implementations of basic and combined image processing algorithms.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
<p>By the end of this module, students will be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. explain the theory and concepts of image processing; 2. illustrate concepts such as dilation, erosion, geodesic transformations, and morphological filtering; 3. analyze image segmentation and texture analysis algorithms; 4. design and implement their own image processing algorithms in C/C++. 				
Indicative Literature				
<p>Milan Sonka, Vaclav Hlavac, Roger Boyle: Image Processing, Analysis, and Machine Vision, 3rd edition, Nelson Engineering, 2007.</p> <p>Pierre Soille, Morphological Image Analysis: Principles and Applications, 2nd edition, Springer, 2004.</p>				

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.15 Distributed Algorithms

Module Name Distributed Algorithms		Module Code CA-S-CS-803	Level (type) Year 3 (Specialization)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CA-CS-803	Distributed Algorithms	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Dr. Kinga Lipskoch	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS, SDT and RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall or Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class attendance (35 hours) Private study (70 hours) Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Algorithms and Data Structures or Core Algorithms and Data Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
None				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Distributed algorithms are the foundation of modern distributed computing systems. They are characterized by a lack of knowledge of a global state, a lack of knowledge of a global time, and inherent non-determinism in their execution. The course introduces basic distributed algorithms using an abstract formal model, which is centered on the notion of a transition system. The topics covered are logical clocks, distributed snapshots, mutual exclusion algorithms, wave algorithms, election algorithms, reliable broadcast algorithms, and distributed consensus algorithms. Process algebras are introduced as another formalism to describe distributed and concurrent systems.</p> <p>The distributed algorithms introduced in this module form the foundation of computing systems that have to be scalable and fault-tolerant, e.g., large-scale distributed non-standard databases or distributed file systems. The course is recommended for students interested in the design of scalable distributed computing systems.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of this module, students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> describe and analyze distributed algorithms using formal methods such as transition systems; explain different algorithms to solve election problems; illustrate the limitations of time to order events and how logical clocks and vector clocks overcome these limitations; apply distributed algorithms to produce consistent snapshots of distributed computations; describe the differences among wave algorithms for different topologies; analyze and implement distributed consensus algorithms such as Paxos and Raft; use a process algebra such as communicating sequential processes or π-calculus to model distributed algorithms. 				

Indicative Literature

Maarten van Steen, Andrew S. Tanenbaum: Distributed Systems, 3rd edition, Pearson Education, 2017.

Nancy A. Lynch: Distributed Algorithms, Morgan Kaufmann, 1996.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules**Examination Type: Module Examination**

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

7.16 Web Application Development

Module Name Web Application Development		Module Code CA-S-CS-804	Level (type) Year 3 (Specialization)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CA-CS-804-A	Web Application Development	Lecture	2.5	
CA-CS-804-B	Web Application Development - Project	Project	2.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Alexander Omelchenko	Program Affiliation • Computer Science (CS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS and RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (17.5 hours) • Private study (40 hours) • Project work (50 hours) • Exam preparation (17.5 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Databases and Web Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Recommendations for Preparation None				
Content and Educational Aims A web application is a client-server computer program where the client provides the user interface and the client side logic runs in a web browser or as an app running on a mobile device such as a smart phone or a tablet. A key characteristic is that more complex application logic and data storage is realized by a server offering a web application programming interface. This module focuses on the client side of web application and introduces technologies that can be used to implement interactive user interfaces and client side logic. It builds on the module databases and web services, which covers the data storage components and server side logic of web applications. This module consists of a lecture and an associated project. The lecture component introduces programming languages and frameworks that are widely used for implementing the client side of web applications such as Java, Kotlin, Swift, JavaScript and frameworks built on top of them. In the project component, students develop web applications and test them on existing and openly accessible web services.				
Intended Learning Outcomes By the end of this module, students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. explain the document object model behind HTML and its relation to CSS; 2. discuss the principles and basic mechanisms of reactive website design; 3. analyze the interactions between web applications and web services. 				

4. use languages such as Java, Kotlin, or Swift to implement mobile web applications;
5. use web standards such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to implement web applications running in standard web browsers.

Indicative Literature

Stoyan Stefanov: JavaScript Patterns, O'Reilly Media, 2010.

Alexey Soshin: Hands-on Design Patterns with Kotlin, Packt Publishing, 2018.

Alex Banks, Eve Porcello: Learning React: Functional Web Development.with React and Flux, O'Reilly, 2017.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules**Examination Type: Module Component Examinations****Module Component 1: Lecture**

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 50%

Scope: First group of intended learning outcomes of the module

Module Component 2: Project

Assessment Type: Project assessment

Weight: 50%

Scope: Second group of intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination of each module component has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.17 Computer Vision

Module Name Computer Vision		Module Code CO-546	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-546-A	Computer Vision	Lecture/lab	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Francesco Maurelli	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS) 		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS and RIS	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching
Pre-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intro to RIS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming in C/C++	Co-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills Basic knowledge of robotics middleware (RIS Lab I)	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class attendance (35 hours) Private study (70 hours) Exam preparation (20 hours)
			Duration 1 semester	Workload 125 hours
Recommendations for Preparation				
Refresh basic programming skills in MATLAB and/or Python				
Content and Educational Aims				
Computer Vision algorithms are used in a variety of real-world applications that include surveillance and object tracking, 3D model building (photogrammetry), and object recognition. Apart from their visual appeal, these algorithms also represent elegant applications of linear algebra and optimization techniques. Topics covered in this course include a recapitulation of relevant linear algebra, introduction to face-recognition, camera calibration, stitched panoramas, edge and blob visual features, structure from motion, color-spaces, segmentation, and an introduction to object-recognition.				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of this module, students should be able				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> describe image formation and camera models; calibrate cameras; compute image histograms, and basic image processing; discriminate among visual features (e.g., corner, edge, blob); Properly use computer vision libraries; implement computer vision applications. 				
Indicative Literature				
D.A. Forsyth and J. Ponce, Computer Vision: A Modern Approach. 2nd edition, 2011.				
R. Szeliski, Computer Vision: Algorithms and Applications, Springer, http://szeliski.org/Book , 2010.				
Ma et al., An Invitation to 3 D Vision: From Images to Geometric Models, Springer, 2004.				

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- Giving the foundation of computer vision, this module is important for RIS project and for advanced specialization courses.
- This module serves as a third year Specialization module for CS major students.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Module achievements: 50% if the assignments correctly solved

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.18 Human-Computer Interaction

Module Name Human Computer Interaction		Module Code CA-S-RIS-802	Level (type) Year 3 (Specialization)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name		Type	CP
CA-RIS-802	Human Computer Interaction		Lecture	5
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Francesco Maurelli		Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS) 		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS and RIS
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class attendance (35 hours) Private study (70 hours) Exam preparation (20 hours)
Pre-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Co-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	Duration 1 semester	
Recommendations for Preparation None				
Content and Educational Aims <p>Computer systems often interact with human beings. The design of a good human–computer interface is often crucial for the acceptance and the success of a software system. Human–computer interface designs have to satisfy several requirements such as usability, learnability, efficiency, accessibility, and safety. The module discusses the evolution of human–computer interaction models and introduces design principles for graphical user interfaces and other types of interaction (e.g., visual, voice, gesture). Human–computer interaction designs are often evaluated using prototypes or mockups that can be given to test candidates to evaluate the effectiveness of the design. The module introduces evaluation strategies as well as tools and techniques that can be used to prototype human–computer interfaces.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes <p>By the end of this module, students should be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> explain the evolution of human–computer interaction models; design and implement simple graphical user interfaces; explain ergonomic principles guiding the design of user interfaces; illustrate different types of interaction (e.g., visual, voice, gestures) and their usability aspects; evaluate aspects of and tradeoffs between usability, learnability, efficiency, and safety; apply scientific methods to evaluate interfaces with respect to their usability and other desirable properties; use prototyping tools that can be employed to create mockups of user interfaces during the early stages of a software project. 				
Indicative Literature <p>Alan Dix, Janet Finlay, Gregory D. Abowd, and Russell Beale: Human-Computer Interaction, 3rd edition, Pearson, 2004</p> <p>Ben Shneiderman, Catherine Plaisant, Maxine Cohen, Steven Jacobs, Niklas Elmqvist, Nicholas Diakopoulos: Designing the User Interface: Strategies for Effective Human-Computer Interaction, 6th edition, Pearson, 2016</p>				

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- Students with a strong interest in graphical user interfaces are encouraged to also select the Computer Graphics specialization module, which introduces methods and technologies for creating computer graphics and animations.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.19 Artificial Intelligence

Module Name Artificial Intelligence		Module Code CO-547	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-547-A	Artificial Intelligence	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Andreas Birk	Program Affiliation • Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for RIS Mandatory elective for CS and SDT	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Private study (70 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Algorithms and data structures or Core Algorithms and Data Structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Revise content of the pre-requisite modules.				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an important subdiscipline of Computer Science that deals with technologies to automate the performance of tasks that are usually associated with intelligence. AI methods have a significant application potential, as there is an increasing interest and need to generate artificial systems that can carry out complex missions in unstructured environments without permanent human supervision. The module teaches a selection of the most important methods in AI. In addition to general-purpose techniques and algorithms, it also includes aspects of methods that are especially targeted for physical systems such as intelligent mobile robots or autonomous cars.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of this module, students should be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. outline and explain the history, general developments, and application areas of AI; 2. apply the basic concepts and methods of behavior-oriented AI; 3. use concepts and methods of search algorithms for problem-solving; 4. explain the basic concepts of path-planning as an application example for domain-specific search; 5. apply basic path-planning algorithms and to compare their relations to general search algorithms; 6. write and explain concepts of propositional and first-order logic; 7. use logic representations and inference for basic examples of artificial planning systems. 				
Indicative Literature				
S. Russell and P. Norvig, Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach, Prentice Hall, 2009.				
S. M. LaValle, Planning Algorithms. Cambridge University Press, 2006.				
J.-C. Latombe, Robot Motion Planning, Springer, 1991.				

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module gives an introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) excluding the aspects of machine learning (ML), which are covered in a dedicated module that complements this one.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.20 Robotics

Module Name Robotics		Module Code CO-540	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-540-A	Robotics	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Andreas Birk	Program Affiliation • Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for RIS and minor RIS Mandatory elective for CS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Private study (70 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming in C/C++ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduction to RIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		Duration 1 semester	Workload 125 hours
Recommendations for Preparation				
Revise content of the pre-requisite modules.				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Robotics is an area that is driven by dreams from science fiction and the reality of engineering. The module intends to provide an understanding of the formal foundations of this area as well as its technological state of the art and future directions. The course accordingly gives an introduction to the core algorithmic, mathematical, and engineering concepts and methods of robotics. This includes concepts and methods that are used for well-established tools of factory automation, especially in the form of robot-arms, as well as increasingly relevant intelligent mobile systems such as autonomous cars or autonomous transport systems.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
<p>By the end of this module, students should be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. outline and explain the history, general developments, and application areas of robotics; 2. apply the concepts and methods to describe space and motions therein including homogeneous coordinates and transforms as well as quaternions; 3. use the spatial concepts and methods for the forward kinematics (FK) of robot-arms; 4. explain basic concepts of simple actuators, including electrical motors and gear systems; 5. apply concepts and methods to derive the inverse kinematics of robot-arms and related systems such as legs in analytical and numerical forms; 6. apply concepts and methods of wheeled locomotion including FK and IK of the differential and of the omni-directional drive; 7. use basic concepts and methods of dynamics; 8. Explain and use core concepts and methods of global localization, e.g., multilateration and multidimensional scaling; 9. use the basic concepts and methods of error propagation estimation in the context of relative localization with dead-reckoning; 				

10. outline and compare the basic concepts and methods of mapping.

