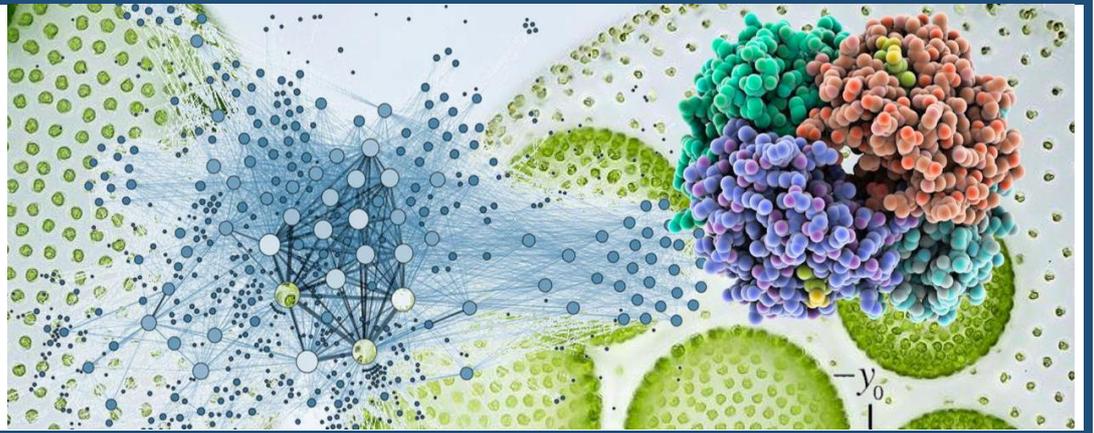


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 03/2018, 1st June



Editor-in-chief: Pinar Heggernes. Editor: Linda Vagtskjold. Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.

Dear colleagues,

It has been exactly one month since I started my new job as the head of department. A month passes very fast, especially the month of May, full of holidays. I have learned more during this period than I have done in the past few years! And I have come to appreciate my new job more than I had anticipated when I applied for it. This is entirely thanks to the wonderful colleagues that we have at our department.

I am truly relieved and extremely happy that we managed very quickly to recruit an excellent new head of administration! A well-functioning administration and technical support is essential for the success of our mission. Linda and I have already found an efficient, productive and inspiring (for me!) way of interaction, and I am looking forward to learning from her and counting on her good advice on all administrative matters. We are very lucky that our administration and technical staff consist of highly competent and very hard-working colleagues. At the same time, we are constantly working on how the service provided by the administration can become even better. An action taken in that direction is the establishment of a study section, with Ida as the chair. Ida's long experience in student affairs, her quick and creative solution to every problem that initially looks unsolvable, and her mild, calm and smiling appearance make her perfect for the task.



The core of our department, the ones to carry out our mission, are of course the scientific staff. I have been amazed during this first month about how helpful, willing, and enthusiastic everybody has been in all the tasks for which I asked your help and opinion. Thank you all very much! I have now started conducting "medarbeidersamtaler", and I find great pleasure in getting to know each of you so much better than before. I also appreciate a lot your suggestions and comments on how we can improve our research, education, and outreach activities. I promise to do my best to provide a fruitful, enjoyable, and social working environment, where all ideas are welcome and everybody's contribution is highly appreciated.

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

-Pinar

Welcome new employees!

This is the first time we welcome and present new employees in the Newsletter. We therefore include all new employees since January 2018.



Pekka Parviainen

Pekka starts in his new position as Associate Professor in machine learning today, 1st June.

He will contribute to building a strong research group in machine learning, and are expected to contribute to excellence in teaching and supervision of students, and to further increase international visibility and reputation through high quality research.

Pekka is from Finland. He did his PhD in Computer Science at the University of Helsinki in 2012. His latest position was Postdoctoral researcher at the Aalto University, Finland.



Erlend Raa Vågset

Erlend starts in his new position as Research Fellow (PhD candidate) today, 1st. June. He will be part of the Algorithm research group, and he will be jointly supervised by Jan Arne Telle and Mike Fellows.

The position is funded by the Norwegian Research Council Toppforsk program, project title «*Parameterized Complexity for Practical Computing*».

Erlend is from Norway. He finished his Master's in mathematics, topology, at the Department of Mathematics, UiB in 2014. He started his studies in informatics a year ago.



Linda Vagtskjold

Linda started in her new position as Head of Administration on 18th May. She also partly serves in her former position as HR-senior executive officer at the MN-Faculty until a replacement is recruited.

Linda is from Norway. Her education is from the University of Bergen within a diversity of fields, among them administration and organization, law, and work related psychology. She has worked at the University of Bergen for 20 years; at the Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Biomedicine, Department of Biology and Geophysical Institute.



Mo Yan Yuen

Mo Yan started in her position as student advisor in the Administration on 27th April. Her main responsibility will be the teaching schedule and exam work at the department.

Mo Yan is from the Netherlands. She did her Master's in work and organizational related psychology at the Universiteit van Amsterdam in 2010. Before she