Indicative Literature

J. J. Craig, Introduction to robotics - Mechanics and control, Prentice Hall, 2005.

G. Dudek and M. Jenkin, Computational Principles of Mobile Robotics, Cambridge University Press, 2000.

R. Siegwart and I. R. Nourbakhsh, Introduction to Autonomous Mobile Robots, The MIT Press, 2004.

S. Thrun, W. Burgard, and D. Fox, Probabilistic Robotics, MIT Press, 2005.

H. Choset, K. M. Lynch, S. Hutchinson, G. Kantor, W. Burgard, L. E. Kavraki, and S. Thrun, Principles of Robot Motion, MIT Press, 2005.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module gives an introduction to Robotics, which is a core discipline of Robotics and Intelligent System (RIS) and an important area of possible future employment.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.21 Machine Learning

Module Name Machine Learning		Module Code CO-541	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CO-541-A	Machine Learning	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Francesco Maurelli	Program Affiliation • Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for SDT, MMDA, PHDS, RIS and minor in RIS, Mandatory elective for CS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class attendance (35 hours) • Private study (70 hours) • Exam preparation (20 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probability and Random Processes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills Knowledge and command of probability theory and methods, as in the module "Probability and Random Process (JTMS-12)		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
None				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Machine learning (ML) concerns algorithms that are fed with (large quantities of) real-world data, and which return a compressed "model" of the data. An example is the "world model" of a robot; the input data are sensor data streams, from which the robot learns a model of its environment, which is needed, for instance, for navigation. Another example is a spoken language model; the input data are speech recordings, from which ML methods build a model of spoken English; this is useful, for instance, in automated speech recognition systems. There exist many formalisms in which such models can be cast, and an equally large diversity of learning algorithms. However, there is a relatively small number of fundamental challenges that are common to all of these formalisms and algorithms. The lectures introduce such fundamental concepts and illustrate them with a choice of elementary model formalisms (linear classifiers and regressors, radial basis function networks, clustering, online adaptive filters, neural networks, or hidden Markov models). Furthermore, the lectures also (re-)introduce required mathematical material from probability theory and linear algebra.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of this module, students should be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understand the notion of probability spaces and random variables; 2. understand basic linear modeling and estimation techniques; 3. understand the fundamental nature of the "curse of dimensionality;" 4. understand the fundamental nature of the bias-variance problem and standard coping strategies; 5. use elementary classification learning methods (linear discrimination, radial basis function networks, multilayer perceptrons); 6. implement an end-to-end learning suite, including feature extraction and objective function optimization with regularization based on cross-validation. 				
Indicative Literature				

T. Hastie, R. Tibshirani, J. Friedman, The Elements of Statistical Learning: Data Mining, Inference, and Prediction, 2nd edition, Springer, 2008.

S. Shalev-Shwartz, Shai Ben-David: Understanding Machine Learning, Cambridge University Press, 2014.

C. Bishop, Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning, Springer, 2006.

T.M. Mitchell, Machine Learning, Mc Graw Hill India, 2017.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module gives a thorough introduction to the basics of machine learning. It complements the Artificial Intelligence module.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.22 Digital Design

Module Name Digital Design		Module Code CA-S-ECE-803	Level (type) Year 3 (Specialization)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CA-ECE-803	Digital Design	Lecture/Lab	5	
Module Coordinator Dr. Fangning Hu	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) 		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS, ECE and RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture/Lab (35 hours) Private study (90 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Students may prepare themselves with books like “Brent E. Nelson, Designing Digital Systems, 2005” and “Pong P. Chu, RTL Hardware Design Using VHDL, A John Wiley & Sons, Inc, Publication, 2006”				
Content and Educational Aims				
The current trend of digital system design is towards hardware description languages (HDLs) that allow compact description of very complex hardware constructs. The module provides a sound introduction to basic components of a digital system such as logic gates, multiplexers, decoders, flip-flops and registers as well as VHDLs such as types, signals, sequential and concurrent statements. Methods and principle of designing complex digital systems such as finite state machines, hierarchical design, pipelined design, RTL design methodology and parameterized design will also be introduced. Students will learn VHDL for programming FPGA boards to realize small digital systems in hardware (i.e. on FPGA boards). Such digital systems could be adders, multiplexers, control units, multipliers, asynchronous serial communication modules (UART). At the end of the module, the students should be able to design a simple digital system by VHDL on an FPGA board.				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of this module, students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> understand the principle of digital system design based on standard building blocks and components; design a complex digital system; understand the limitations of a given hardware platform (here FPGAs), modify algorithms where necessary, and structure them suitably in order to optimize performance and complexity; use a typical development system; program in VHDL; program an FPGA board. 				
Indicative Literature				
Brent E. Nelson, Designing Digital Systems with SystemVerilog, 2018, ISBN-13: 978-1980926290				
Pong P. Chu, RTL Hardware Design Using VHDL, Wiley-IEEE Press, 2006, ISBN-13: 978-0471720928				

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module introduces how to design digital systems and how to realize them on a FPGA board which could also serve as a specialization module for students from Computer Science and Robotics and Intelligent Systems.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Weight: 100%

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.23 Information Theory

Module Name Information Theory			Module Code CO-525	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 5
Module Components					
Number	Name			Type	CP
CO-525-A	Information Theory			Lecture	5
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr.-Ing. Werner Henkel		Program Affiliation - Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)		Mandatory Status Mandatory for ECE Mandatory elective for CS, PHDS and RIS	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures (35 hours) Private Study (90 hours)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Signals and Systems contents, such as DFT and convolution Notion of probability, combinatorics basics as taught in Methods module "Probability and Random Processes"		Duration 1 semester	Workload 125 hours
Recommendations for Preparation					
Some basic knowledge of communications and sound understanding of probability is recommended. Hence, it is strongly advised to take the methods and skills course Probability and Random Processes prior to this module. Nevertheless, probability basics will also be revised within the module.					
Content and Educational Aims					
<p>Information theory serves as the most important foundation for communication systems. The module provides an analytical framework for modeling and evaluating point-to-point and multi-point communication. After a short rehearsal of probability and random variables and some excursion to random number generation, the key concept of information content of a signal source and information capacity of a transmission medium are precisely defined, and their relationships to data compression algorithms and error control codes are examined in detail. The module aims to install an appreciation for the fundamental capabilities and limitations of information transmission schemes and to provide the mathematical tools for applying these ideas to a broad class of communications systems.</p> <p>The module contains also a coverage of different source-coding algorithms like Huffman, Lempel-Ziv-(Welch), Shannon-Fano-Elias, Arithmetic Coding, Runlength Encoding, Move-to-Front transform, PPM, and Context Tree Weighting. In Channel coding, finite fields, some basic block and convolutional codes, and the concept of iterative decoding will be introduced. Aside from source and channel aspects, an introduction to security is given, including public-key cryptography. Information theory is a standard module in every communications-oriented Bachelor's program.</p>					

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, students should be able to

1. explain what is understood as the information content of data and the corresponding limits of data compression algorithms;
2. design and apply fundamental algorithms in data compression;
3. explain the information theoretic limits of data transmission;
4. apply the mathematical basics of channel coding and cryptography;
5. implement some channel coding schemes;
6. differentiate the principles of encryption and authentication schemes and implement discussed procedures.

Indicative Literature

Thomas M. Cover, Joy A. Thomas, Elements of Information Theory, 2nd ed., Wiley, Sept. 2006.

David Salomon, Data Compression, The Complete Reference, 4th ed., Springer, 2007.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- Although not a mandatory prerequisite, this module is ideally taken before Coding Theory (CA-ECE-802)
- All communications-related modules are naturally based on information theory
- Students from Computer Science or related programs, also students taking Bio-informatics modules, profit from information-theoretic knowledge and source coding (compression) algorithms. Students from Computer Science would also be interested in the algebraic basics for error-correcting codes and cryptology, fields which area also introduced shortly.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.24 Parallel and Distributed Computing

Module Name Parallel and Distributed Computing		Module Code MDE-CS-02	Level (type) Year 2 (Elective)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type		CP
MDE-CS-02	Parallel and Distributed Computing	Lecture		5
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Stefan Kettemann	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MSc Data Engineering (DE) 		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CSSE, DE, CS (BSc) and RIS (BSc)	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites		Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lecture (35 hours) ▪ Private study (90 hours) 	
Co-requisites		Duration 1 semester	Workload 125 hours	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Basic knowledge in C/C++ Mandatory proficiency in Python				
Recommendations for Preparation				
If no knowledge in C/C++ is present, interested students are encouraged get a basic understanding of C/C++ (via online material) in order to better understand some of the discussed concepts.				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>In the recent years, the development of parallel and cloud computing has opened the door for Big Data analysis and processing. This module aims at providing an overview and introduction to the vast field of parallel and cloud computing. In traditional parallel computing, we aim to develop notions for different parallelization models (shared-memory, distributed-memory, SIMD, SIMT), get to know appropriate programming methodologies for high performance dataanalysis (OpenMP / MPI) and aim at understanding performance and scalability in this field (weak vs. strong scaling, Amdahl's law). This fundamental knowledge will then be carried over to recent developments in cloud computing, where distributed processing frameworks (Spark / Hadoop MapReduce / Dask), based on appropriated deployment infrastructures, are in the process to become De Facto standards for Big Data processing and analysis. We will approach these technologies from a practical point of view and aim at developing the necessary knowledge to carry out scalable machine learning and data processing on Big Data.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of this module, students should be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understand theory and fundamentals of parallelization models (shared-/distributed memory, SIMD, SIMT) 2. explain and apply parallel programming methodologies (OpenMP / MPI) 3. describe and analyze performance and scalability (weak vs. strong scaling, ...) 4. Understand basic principles of distributed and cloud computing 5. use distributed processing frameworks (Spark / Hadoop MapReduce / Dask) for scalable distributed calculations 6. develop scalable machine learning and data processing on Big Data 				
Indicative Literature				
Zaccone, Python Parallel Programming Cookbook, O'Reilly.				
J.C. Daniel, Data Science with Python and Dask, Manning Publications.				
Z. Radtka, D. Miner, Hadoop with Python. Hadoop with Python, O'Reilly.				

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

N.A.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written Examination

Duration: 120 minutes

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of this module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

7.25 Internship / Startup and Career Skills

Module Name Internship / Startup and Career Skills		Module Code CA-INT-900	Level (type) Year 3 (CAREER)	CP 15
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CA-INT-900-0	Internship	Internship	15	
Module Coordinator Sinah Vogel & Dr. Tanja Woebis (CSC Organization); SPC / Faculty Startup Coordinator (Academic responsibility)	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAREER module for undergraduate study programs 		Mandatory Status Mandatory for all undergraduate study programs except IEM	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring/Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internship/Start-up Internship event Seminars, info-sessions, workshops and career events Self-study, readings, online tutorials 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at least 15 CP from CORE modules in the major	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information provided on CSC pages (see below) Major specific knowledge and skills 				
Recommendations for Preparation				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see the section "Knowledge Center" at JobTeaser Career Center for information on Career Skills seminar and workshop offers and for online tutorials on the job market preparation and the application process. For more information, please see https://constructor.university/student-life/career-services Participating in the internship events of earlier classes 				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>The aims of the internship module are reflection, application, orientation, and development: for students to reflect on their interests, knowledge, skills, their role in society, the relevance of their major subject to society, to apply these skills and this knowledge in real life whilst getting practical experience, to find a professional orientation, and to develop their personality and in their career. This module supports the programs' aims of preparing students for gainful, qualified employment and the development of their personality.</p> <p>The full-time internship must be related to the students' major area of study and extends lasts a minimum of two consecutive months, normally scheduled just before the 5th semester, with the internship event and submission of the internship report in the 5th semester. Upon approval by the SPC and SCS, the internship may take place at other times, such as before teaching starts in the 3rd semester or after teaching finishes in the 6th semester. The Study Program Coordinator or their faculty</p>				

delegate approves the intended internship a priori by reviewing the tasks in either the Internship Contract or Internship Confirmation from the respective internship institution or company. Further regulations as set out in the Policies for Bachelor Studies apply.

Students will be gradually prepared for the internship in semesters 1 to 4 through a series of mandatory information sessions, seminars, and career events.

The purpose of the Career Services Information Sessions is to provide all students with basic facts about the job market in general, and especially in Germany and the EU, and services provided by the Student Career Support.

In the Career Skills Seminars, students will learn how to engage in the internship/job search, how to create a competitive application (CV, Cover Letter, etc.), and how to successfully conduct themselves at job interviews and/or assessment centers. In addition to these mandatory sections, students can customize their skill set regarding application challenges and their intended career path in elective seminars.

Finally, during the Career Events organized by the Career Service Center (e.g. the annual Constructor Career Fair and single employer events on and off campus), students will have the opportunity to apply their acquired job market skills in an actual internship/job search situation and to gain their desired internship in a high-quality environment and with excellent employers.

As an alternative to the full-time internship, students can apply for the StartUp Option. Following the same schedule as the full-time internship, the StartUp Option allows students who are particularly interested in founding their own company to focus on the development of their business plan over a period of two consecutive months. Participation in the StartUp Option depends on a successful presentation of the student's initial StartUp idea. This presentation will be held at the beginning of the 4th semester. A jury of faculty members will judge the student's potential to realize their idea and approve the participation of the students. The StartUp Option is supervised by the Faculty StartUp Coordinator. At the end of StartUp Option, students submit their business plan. Further regulations as outlined in the Policies for Bachelor Studies apply.

The concluding Internship Event will be conducted within each study program (or a cluster of related study programs) and will formally conclude the module by providing students the opportunity to present on their internships and reflect on the lessons learned within their major area of study. The purpose of this event is not only to self-reflect on the whole internship process, but also to create a professional network within the academic community, especially by entering the Alumni Network after graduation. It is recommended that all three classes (years) of the same major are present at this event to enable networking between older and younger students and to create an educational environment for younger students to observe the "lessons learned" from the diverse internships of their elder fellow students.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, students should be able to

1. describe the scope and the functions of the employment market and personal career development;
2. apply professional, personal, and career-related skills for the modern labor market, including self-organization, initiative and responsibility, communication, intercultural sensitivity, team and leadership skills, etc.;
3. independently manage their own career orientation processes by identifying personal interests, selecting appropriate internship locations or start-up opportunities, conducting interviews, succeeding at pitches or assessment centers, negotiating related employment, managing their funding or support conditions (such as salary, contract, funding, supplies, work space, etc.);
4. apply specialist skills and knowledge acquired during their studies to solve problems in a professional environment and reflect on their relevance in employment and society;
5. justify professional decisions based on theoretical knowledge and academic methods;
6. reflect on their professional conduct in the context of the expectations of and consequences for employers and their society;
7. reflect on and set their own targets for the further development of their knowledge, skills, interests, and values;
8. establish and expand their contacts with potential employers or business partners, and possibly other students and alumni, to build their own professional network to create employment opportunities in the future;
9. discuss observations and reflections in a professional network.

Indicative Literature

Not specified

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module applies skills and knowledge acquired in previous modules to a professional environment and provides an opportunity to reflect on their relevance in employment and society. It may lead to thesis topics.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Internship Report or Business Plan and Reflection
Scope: All intended learning outcomes

Length: approx. 3.500 words
Weight: 100%

7.26 Bachelor Thesis and Seminar

Module Name		Module Code	Level (type)	CP
Bachelor Thesis and Seminar CS		CA-CS-800	Year 3 (CAREER)	15
Module Components				
Number		Name		Type
CP				
CA-CS-800-T	Thesis CS		Thesis	12
CA-CS-800-S	Thesis Seminar CS		Seminar	3
Module Coordinator	Program Affiliation		Mandatory Status	
Study Program Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All undergraduate programs 		Mandatory for all undergraduate programs	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-study/lab work (350 hours) Seminars (25 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students must have taken and successfully passed a total of at least 30 CP from advanced modules, and of those, at least 20 CP from advanced modules in the major.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
		14-week lecture period	375 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify an area or a topic of interest and discuss this with your prospective supervisor in a timely manner. Create a research proposal including a research plan to ensure timely submission. Ensure you possess all required technical research skills or are able to acquire them on time. Review the University's Code of Academic Integrity and Guidelines to Ensure Good Academic Practice. 				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This module is a mandatory graduation requirement for all undergraduate students to demonstrate their ability to address a problem from their respective major subject independently using academic/scientific methods within a set time frame. Although supervised, this module requires students to be able to work independently and systematically and set their own goals in exchange for the opportunity to explore a topic that excites and interests them personally and that a faculty member is interested in supervising. Within this module, students apply their acquired knowledge about their major discipline and their learned skills and methods for conducting research, ranging from the identification of suitable (short-term) research projects, preparatory literature searches, the realization of discipline-specific research, and the documentation, discussion, interpretation, and communication of research results.</p> <p>This module consists of two components, an independent thesis and an accompanying seminar. The thesis component must be supervised by a Constructor University faculty member and requires short-term research work, the results of which must be documented in a comprehensive written thesis including an introduction, a justification of the methods, results, a discussion of the results, and a conclusion. The seminar provides students with the opportunity to practice their</p>				

ability to present, discuss, and justify their and other students' approaches, methods, and results at various stages of their research in order to improve their academic writing, receive and reflect on formative feedback, and therefore grow personally and professionally.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, students should be able to

1. independently plan and organize advanced learning processes;
2. design and implement appropriate research methods, taking full account of the range of alternative techniques and approaches;
3. collect, assess, and interpret relevant information;
4. draw scientifically-founded conclusions that consider social, scientific, and ethical factors;
5. apply their knowledge and understanding to a context of their choice;
6. develop, formulate, and advance solutions to problems and debates within their subject area, and defend these through argument;
7. discuss information, ideas, problems, and solutions with specialists and non-specialists.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module builds on all previous modules in the undergraduate program. Students apply the knowledge, skills, and competencies they have acquired and practiced during their studies, including research methods and their ability to acquire additional skills independently as and if required.

Indicative Literature

Justin Zobel, Writing for Computer Science, 3rd edition, Springer, 2015.

Examination Type: Module Component Examinations

Module Component 1: Thesis

Assessment type: Thesis

Scope: All intended learning outcomes, mainly 1-6.

Length: approx. 6.000 – 8.000 words (15 – 25 pages), excluding front and back matter.

Weight: 80%

Module Component 2: Seminar

Assessment type: Presentation

Duration: approx. 15 to 30 minutes

Weight: 20%

Scope: The presentation focuses mainly on ILOs 6 and 7, but by nature of these ILOs it also touches on the others.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination of each module component has to be passed with at least 45%.

Two separate assessments are justified by the size of this module and the fact that the justification of solutions to problems and arguments (ILO 6) and discussion (ILO 7) should at least have verbal elements. The weights of the types of assessments are commensurate with the sizes of the respective module components.

8 CONSTRUCTOR Track Modules

8.1 Methods Modules

8.1.1 Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I

Module Name Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I		Module Code CTMS-MAT-09	Level (type) Year 1 (Methods)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTMS-09	Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Dr. Keivan Mallahi Karai	Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area	Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS and RIS		
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Co-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Annually (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures (35 hours) Private study (90 hours) 	
		Duration 1 semester	Workload 125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Review all of higher-level High School Mathematics, in particular the topics explicitly named in "Entry Requirements – Knowledge, Ability, or Skills" above.				
Content and Educational Aims				

This module is the first in a sequence introducing mathematical methods at the university level in a form relevant for study and research in the quantitative natural sciences, engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics. The emphasis in these modules is on training operational skills and recognizing mathematical structures in a problem context. Mathematical rigor is used where appropriate. However, a full axiomatic treatment of the subject is provided in the first-year modules “Analysis I” and “Linear Algebra”.

The lecture comprises the following topics

- Brief review of number systems, elementary functions, and their graphs
- Brief introduction to complex numbers
- Limits for sequences and functions
- Continuity
- Derivatives
- Curve sketching and applications (isoperimetric problems, optimization, error propagation)
- Introduction to Integration and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus
- Review of elementary analytic geometry
- Vector spaces, linear independence, bases, coordinates
- Matrices and matrix algebra
- Solving linear systems by Gauss elimination, structure of general solution
- Matrix inverse

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to

1. apply the methods described in the content section of this module description to the extent that they can solve standard text-book problems reliably and with confidence;
2. recognize the mathematical structures in an unfamiliar context and translate them into a mathematical problem statement;
3. recognize common mathematical terminology used in textbooks and research papers in the quantitative sciences, engineering, and mathematics to the extent that they fall into the content categories covered in this module.

Indicative Literature

S.I. Grossman (2014). Calculus of one variable, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Academic Press.

S.A. Leduc (2003). Linear Algebra. Hoboken: Wiley.

K. Riley, M. Hobson, S. Bence (2006). Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering, third edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- The module is followed by “Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II”. All students taking this module are expected to register for the follow-up module.
- A rigorous treatment of Calculus is provided in the module “Analysis I”. All students taking “Analysis I” are expected to either take this module or exceptionally satisfy the conditions for advanced placement as laid out in the Constructor University's Academic Policies for Undergraduate Study.
- The second-semester module “Linear Algebra” will provide a complete proof-driven development of the theory of Linear Algebra. Students enrolling in “Linear Algebra” are expected to have taken this module; in particular, the module “Linear Algebra” will assume that students are proficient in the operational aspects of Gauss elimination, matrix inversion, and their elementary applications.
- This module is a prerequisite for the module “Applied Mathematics” which develops more advanced theoretical and practical mathematical tools essential for any physicist or mathematician.
- Pre-requisite for Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of this module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

8.1.2 Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II

Module Name Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II		Module Code CTMS-MAT-10	Level (type) Year 1 (Methods)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTMS-10	Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Dr. Keivan Mallahi Karai	Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for CS and RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures (35 hours) Private study (90 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills	Duration	Workload	
	None beyond formal pre-requisites	1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Review the content of Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This module is the second in a sequence introducing mathematical methods at the university level in a form relevant for study and research in the quantitative natural sciences, engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics. The emphasis in these modules is on training operational skills and recognizing mathematical structures in a problem context. Mathematical rigor is used where appropriate. However, a full axiomatic treatment of the subject is provided in the first-year modules "Analysis I" and "Linear Algebra".</p> <p>The lecture comprises the following topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directional derivatives, partial derivatives Linear maps The total derivative as a linear map Gradient and curl (elementary treatment only, for more advanced topics, in particular the connection to the Gauss and Stokes' integral theorems, see module "Applied Mathematics") Optimization in several variables, Lagrange multipliers Elementary ordinary differential equations Eigenvalues and eigenvectors Hermitian and skew-Hermitian matrices First important example of eigendecompositions: Linear constant-coefficient ordinary differential equations Second important example of eigendecompositions: Fourier series Fourier integral transform Matrix factorizations: Singular value decomposition with applications, LU decomposition, QR decomposition 				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
By the end of the module, students will be able to				
1. apply the methods described in the content section of this module description to the extent that they can solve standard text-book problems reliably and with confidence;				

2. recognize the mathematical structures in an unfamiliar context and translate them into a mathematical problem statement;
3. recognize common mathematical terminology used in textbooks and research papers in the quantitative sciences, engineering, and mathematics to the extent that they fall into the content categories covered in this module.

Indicative Literature

S.I. Grossman (2014). Calculus of one variable, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Academic Press.

S.A. Leduc (2003). Linear Algebra. Hoboken: Wiley.

K. Riley, M. Hobson, S. Bence (2006). Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering, third edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- A more advanced treatment of multi-variable Calculus, in particular, its applications in Physics and Mathematics, is provided in the second-semester module “Applied Mathematics”. All students taking “Applied Mathematics” are expected to take this module as well as the module topics are closely synchronized.
- The second-semester module “Linear Algebra” provides a complete proof-driven development of the theory of Linear Algebra. Diagonalization is covered more abstractly, with particular emphasis on degenerate cases. The Jordan normal form is also covered in “Linear Algebra”, not in this module.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of this module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

8.1.3 Probability and Random Processes

Module Name Probability and Random Processes		Module Code CTMS-MAT-12	Level (type) Year 2 (Methods)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type		CP
CTMS-12	Probability and random processes	Lecture		5
Module Coordinator Dr. Keivan Mallahi Karai	Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory for CS, SDT, ECE, MMDA, PHDS and RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites		Annually (Fall)	Lectures (35 hours) Private study (90 hours)	
Co-requisites		Duration	Workload	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus II or Calculus and Linear Algebra II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	1 semester	125 hours	
Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Knowledge of calculus at the level of a first year calculus module (differentiation, integration with one and several variables, trigonometric functions, logarithms and exponential functions). Knowledge of linear algebra at the level of a first-year university module (eigenvalues and eigenvectors, diagonalization of matrices). Some familiarity with elementary probability theory at the high school level.		
Recommendations for Preparation				
Review all of the first-year calculus and linear algebra modules as indicated in “Entry Requirements – Knowledge, Ability, or Skills” above.				

Content and Educational Aims

This module aims to provide a basic knowledge of probability theory and random processes suitable for students in engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics. The module provides students with basic skills needed for formulating real-world problems dealing with randomness and probability in mathematical language, and methods for applying a toolkit to solve these problems. Mathematical rigor is used where appropriate. A more advanced treatment of the subject is deferred to the third-year module Stochastic Processes.

The lecture comprises the following topics

- Brief review of number systems, elementary functions, and their graphs
- Outcomes, events and sample space.
- Combinatorial probability.
- Conditional probability and Bayes' formula.
- Binomials and Poisson-Approximation
- Random Variables, distribution and density functions.
- Independence of random variables.
- Conditional Distributions and Densities.
- Transformation of random variables.
- Joint distribution of random variables and their transformations.
- Expected Values and Moments, Covariance.
- High dimensional probability: Chebyshev and Chernoff bounds.
- Moment-Generating Functions and Characteristic Functions,
- The Central limit theorem.
- Random Vectors and Moments, Covariance matrix, Decorrelation.
- Multivariate normal distribution.
- Markov chains, stationary distributions.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to

1. command the methods described in the content section of this module description to the extent that they can solve standard text-book problems reliably and with confidence;
2. recognize the probabilistic structures in an unfamiliar context and translate them into a mathematical problem statement;
3. recognize common mathematical terminology used in textbooks and research papers in the quantitative sciences, engineering, and mathematics to the extent that they fall into the content categories covered in this module.

Indicative Literature

J. Hwang and J.K. Blitzstein (2019). Introduction to Probability, second edition. London: Chapman & Hall.

S. Ghahramani. Fundamentals of Probability with Stochastic Processes, fourth edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- Students taking this module are expected to be familiar with basic tools from calculus and linear algebra.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of this module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

8.1.4 Numerical Methods

Module Name		Module Code	Level (type)	CP
Numerical Methods		CTMS-MAT-13	Year 2 (Methods)	5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTMS-13	Numerical Methods	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator	Program Affiliation		Mandatory Status	
Dr. Keivan Mallahi Karai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory for ECE Mandatory elective for CS and RIS	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures (35 hours) Private study (90 hours)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Knowledge of Calculus (functions, inverse functions, sets, real numbers, sequences and limits, polynomials, rational functions, trigonometric functions, logarithm and exponential function, parametric equations, tangent lines, graphs, derivatives, anti-derivatives, elementary techniques for solving equations) Knowledge of Linear Algebra (vectors, matrices, lines, planes, n-dimensional Euclidean vector space, rotation, translation, dot product (scalar product), cross product, normal vector, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, elementary techniques for solving systems of linear equations)	Duration	Workload
			1 semester	125 hours
Recommendations for Preparation				
Taking Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra II before taking this module is recommended, but not required. A thorough review of Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra, with emphasis on the topics listed as "Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills" is recommended.				

Content and Educational Aims

This module covers calculus-based numerical methods, in particular root finding, interpolation, approximation, numerical differentiation, numerical integration (quadrature), and a first introduction to the numerical solution of differential equations.

The lecture comprises the following topics

- number representations
- Gaussian elimination
- LU decomposition
- Cholesky decomposition
- iterative methods
- bisection method
- Newton's method
- secant method
- polynomial interpolation
- Aitken's algorithm
- Lagrange interpolation
- Newton interpolation
- Hermite interpolation
- Bezier curves
- De Casteljau's algorithm
- piecewise interpolation
- Spline interpolation
- B-Splines
- Least-squares approximation
- polynomial regression
- difference schemes
- Richardson extrapolation
- Quadrature rules
- Monte Carlo integration
- time stepping schemes for ordinary differential equations
- Runge Kutta schemes
- finite difference method for partial differential equations

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to

1. describe the basic principles of discretization used in the numerical treatment of continuous problems;
2. command the methods described in the content section of this module description to the extent that they can solve standard text-book problems reliably and with confidence;
3. recognize mathematical terminology used in textbooks and research papers on numerical methods in the quantitative sciences, engineering, and mathematics to the extent that they fall into the content categories covered in this module;
4. implement simple numerical algorithms in a high-level programming language;
5. understand the documentation of standard numerical library code and understand the potential limitations and caveats of such algorithms.

Indicative Literature

D. Kincaid and W. Cheney (1991). Numerical Analysis: Mathematics of Scientific Computing. Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole Publishing.

W. Boehm and H. Prautzsch (1993). Numerical Methods. Natick: AK Peters.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module is a co-recommendation for the module "Applied Dynamical Systems Lab", in which the actual implementation in a high-level programming language of the learned methods will be covered.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of this module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%.

8.1.5 Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus I

Module Name		Module Code	Level (type)	CP
Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus I		CTMS-MAT-22	Year 1 (Methods)	5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTMS-22	Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus I	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator	Program Affiliation		Mandatory Status	
Dr. Keivan Mallahi Karai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory for SDT, ECE, MMDA, PHDS Mandatory elective for CS and RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring/Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures (35 hours) Private study (90 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			
Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Duration	Workload	
Knowledge of pre-calculus ideas (sets and functions, elementary functions, polynomials) and analytic geometry (equations of lines, systems of linear equations, dot product, polar coordinates) at High School level. Familiarity with ideas of calculus is helpful.		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Review of high school mathematics.				
Content and Educational Aims				
This module is the first in a sequence including advanced mathematical methods at the university level at a level higher than the course Calculus and Linear Algebra I. The course comprises the following topics:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number systems, complex numbers The concept of function, composition of functions, inverse functions Basic ideas of calculus: Archimedes to Newton The notion of limit for functions and sequences and series Continuous function and their basic properties Derivatives: rate of change, velocity and applications Mean value theorem and estimation, maxima and minima, convex functions Integration, change of variables, Fundamental Theorem of Calculus Applications of the integral: work, area, average value, centre of mass Improper Integrals, Mean value theorem for integrals Taylor series Ordinary differential equations, examples, solving first order linear differential equations Basic ideas of numerical analysis, Newton's method, asymptotic formulas Review of elementary analytic geometry, lines, conics 				

- Vector spaces, linear independence, bases, coordinates
- Linear maps, matrices and their algebra, matrix inverses
- Gaussian elimination, solution space
- Determinants

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to

1. apply the methods described in the content section of this module description to the extent that they can
2. solve standard text-book problems reliably and with confidence;
3. recognize the mathematical structures in an unfamiliar context and translate them into a mathematical problem statement;
4. recognize common mathematical terminology used in textbooks and research papers in the quantitative sciences, engineering, and mathematics to the extent that they fall into the content categories covered in this module.

Indicative Literature

Advanced Calculus, G.B. Folland (Pearson, 2002)

Linear Algebra, S. Lang (Springer Verlag, 1986)

Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering,

K. Riley, M. Hobson, S. Bence (Cambridge University Press, 2006)

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- Calculus and Linear Algebra I can be substituted with this module after consulting academic advisor
- A more advanced treatment of multi-variable Calculus, in particular, its applications in Physics and Mathematics, is provided in the second-semester module "Applied Mathematics". All students taking "Applied Mathematics" are expected to take this module as well as the module topics are closely synchronized.
- The second-semester module "Linear Algebra" provides a complete proof-driven development of the theory of Linear Algebra. Diagonalization is covered more abstractly, with particular emphasis on degenerate cases. The Jordan normal form is also covered in "Linear Algebra", not in this module.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.1.6 Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus II

Module Name Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus II		Module Code CTMS-MAT-23	Level (type) Year 1 (Methods)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTMS-23	Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus II	Lecture	5	
Module Coordinator Dr. Keivan Mallahi Karai	Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory for SDT, ECE, MMDA and PHDS Mandatory elective for CS and RIS	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures (35 hours) Private study (90 hours) 	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Review the content of Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus I				
Content and Educational Aims				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate systems, functions of several variables, level curves, polar coordinates Continuity, directional derivatives, partial derivatives, chain rule (version I) derivative as a matrix, chain rule (version II), tangent planes and linear approximation, gradient, repeated partial derivatives Minima and Maxima of functions of several variables, Lagrange multipliers Multiple integrals, iterated integrals, integration over standard regions, change of variables formula Vector fields, parametric representation of curves, line integrals and arc length, conservative vector fields Potentials, Green's theorem in the plane Parametric representation of surfaces Vector products and normal surface integrals Integral theorems by Stokes and Gauss, physical interpretations Basics of differential forms and their calculus, connection to gradient, curl, and divergence Eigenvalues and eigenvectors, diagonalisable matrices Inner product spaces, Hermitian and unitary matrices Matrix factorizations: Singular value decomposition with applications, LU decomposition, QR decomposition Linear constant-coefficient ordinary differential equations, application to mechanical vibrations and electrical oscillations Periodic functions, Fourier series 				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
Upon completion of this module, students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> understand the definitions of continuity, derivative of a function as a linear transformation, multivariable integrals, eigenvalues and eigenvectors and associated notions. apply the methods described in the content section of this module description to the extent that they can evaluate multivariable integrals using definitions or by applying Green and Stokes theorem. evaluate various decompositions of matrices solve standard text-book problems reliably and with confidence; recognize the mathematical structures in an unfamiliar context and translate them into a mathematical problem statement; 				

7. recognize common mathematical terminology used in textbooks and research papers in the quantitative sciences, engineering, and mathematics to the extent that they fall into the content categories covered in this module.

Indicative Literature

Advanced Calculus, G.B. Folland (Pearson, 2002)

Linear Algebra, S. Lang (Springer Verlag, 1986)

Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering,

K. Riley, M. Hobson, S. Bence (Cambridge University Press, 2006)

Vector Calculus, Linear Algebra, and Differential Forms: A Unified

Approach, J.H. Hubbard, B. Hubbard (Pearson, 1998)

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module can substitute Calculus and Linear Algebra II after consulting academic advisor.
- Methods of this course are applied in the module Mathematical Modeling.
- The second-semester module Linear Algebra provides a more rigorous and more abstract treatment of some of the notions discussed in this module.

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment type: Written examination

Length/duration: (120min)

Weight: 100 %

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of this module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.1.7 Discrete Mathematics

Module Name Discrete Mathematics			Module Code CO-501	Level (type) Year 2 (CORE)	CP 5
Module Components					
Number		Name		Type	CP
CO-501-A		Discrete Mathematics		Lecture	5
Module Coordinator Dr. Keivan Mallahi-Karai		Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics, Modeling and Data Analytics (MMDA) 			Mandatory Status Mandatory for MMDA Mandatory elective for SDT, CS, and RIS
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures (35 hours) Private Study (90 hours)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Basic university mathematics: can be acquired via the Methods Modules “Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I + II” or Matrix Algebra and Advanced Calculus.		Duration 1 semester	Workload 125 hours
Recommendations for Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some basic familiarity with linear algebra is useful, but not technically required. It is recommended to have taken the Methods module: Calculus and Elements of Linear Algebra I + II 					
Content and Educational Aims <p>This module is an introductory lecture in discrete mathematics. The lecture consists of two main components, enumerative combinatorics and graph theory. The lecture emphasizes connections of discrete mathematics with other areas of mathematics such as linear algebra and basic probability, and outlines applications to areas of computer science, cryptography, etc. where employment of ideas from discrete mathematics has proven to be fruitful. The first part of the lecture—enumerative combinatorics—deals with several classical enumeration problems (Binomial coefficients, Stirling numbers), counting under group actions and generating function. The second half of the lecture—graph theory—includes a discussion of basic notions such as chromatic number, planarity, matchings in graphs, Ramsey theory, and expanders, and their applications.</p>					

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to

- demonstrate their mastery of basic tools in discrete mathematics.
- develop the ability to use discrete mathematics concepts (such as graphs) to model problems in computer science.
- analyze the definition of basic combinatorial objects such as graphs, permutations, partitions, etc.
- formulate and design methods and algorithms for solving applied problems based on concepts from discrete mathematics.

Indicative Literature

J.H. van Lint and R.M. Wilson (2001). A Course in Combinatorics, second edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

B. Bollobas (1998). Modern Graph Theory, Berlin: Springer.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- This module is recommended for students pursuing a minor in Mathematics

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of this module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2 New Skills

8.2.1 Logic (perspective I)

Module Name Logic (perspective I)		Module Code CTNS-NSK-01	Level (type) Year 2 (New Skills)	CP 2.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTNS-01	Logic (perspective I)	Lecture (online)	2.5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jules Coleman	Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for all UG students (one perspective must be chosen)	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	Online lecture (17.5h) Private study (45h)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	62.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Suppose a friend asks you to help solve a complicated problem? Where do you begin? Arguably, the first and most difficult task you face is to figure out what the heart of the problem actually is. In doing that you will look for structural similarities between the problem posed and other problems that arise in different fields that others may have addressed successfully. Those similarities may point you to a pathway for resolving the problem you have been asked to solve. But it is not enough to look for structural similarities. Sometimes relying on similarities may even be misleading. Once you've settled tentatively on what you take to be the heart of the matter, you will naturally look for materials, whether evidence or arguments, that you believe is relevant to its potential solution. But the evidence you investigate of course depends on your formulation of the problem, and your formulation of the problem likely depends on the tools you have available – including potential sources of evidence and argumentation. You cannot ignore this interactivity, but you can't allow yourself to be hamstrung entirely by it. But there is more. The problem itself may be too big to be manageable all at once, so you will have to explore whether it can be broken into manageable parts and if the information you have bears on all or only some of those parts. And later you will face the problem of whether the solutions to the particular sub problems can be put together coherently to solve the entire problem taken as a whole.</p> <p>What you are doing is what we call engaging in computational thinking. There are several elements of computational thinking illustrated above. These include: Decomposition (breaking the larger problem down into smaller ones); Pattern recognition (identifying structural similarities); Abstraction (ignoring irrelevant particulars of the problem); and Creating Algorithms, problem-solving formulas.</p> <p>But even more basic to what you are doing is the process of drawing inferences from the material you have. After all, how else are you going to create a problem-solving formula, if you draw incorrect inferences about what information has shown and what, if anything follows logically from it. What you must do is apply the rules of logic to the information to draw inferences that are warranted.</p> <p>We distinguish between informal and formal systems of logic, both of which are designed to indicate fallacies as well as warranted inferences. If I argue for a conclusion by appealing to my physical ability to coerce you, I prove nothing about</p>				

the truth of what I claim. If anything, by doing so I display my lack of confidence in my argument. Or if the best I can do is berate you for your skepticism, I have done little more than offer an ad hominem instead of an argument. Our focus will be on formal systems of logic, since they are at the heart of both scientific argumentation and computer developed algorithms. There are in fact many different kinds of logic and all figure to varying degrees in scientific inquiry. There are inductive types of logic, which purport to formalize the relationship between premises that if true offer evidence on behalf of a conclusion and the conclusion and are represented as claims about the extent to which the conclusion is confirmed by the premises. There are deductive types of logic, which introduce a different relationship between premise and conclusion. These variations of logic consist in rules that if followed entail that if the premises are true then the conclusion too must be true.

There are also modal types of logic which are applied specifically to the concepts of necessity and possibility, and thus to the relationship among sentences that include either or both those terms. And there is also what are called deontic logic, a modification of logic that purport to show that there are rules of inference that allow us to infer what we ought to do from facts about the circumstances in which we find ourselves. In the natural and social sciences most of the emphasis has been placed on inductive logic, whereas in math it is placed on deductive logic, and in modern physics there is an increasing interest in the concepts of possibility and necessity and thus in modal logic. The humanities, especially normative discussions in philosophy and literature are the province of deontic logic.

This module will also take students through the central aspects of computational thinking, as it is related to logic; it will introduce the central concepts in each, their relationship to one another and begin to provide the conceptual apparatus and practical skills for scientific inquiry and research.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students acquire transferable and key skills in this module.

By the end of this module, the students will be able to

1. apply the various principles of logic and expand them to computational thinking.
2. understand the way in which logical processes in humans and in computers are similar and different at the same time.
3. apply the basic rules of first-order deductive logic and employ them rules in the context of creating a scientific or social scientific study and argument.
4. employ those rules in the context of creating a scientific or social scientific study and argument.

Indicative Literature

Frege, Gottlob (1879), Begriffsschrift, eine der arithmetischen nachgebildete Formelsprache des reinen Denkens [Translation: A Formal Language for Pure Thought Modeled on that of Arithmetic], Halle an der Salle: Verlag von Louis Nebert.

Gödel, Kurt (1986), Russels mathematische Logik. In: Alfred North Whitehead, Bertrand Russell: Principia Mathematica. Vorwort, S. V–XXXIV. Suhrkamp.

Leeds, Stephen. "George Boolos and Richard Jeffrey. Computability and logic. Cambridge University Press, New York and London 1974, x+ 262 pp." The Journal of Symbolic Logic 42.4 (1977): 585-586.

Kubica, Jeremy. Computational fairy tales. Jeremy Kubica, 2012.

McCarthy, Timothy. "Richard Jeffrey. Formal logic: Its scope and limits. of XXXVIII 646. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York etc. 1981, xvi+ 198 pp." The Journal of Symbolic Logic 49.4 (1984): 1408-1409.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written Examination

Duration: 60 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2.2 Logic (perspective II)

Module Name Logic (perspective II)		Module Code CTNS-NSK-02	Level (type) Year 2 (New Skills)	CP 2.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTNS-02	Logic (perspective II)	Lecture (online)	2.5	
Module Coordinator NN	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for all UG students (one perspective must be chosen)	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	Online lecture (17.5h) Private study (45h)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	62.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>The focus of this module is on formal systems of logic, since they are at the heart of both scientific argumentation and computer developed algorithms. There are in fact many kinds of logic and all figure to varying degrees in scientific inquiry. There are inductive types of logic, which purport to formalize the relationship between premises that if true offer evidence on behalf of a conclusion and the conclusion and are represented as claims about the extent to which the conclusion is confirmed by the premises. There are deductive types of logic, which introduce a different relationship between premise and conclusion. These variations of logic consist in rules that if followed entail that if the premises are true then the conclusion too must be true.</p> <p>This module introduces logics that go beyond traditional deductive propositional logic and predicate logic and as such it is aimed at students who are already familiar with basics of traditional formal logic. The aim of the module is to provide an overview of alternative logics and to develop a sensitivity that there are many different logics that can provide effective tools for solving problems in specific application domains.</p> <p>The module first reviews the principles of a traditional logic and then introduces many-valued logics that distinguish more than two truth values, for example true, false, and unknown. Fuzzy logic extends traditional logic by replacing truth values with real numbers in the range 0 to 1 that are expressing how strong the believe into a proposition is. Modal logics introduce modal operators expressing whether a proposition is necessary or possible. Temporal logics deal with propositions that are qualified by time. One can view temporal logics as a form of modal logics where propositions are qualified by time constraints. Interval temporal logic provides a way to reason about time intervals in which propositions are true.</p> <p>The module will also investigate the application of logic frameworks to specific classes of problems. For example, a special subset of predicate logic, based on so-called Horn clauses, forms the basis of logic programming languages such as Prolog. Description logics, which are usually decidable logics, are used to model relationships and they have applications in the semantic web, which enables search engines to reason about resources present on the Internet.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
Students acquire transferable and key skills in this module.				
By the end of this module, the students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. apply the various principles of logic 2. explain practical relevance of non-standard logic 3. describe how many-valued logic extends basic predicate logic 4. apply basic rules of fuzzy logic to calculate partial truth values 				

5. sketch basic rules of temporal logic
6. implement predicates in a logic programming language
7. prove some simple non-standard logic theorems

Indicative Literature

- Bergmann, Merry. "An Introduction to Many-Valued and Fuzzy Logic: Semantics, Algebras, and Derivation Systems", Cambridge University Press, April 2008.
- Sterling, Leon S., Ehud Y. Shapiro, Ehud Y. "The Art of Prolog", 2nd edition, MIT Press, March 1994.
- Fisher, Michael. "An Introduction to Practical Formal Methods Using Temporal Logic", Wiley, Juli 2011.
- Baader, Franz. "The Description Logic Handbook: Theory Implementation and Applications", Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition, May 2010.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules**Examination Type: Module Examination**

Assessment Type: Written Examination

Duration: 60 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2.3 Causation and Correlation (perspective I)

Module Name Causation and Correlation (perspective I)		Module Code CTNS-NSK-03	Level (type) Year 2 (New Skills)	CP 2.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type		CP
CTNS-03	Causation and Correlation	Lecture (online)		2.5
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jules Coleman	Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for all UG students (one perspective must be chosen)	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	Online lecture (17.5h) Private study (45h)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	62.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>In many ways, life is a journey. And also, as in other journeys, our success or failure depends not only on our personal traits and character, our physical and mental health, but also on the accuracy of our map. We need to know what the world we are navigating is actually like, the how, why and the what of what makes it work the way it does. The natural sciences provide the most important tool we have developed to learn how the world works and why it works the way it does. The social sciences provide the most advanced tools we have to learn how we and other human beings, similar in most ways, different in many others, act and react and what makes them do what they do. In order for our maps to be useful, they must be accurate and correctly reflect the way the natural and social worlds work and why they work as they do.</p> <p>The natural sciences and social sciences are blessed with enormous amounts of data. In this way, history and the present are gifts to us. To understand how and why the world works the way it does requires that we are able to offer an explanation of it. The data supports a number of possible explanations of it. How are we to choose among potential explanations? Explanations, if sound, will enable us to make reliable predictions about what the future will be like, and also to identify many possibilities that may unfold in the future. But there are differences not just in the degree of confidence we have in our predictions, but in whether some of them are necessary future states or whether all of them are merely possibilities? Thus, there are three related activities at the core of scientific inquiry: understanding where we are now and how we got here (historical); knowing what to expect going forward (prediction); and exploring how we can change the paths we are on (creativity).</p> <p>At the heart of these activities are certain fundamental concepts, all of which are related to the scientific quest to uncover immutable and unchanging laws of nature. Laws of nature are thought to reflect a <u>causal</u> nexus between a previous event and a future one. There are also true statements that reflect universal or nearly universal connections between events past and present that are not laws of nature because the relationship they express is that of a <u>correlation</u> between events. A working thermostat accurately allows us to determine or even to predict the temperature in the room in which it is located, but it does not explain why the room has the temperature it has. What then is the core difference between causal relationships and correlations? At the same time, we all recognize that given where we are now there are many possible futures for each of us, and even had our lives gone just the slightest bit differently than they have, our present state could well have been very different than it is. The relationship between possible pathways between events that have not materialized but could have is expressed through the idea of <u>counterfactual</u>.</p>				

Creating accurate roadmaps, forming expectations we can rely on, making the world a more verdant and attractive place requires us to understand the concepts of causation, correlation, counterfactual explanation, prediction, necessity, possibility, law of nature and universal generalization. This course is designed precisely to provide the conceptual tools and intellectual skills to implement those concepts in our future readings and research and ultimately in our experimental investigations, and to employ those tools in various disciplines.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students acquire transferable and key skills in this module.

By the end of this module, the students will be able to

1. formulate testable hypotheses that are designed to reveal causal connections and those designed to reveal interesting, important and useful correlations.
2. distinguish scientifically interesting correlations from unimportant ones.
3. apply critical thinking skills to evaluate information.
4. understand when and why inquiry into unrealized possibility is important and relevant.

Indicative Literature

Thomas S. Kuhn: The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, Nelson, fourth edition 2012;

Goodman, Nelson. Fact, fiction, and forecast. Harvard University Press, 1983;

Quine, Willard Van Orman, and Joseph Silbert Ullian. The web of belief. Vol. 2. New York: Random house, 1978.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written Examination

Duration/Length: 60 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2.4 Causation and Correlation (perspective II)

Module Name			Module Code	Level (type)	CP
Causation and Correlation (perspective II)			CTNS-NSK-04	Year 2 (New Skills)	2.5
Module Components					
Number		Name		Type	CP
CTNS-04		Causation and Correlations (perspective II)		Lecture (online)	2.5
Module Coordinator		Program Affiliation		Mandatory Status	
Dr. Keivan Mallahi Karai Dr. Eoin Ryan Dr. Irina Chiaburu		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory elective for all UG students (one perspective must be chosen)	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Annually (Spring)	Online lecture (17.5h) Private study (45h)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	Basic probability theory		Duration	Workload
			1 semester	62.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation					
Content and Educational Aims					
<p>Causality or causation is a surprisingly difficult concept to understand. David Hume famously noted that causality is a concept that our science and philosophy cannot do without, but it is equally a concept that our science and philosophy cannot describe. Since Hume, the problem of cause has not gone away, and sometimes seems to get even worse (e.g., quantum mechanics confusing previous notions of causality). Yet, ways of doing science that lessen our need to explicitly use causality have become very effective (e.g., huge developments in statistics). Nevertheless, it still seems that the concept of causality is at the core of explaining how the world works, across fields as diverse as physics, medicine, logistics, the law, sociology, and history – and ordinary daily life – through all of which, explanations and predictions in terms of cause and effect remain intuitively central.</p> <p>Causality remains a thorny problem but, in recent decades, significant progress has occurred, particularly in work by or inspired by Judea Pearl. This work incorporates many 20th century developments, including statistical methods – but with a reemphasis on finding the why, or the cause, behind statistical correlations –, progress in understanding the logic, semantics and metaphysics of conditionals and counterfactuals, developments based on insights from the likes of philosopher Hans Reichenbach or biological statistician Sewall Wright into causal precedence and path analysis, and much more. The result is a new toolkit to identify causes and build causal explanations. Yet even as we get better at identifying causes, this raises new (or old) questions about causality, including metaphysical questions about the nature of causes (and effects, events, objects, etc), but also questions about what we really use causality for (understanding the world as it is or just to glean predictive control of specific outcomes), about how causality is used differently in different fields and</p>					

activities (is cause in physics the same as that in history?), and about how other crucial concepts relate to our concept of cause (space and time seem to be related to causality, but so do concepts of legal and moral responsibility).

This course will introduce students to the mathematical formalism derived from Pearl's work, based on directed acyclic graphs and probability theory. Building upon previous work by Reichenbach and Wright, Pearl defines a "a calculus of interventions" of "do-calculus" for talking about interventions and their relation to causation and counterfactuals. This model has been applied in various areas ranging from econometrics to statistics, where acquiring knowledge about causality is of great importance.

At the same time, the course will not forget some of the metaphysical and epistemological issues around cause, so that students can better critically evaluate putative causal explanations in their full context. Abstractly, such issues involve some of the same philosophical questions Hume already asked, but more practically, it is important to see how metaphysical and epistemological debates surrounding the notion of cause affect scientific practice, and equally if not more importantly, how scientific practice pushes the limits of theory. This course will look at various ways in which empirical data can be transformed into explanations and theories, including the variance approach to causality (characteristic of the positivistic quantitative paradigm), and the process theory of causality (associated with qualitative methodology). Examples and case studies will be relevant for students of the social sciences but also students of the natural/physical world as well.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students acquire transferable and key skills in this module.

By the end of this module, the students will be able to

1. have a clear understanding of the history of causal thinking.
2. be able to form a critical understanding of the key debates and controversies surrounding the idea of causality.
3. be able to recognize and apply probabilistic causal models.
4. be able to explain how understanding of causality differs among different disciplines.
5. be able demonstrate how theoretical thinking about causality has shaped scientific practices.

Indicative Literature

Paul, L. A. and Ned Hall. Causation: A User's Guide. Oxford University Press 2013.

Pearl, Judea. Causality: Models, Reasoning and Inference. Cambridge University Press 2009

Pearl, Judea, Glymour Madelyn and Jewell, Nicolas. Causal Inference in Statistics: A Primer. Wiley 2016

Ilari, Phyllis McKay and Federica Russo. Causality: Philosophical Theory Meets Scientific Practice. Oxford University Press 2014.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment: Written examination

Duration/Length: 60 min

Weight: 100 %

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2.5 Linear Model and Matrices

Module Name			Module Code	Level (type)	CP
Linear Model and Matrices			CTNS-NSK-05	Year 3 (New Skills)	5
Module Components					
Number		Name		Type	CP
CTNS-05		Linear models and Matrices		Seminar (online)	5
Module Coordinator		Program Affiliation		Mandatory Status	
Prof. Dr. Marc-Thorsten Hütt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory elective	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Annually (Fall)	Online lecture (35h) Private Study (90h)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logic				Duration	Workload
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Causation & Correlation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			1 Semester	125 hours
Recommendations for Preparation					
Content and Educational Aims					
<p>There are no universal 'right skills'. But the notion of linear models and the avenue to matrices and their properties can be useful in diverse disciplines to implement a quantitative, computational approach. Some of the most popular data and systems analysis strategies are built upon this framework. Examples include principal component analysis (PCA), the optimization techniques used in Operations Research (OR), the assessment of stable and unstable states in nonlinear dynamical systems, as well as aspects of machine learning.</p> <p>Here we introduce the toolbox of linear models and matrix-based methods embedded in a wide range of transdisciplinary applications (part 1). We describe its foundation in linear algebra (part 2) and the range of tools and methods derived from this conceptual framework (part 3). At the end of the course, we outline applications to graph theory and machine learning (part 4). Matrices can be useful representations of networks and of system of linear equations. They are also the core object of linear stability analysis, an approach used in nonlinear dynamics. Throughout the course, examples from neuroscience, social sciences, medicine, biology, physics, chemistry, and other fields are used to illustrate these methods.</p> <p>A strong emphasis of the course is on the sensible usage of linear approaches in a nonlinear world. We will critically reflect the advantages as well as the disadvantages and limitations of this method. Guiding questions are: How appropriate is a linear approximation of a nonlinear system? What do you really learn from PCA? How reliable are the optimal states obtained via linear programming (LP) techniques?</p> <p>This debate is embedded in a broader context: How does the choice of a mathematical technique confine your view on the system at hand? How, on the other hand, does it increase your capabilities of analyzing the system (due to software available for this technique, the ability to compare with findings from other fields built upon the same technique and the volume of knowledge about this technique)?</p>					

In the end, students will have a clearer understanding of linear models and matrix approaches in their own discipline, but they will also see the full transdisciplinarity of this topic. They will make better decisions in their choice of data analysis methods and become mindful of the challenges when going from a linear to a nonlinear thinking.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to

1. apply the concept of linear modeling in their own discipline
2. distinguish between linear and nonlinear interpretation strategies and understand the range of applicability of linear models
3. make use of data analysis / data interpretation strategies from other disciplines, which are derived from linear algebra
4. be aware of the ties that linear models have to machine learning and network theory

Note that these four ILOs can be loosely associated with the four parts of the course indicated above

Indicative Literature

Part 1:

material from Linear Algebra for Everyone, Gilbert Strang, Wellesley-Cambridge Press, 2020

Part 2:

material from Introduction to Linear Algebra (5th Edition), Gilbert Strang, Cambridge University Press, 2021

Part 3:

Mainzer, Klaus. "Introduction: from linear to nonlinear thinking." Thinking in Complexity: The Computational Dynamics of Matter, Mind and Mankind (2007): 1-16.

material from Mathematics of Big Data: Spreadsheets, Databases, Matrices, and Graphs, Jeremy Kepner, Hayden Jananathan, The MIT Press, 2018

material from Introduction to Linear Algebra (5th Edition), Gilbert Strang, Cambridge University Press, 2021

Part 4:

material from Linear Algebra and Learning from Data, Gilbert Strang, Wellesley-Cambridge Press, 2019

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment: Written examination

Duration/Length: 120 min

Weight: 100 %

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2.6 Complex Problem Solving

Module Name			Module Code	Level (type)	CP
Complex Problem Solving			CTNS-NSK-06	Year 3 (New Skills)	5
Module Components					
Number		Name		Type	CP
CTNS-06		Complex Problem Solving		Lecture (online)	5
Module Coordinator		Program Affiliation		Mandatory Status	
Prof. Dr. Marco Verweij		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory elective	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Annually (Fall)	Online Lectures (35h) Private Study (90h)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logic		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being able to read primary academic literature Willingness to engage in teamwork 		Duration	Workload
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Causation & Correlation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			1 semester	125 hours
Recommendations for Preparation					
Please read: Camillus, J. (2008). Strategy as a wicked problem. Harvard Business Review 86: 99-106; Rogers, P. J. (2008). Using programme theory to evaluate complicated and complex aspects of interventions. Evaluation, 14, 29–48.					
Content and Educational Aims					
<p>Complex problems are, by definition, non-linear and/or emergent. Some fifty years ago, scholars such as Herbert Simon began to argue that societies around the world had developed an impressive array of tools with which to solve simple and even complicated problems, but still needed to develop methods with which to address the rapidly increasing number of complex issues. Since then, a variety of such methods has emerged. These include ‘serious games’ developed in computer science, ‘multisector systems analysis’ applied in civil and environmental engineering, ‘robust decision-making’ proposed by the RAND Corporation, ‘design thinking’ developed in engineering and business studies, ‘structured problem solving’ used by McKinsey & Co., ‘real-time technology assessment’ advocated in science and technology studies, and ‘deliberative decision-making’ emanating from political science.</p> <p>In this course, students first learn to distinguish between simple, complicated and complex problems. They also become familiar with the ways in which a particular issue can sometimes shift from one category into another. In addition, the participants learn to apply several tools for resolving complex problems. Finally, the students are introduced to the various ways in which natural and social scientists can help stakeholders resolve complex problems. Throughout the course examples and applications will be used. When possible, guest lectures will be offered by experts on a particular tool for tackling complex issues. For the written, take-home exam, students will have to select a specific complex problem, analyse it and come up with a recommendation – in addition to answering several questions about the material learned.</p>					

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to

1. Identify a complex problem;
2. Develop an acceptable recommendation for resolving complex problems.
3. Understand the roles that natural and social scientists can play in helping stakeholders resolve complex problems;

Indicative Literature

Chia, A. (2019). Distilling the essence of the McKinsey way: The problem-solving cycle. *Management Teaching Review* 4(4): 350-377.

Den Haan, J., van der Voort, M.C., Baart, F., Berends, K.D., van den Berg, M.C., Straatsma, M.W., Geenen, A.J.P., & Hulscher, S.J.M.H. (2020). The virtual river game: Gaming using models to collaboratively explore river management complexity, *Environmental Modelling & Software* 134, 104855,

Folke, C., Carpenter, S., Elmqvist, T., Gunderson, L., Holling, C.S., & Walker, B. (2002). Resilience and sustainable development: Building adaptive capacity in a world of transformations. *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment* 31(5): 437-440.

Ostrom, E. (2010). Beyond markets and states: Polycentric governance of complex economic systems. *American Economic Review* 100(3): 641-72.

Pielke, R. Jr. (2007). *The honest broker: Making sense of science in policy and politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Project Management Institute (2021). *A guide to the project management body of knowledge (PMBOK® guide)*.

Schon, D. A., & Rein, M. (1994). *Frame reflection: Toward the resolution of intractable policy controversies*. New York: Basic Books.

Simon, H. A. (1973). The structure of ill structured problems. *Artificial Intelligence* 4(3-4): 181-201.

Verweij, M. & Thompson, M. (Eds.) (2006). *Clumsy solutions for a complex world*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules**Examination Type: Module Examination**

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2.7 Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (perspective I)

Module Name Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (perspective I)		Module Code CTNS-NSK-07	Level (type) Year 3 (New Skills)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTNS-07	Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (perspective I)	Lecture (online)	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jules Coleman, Prof Dr. Arvid Kappas	Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for all UG students (one perspective must be chosen)	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Causation & Correlation	Co-requisites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills	Annually (Fall)	Online Lectures (35h) Private Study (90h)
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	125h	
Recommendations for Preparation				
<p>One must be careful not to confuse argumentation with being argumentative. The latter is an unattractive personal attribute, whereas the former is a requirement of publicly holding a belief, asserting the truth of a proposition, the plausibility of a hypothesis, or a judgment of the value of a person or an asset. It is an essential component of public discourse. Public discourse is governed by norms and one of those norms is that those who assert the truth of a proposition or the validity of an argument or the responsibility of another for wrongdoing open themselves up to good faith requests to defend their claims. In its most general meaning, argumentation is the requirement that one offer evidence in support of the claims they make, as well as in defense of the judgments and assessments they reach. There are different modalities of argumentation associated with different contexts and disciplines. Legal arguments have a structure of their own as do assessments of medical conditions and moral character. In each case, there are differences in the kind of evidence that is thought relevant and, more importantly, in the standards of assessment for whether a case has been successfully made. Different modalities of argumentation require can call for different modes of reasoning. We not only offer reasons in defense of or in support of beliefs we have, judgments we make and hypotheses we offer, but we reason from evidence we collect to conclusions that are warranted by them.</p> <p>Reasoning can be informal and sometimes even appear unstructured. When we recognize some reasoning as unstructured yet appropriate what we usually have in mind is that it is not linear. Most reasoning we are familiar with is linear in character. From A we infer B, and from A and B we infer C, which all together support our commitment to D. The same form of reasoning applies whether the evidence for A, B or C is direct or circumstantial. What changes in these cases is perhaps the weight we give to the evidence and thus the confidence we have in drawing inferences from it.</p> <p>Especially in cases where reasoning can be supported by quantitative data, wherever quantitative data can be obtained either directly or by linear or nonlinear models, the visualization of the corresponding data can become key in both, reasoning and argumentation. A graphical representation can reduce the complexity of argumentation and is considered</p>				

a must in effective scientific communication. Consequently, the course will also focus on smart and compelling ways for data visualization - in ways that go beyond what is typically taught in statistics or mathematics lectures. These tools are constantly developing, as a reflection of new software and changes in state of the presentation art. Which graph or bar chart to use best for which data, the use of colors to underline messages and arguments, but also the pitfalls when presenting data in a poor or even misleading manner. This will also help in readily identifying intentional misrepresentation of data by others, the simplest to recognize being truncating the ordinate of a graph in order to exaggerate trends. This frequently leads to false arguments, which can then be readily countered.

There are other modalities of reasoning that are not linear however. Instead they are coherentist. We argue for the plausibility of a claim sometimes by showing that it fits in with a set of other claims for which we have independent support. The fit is itself the reason that is supposed to provide confidence or grounds for believing the contested claim.

Other times, the nature of reasoning involves establishing not just the fit but the mutual support individual items in the evidentiary set provide for one another. This is the familiar idea of a web of interconnected, mutually supportive beliefs. In some cases, the support is in all instances strong; in others it is uniformly weak, but the set is very large; in other cases, the support provided each bit of evidence for the other is mixed: sometimes strong, sometimes weak, and so on.

There are three fundamental ideas that we want to extract from this segment of the course. These are (1) that argumentation is itself a requirement of being a researcher who claims to have made findings of one sort or another; (2) that there are different forms of appropriate argumentation for different domains and circumstances; and (3) that there are different forms of reasoning on behalf of various claims or from various bits of evidence to conclusions: whether those conclusions are value judgments, political beliefs, or scientific conclusions. Our goal is to familiarize you with all three of these deep ideas and to help you gain facility with each.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students acquire transferable and key skills in this module.

By the end of this module, the students will be able to:

1. Distinguish among different modalities of argument, e.g. legal arguments, vs. scientific ones.
2. Construct arguments using tools of data visualization.
3. Communicate conclusions and arguments concisely, clearly and convincingly.

Indicative Literature

- Tufte, E.R. (1985). The visual display of quantitative information. The Journal for Healthcare Quality (JHQ), 7(3), 15.
- Cairo, A (2012). The Functional Art: An introduction to information graphics and visualization. New Riders.
- Knaflic, C.N. (2015). Storytelling with data: A data visualization guide for business professionals. John Wiley & Sons.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written Examination

Duration/Length: 120 (min)

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2.8 Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (perspective II)

Module Name Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (perspective II)			Module Code CTNS-NSK-08	Level (type) Year 3 (New Skills)	CP 5
Module Components					
Number		Name		Type	CP
CTNS-08		Argumentation, Data Visualization and Communication (perspective II)		Lecture (online)	5
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jules Coleman, Prof Dr. Arvid Kappas		Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective for all UG students (one perspective must be chosen)	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Lecture (35 hours) Tutorial of the lecture (10 hours) Private study for the lecture (80 hours)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	ability and openness to engage in interactions media literacy, critical thinking and a proficient handling of data sources own research in academic literature			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Causation & Correlation			Duration	Workload	
			1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation					
Content and Educational Aims					
<p>Humans are a social species and interaction is crucial throughout the entire life span. While much of human communication involves language, there is a complex multichannel system of nonverbal communication that enriches linguistic content, provides context, and is also involved in structuring dynamic interaction. Interactants achieve goals by encoding information that is interpreted in the light of current context in transactions with others. This complexity implies also that there are frequent misunderstandings as a sender's intention is not fulfilled. Students in this course will learn to understand the structure of communication processes in a variety of formal and informal contexts. They will learn what constitutes challenges to achieving successful communication and to how to communicate effectively, taking the context and specific requirements for a target audience into consideration. These aspects will be discussed also in the scientific context, as well as business, and special cases, such as legal context – particularly with view to argumentation theory.</p> <p>Communication is a truly transdisciplinary concept that involves knowledge from diverse fields such as biology, psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, sociology, philosophy, communication and information science. Students will learn what these different disciplines contribute to an understanding of communication and how theories from these fields can be applied in the real world. In the context of scientific communication, there will also be a focus on visual communication of data in different disciplines. Good practice examples will be contrasted with typical errors to facilitate successful communication also with view to the Bachelor's thesis.</p>					

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to

1. Analyze communication processes in formal and informal contexts.
2. Identify challenges and failures in communication.
3. Design communications to achieve specified goals to specific target groups.
4. Understand the principles of argumentation theory.
5. Use data visualization in scientific communications.

Indicative Literature

- Joseph A. DeVito: The Interpersonal Communication Book (Global edition, 16th edition), 2022
- Steven L. Franconeri, Luce M. Padilla, Priti Shah, Jeffrey M. Zacks, and Jessica Hullman: The Science of Visual Data Communication: What Works Psychological Science in the Public Interest, 22(3), 110–161, 2022
- Douglas Walton: Argumentation Theory – A Very Short Introduction. In: Simari, G., Rahwan, I. (eds) Argumentation in Artificial Intelligence. Springer, Boston, MA, 2009

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Digital submission of asynchronous presentation, including reflection

Duration/Length: Asynchronous/Digital submission

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Module achievement: Asynchronous presentation on a topic relating to the major of the student, including a reflection including concept outlining the rationale for how arguments are selected and presented based on a particular target group for a particular purpose. The presentation shall be multimedial and include the presentation of data

The module achievement ensures sufficient knowledge about key concepts of effective communication including a reflection on the presentation itself

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%%.

8.2.9 Agency, Leadership, and Accountability

Module Name Agency, Leadership, and Accountability		Module Code CTNS-NSK-09	Level (type) Year 3 (New Skills)	CP 5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTNS-09	Agency, Leadership, and Accountability	Lecture (online)	5	
Module Coordinator Prof. Dr. Jules Coleman	Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory for ACS Mandatory elective for all other UG study programs	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	Online Lectures (35h) Private Study (90h)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Each of us is judged by the actions we undertake and held to account for the consequences of them. Sometimes we may be lucky and our bad acts don't have harmful effects on others. Other times we may be unlucky and reasonable decisions can lead to unexpected or unforeseen adverse consequences for others. We are therefore held accountable both for choices and for outcomes. In either case, accountability expresses the judgment that we bear responsibility for what we do and what happens as a result. But our responsibility and our accountability in these cases is closely connected to the idea that we have agency.</p> <p>Agency presumes that we are the source of the choices we make and the actions that result from those choices. For some, this may entail the idea that we have free will. But there is scientific world view that holds that all actions are determined by the causes that explain them, which is the idea that if we knew the causes of your decisions in advance, we would know the decision you would make even before you made it. If that is so, how can your choice be free? And if it is not free, how can you be responsible for it? And if you cannot be responsible, how can we justifiably hold you to account for it?</p> <p>These questions express the centuries old questions about the relationship between free will and a determinist world view: for some, the conflict between a scientific world view and a moral world view.</p> <p>But we do not always act as individuals. In society we organize ourselves into groups: e.g. tightly organized social groups, loosely organized market economies, political societies, companies, and more. These groups have structure. Some individuals are given the responsibility of leading the group and of exercising authority. But one can exercise authority over others in a group merely by giving orders and threatening punishment for non-compliance.</p> <p>Exercising authority is not the same thing as being a leader? For one can lead by example or by encouraging others to exercise personal judgment and authority. What then is the essence of leadership?</p> <p>The module has several educational goals. The first is for students to understand the difference between actions that we undertake for which we can reasonably held accountable and things that we do but which we are not responsible for. For example, a twitch is an example of the latter, but so too may be a car accident we cause as a result of a heart attack we</p>				

had no way of anticipating or controlling. This suggests the importance of control to responsibility. At the heart of personal agency is the idea of control. The second goal is for students to understand what having control means. Some think that the scientific view is that the world is deterministic, and if it is then we cannot have any personal control over what happens, including what we do. Others think that the quantum scientific view entails a degree of indeterminacy and that free will and control are possible, but only in the sense of being unpredictable or random. But then random outcomes are not ones we control either. So, we will devote most attention to trying to understand the relationships between control, causation and predictability.

But we do not only exercise agency in isolation. Sometimes we act as part of groups and organizations. The law often recognizes ways in which groups and organizations can have rights, but is there a way in which we can understand how groups have responsibility for outcomes that they should be accountable for. We need to figure out then whether there is a notion of group agency that does not simply boil down to the sum of individual actions. We will explore the ways in which individual actions lead to collective agency.

Finally we will explore the ways in which occupying a leadership role can make one accountable for the actions of others over which one has authority.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students acquire transferable and key skills in this module.

By the end of this module, the students will be able to

1. Understand and reflect how the social and moral world views that rely on agency and responsibility are compatible, if they are, with current scientific world views.
2. understand how science is an economic sector, populated by large powerful organizations that set norms and fund research agendas.
3. identify the difference between being a leader of others or of a group – whether a research group or a lab or a company – and being in charge of the group.
4. learn to be a leader of others and groups. Understand that when one graduates one will enter not just a field of work but a heavily structured set of institutions and that one's agency and responsibility for what happens, what work gets done, its quality and value, will be affected accordingly.

Indicative Literature

Hull, David L. "Science as a Process." Science as a Process. University of Chicago Press, 2010;

Feinberg, Joel. "Doing & deserving; essays in the theory of responsibility." (1970).

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written examination

Duration/Length: 120 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.2.10 Community Impact Project

Module Name Community Impact Project			Module Code CTNS-CIP-10	Level (type) Year 3 (New Skills)	CP 5
Module Components					
Number		Name		Type	CP
CTNS-10		Community Impact Project		Project	5
Module Coordinator CIP Faculty Coordinator		Program Affiliation • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective	
Entry Requirements			Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills		Annually (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory, accompanying, and final events: 10 hours • Self-organized teamwork and/or practical work in the community: 115 hours
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at least 15 CP from CORE modules in the major	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	Basic knowledge of the main concepts and methodological instruments of the respective disciplines			
			Duration	Workload	
			1 semester	125 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation					
Develop or join a community impact project before the 5 th or 6 th semester based on the introductory events during the 4 th semester by using the database of projects, communicating with fellow students and faculty, and finding potential companies, organizations, or communities to target.					
Content and Educational Aims					
<p>CIPs are self-organized, major-related, and problem-centered applications of students' acquired knowledge and skills. These activities will ideally be connected to their majors so that they will challenge the students' sense of practical relevance and social responsibility within the field of their studies. Projects will tackle real issues in their direct and/or broader social environment. These projects ideally connect the campus community to other communities, companies, or organizations in a mutually beneficial way.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to create their own projects and find partners (e.g., companies, schools, NGOs), but will get help from the CIP faculty coordinator team and faculty mentors to do so. They can join and collaborate in interdisciplinary groups that attack a given issue from different disciplinary perspectives.</p> <p>Student activities are self-organized but can draw on the support and guidance of both faculty and the CIP faculty coordinator team.</p>					
Intended Learning Outcomes					
<p>The Community Impact Project is designed to convey the required personal and social competencies for enabling students to finish their studies at Constructor University as socially conscious and responsible graduates (part of the Constructor University's mission) and to convey social and personal abilities to the students, including a practical awareness of the societal context and relevance of their academic discipline.</p> <p>By the end of this project, students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the real-life issues of communities, organizations, and industries and relate them to concepts in their own discipline; • enhance problem-solving skills and develop critical faculty, create solutions to problems, and communicate these solutions appropriately to their audience; • apply media and communication skills in diverse and non-peer social contexts; • develop an awareness of the societal relevance of their own scientific actions and a sense of social responsibility for their social surroundings; 					

- reflect on their own behavior critically in relation to social expectations and consequences;
- work in a team and deal with diversity, develop cooperation and conflict skills, and strengthen their empathy and tolerance for ambiguity.

Indicative Literature

Not specified

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

- Students who have accomplished their CIP (6th semester) are encouraged to support their fellow students during the development phase of the next year's projects (4th semester).

Examination Type: Module Examination

Project, not numerically graded (pass/fail)

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module

8.3 Language and Humanities Modules

8.3.1 Languages

The descriptions of the language modules are provided in a separate document, the “Language Module Handbook” that can be accessed from the Constructor University’s Language & Community Center internet sites (<https://constructor.university/student-life/language-community-center/learning-languages>).

8.3.2 Humanities

8.3.2.1 Introduction to Philosophical Ethics

Module Name Introduction to Philosophical Ethics		Module Code CTHU-HUM-001	Level (type) Year 1	CP 2.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type		CP
CTHU-001	Introduction to Philosophical Ethics	Lecture (online)		2.5
Module Coordinator Dr. Eoin Ryan	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Fall)	Online lectures (17.5 h) Private Study (45h)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	62.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>The nature of morality – how to lead a life that is good for yourself, and how to be good towards others – has been a central debate in philosophy since the time of Socrates, and it is a topic that continues to be vigorously discussed. This course will introduce students to some of the key aspects of philosophical ethics, including leading normative theories of ethics (e.g. consequentialism or utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, natural law ethics, egoism) as well as some important questions from metaethics (are useful and generalizable ethical claims even possible; what do ethical speech and ethical judgements actually do or explain) and moral psychology (how do abstract ethical principles do when realized by human psychologies). The course will describe ideas that are key factors in ethics (free will, happiness, responsibility, good, evil, religion, rights) and indicate various routes to progress in understanding ethics, as well as some of their difficulties.</p>				

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to

1. Describe normative ethical theories such as consequentialism, deontology and virtue ethics.
2. Discuss some metaethical concerns.
3. Analyze ethical language.
4. Highlight complexities and contradictions in typical ethical commitments.
5. Indicate common parameters for ethical discussions at individual and social levels.
6. Analyze notions such as objectivity, subjectivity, universality, pluralism, value.

Indicative Literature

Simon Blackburn, *Being Good* (2009)

Russ Shafer-Landay, *A Concise Introduction to Ethics* (2019)

Mark van Roojen, *Metaethics: A Contemporary Introduction* (2015)

Usability and Relationship to other Modules**Examination Type: Module Examination**

Assessment Type: Written Examination

Duration/Length: 60 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

8.3.2.2 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science

Module Name Introduction to the Philosophy of Science		Module Code CTHU-HUM-002	Level (type) Year 1	CP 2.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTHU-002	Introduction to the Philosophy of Science	Lecture (online)	2.5	
Module Coordinator Dr. Eoin Ryan	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Annually (Spring)	Online lectures (17.5h) Private Study (45h)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none			
		Duration	Workload	
		1 semester	62.5 hours	
Recommendations for Preparation				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>This humanities module will introduce students to some of the central ideas in philosophy of science. Topics will include distinguishing science from pseudo-science, types of inference and the problem of induction, the pros and cons of realism and anti-realism, the role of explanation, the nature of scientific change, the difference between natural and social sciences, scientism and the values of science, as well as some examples from philosophy of the special sciences (e.g., physics, biology).</p> <p>The course aims to give students an understanding of how science produces knowledge, and some of the various contexts and issues which mean this process is never entirely transparent, neutral, or unproblematic. Students will gain a critical understanding of science as a human practice and technology; this will enable them both to better understand the importance and success of science, but also how to properly critique science when appropriate.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
<p>Upon completion of this module, students will be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understand key ideas from the philosophy of science. Discuss different types of inference and rational processes. Describe differences between how the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities discover knowledge. Identify ways in which science can be more and less value-laden. Illustrate some important conceptual leaps in the history of science. 				
Indicative Literature				
<p>Peter Godfrey-Smith, Theory and Reality (2021)</p> <p>James Ladyman, Understanding Philosophy of Science (2002)</p> <p>Paul Song, Philosophy of Science: Perspectives from Scientists (2022)</p>				
Usability and Relationship to other Modules				

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment Type: Written Examination

Duration/Length: 60 min

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of the module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination must be passed with at least 45%.

8.3.2.3 Introduction to Visual Culture

Module Name Introduction to Visual Culture		Module Code CTHU-HUM-003	Level (type) Year 1	CP 2.5
Module Components				
Number	Name	Type	CP	
CTHU-003	Introduction to Visual Culture	Lecture (online)	2.5	
Module Coordinator Dr. Irina Chiaburu	Program Affiliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONSTRUCTOR Track Area 		Mandatory Status Mandatory elective	
Entry Requirements		Frequency	Forms of Learning and Teaching	
Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Knowledge, Abilities, or Skills	Annually (Spring/Fall)	Online Lecture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> none		Duration	Workload
			1 semester	62.5 h
Recommendations for Preparation				
Content and Educational Aims				
<p>Of the five senses, the sense of sight has for a long time occupied the central position in human cultures. As John Berger has suggested this could be because we can see and recognize the world around us before we learn how to speak. Images have been with us since the earliest days of the human history. In fact, the earliest records of human history are images found on cave walls across the world. We use images to capture abstract ideas, to catalogue and organize the world, to represent the world, to capture specific moments, to trace time and change, to tell stories, to express feelings, to better understand, to provide evidence and more. At the same time, images exert their power on us, seducing us into believing in their 'innocence', that is into forgetting that as representations they are also interpretations, i.e., a particular version of the world.</p> <p>The purpose of this course is to explore multiple ways in which images and the visual in general mediate and structure human experiences and practices from more specialized discourses, e.g., scientific discourses, to more informal and personal day-to-day practices, such as self-fashioning in cyberspace. We will look at how social and historical contexts affect how we see, as well as what is visible and what is not. We will explore the centrality of the visual to the intellectual activity, from early genres of scientific drawing to visualizations of big data. We will examine whether one can speak of visual culture of protest, look at the relationship between looking and subjectivity and, most importantly, ponder the relationship between the visual and the real.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes				
Upon completion of this module, students will be able to				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understand a range of key concepts pertaining to visual culture, art theory and cultural analysis Understand the role visuality plays in development and maintenance of political, social, and intellectual discourses Think critically about images and their contexts Reflect critically on the connection between seeing and knowing 				
Indicative Literature				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berger, J., Blomberg, S., Fox, C., Dibb, M., & Hollis, R. (1973). Ways of seeing. Foucault, M. (2002). The order of things: an archaeology of the human sciences (Ser. Routledge classics). Routledge. Hunt, L. (2004). Politics, culture, and class in the French revolution: twentieth anniversary edition, with a new preface (Ser. Studies on the history of society and culture, 1). University of California Press. Miller, V. (2020). Understanding digital culture (Second). SAGE. 				

- Thomas, N. (1994). Colonialism's culture: anthropology, travel and government. Polity Press.

Usability and Relationship to other Modules

Examination Type: Module Examination

Assessment: Written examination

Duration/Length: 60 min.

Weight: 100%

Scope: All intended learning outcomes of this module.

Completion: To pass this module, the examination has to be passed with at least 45%

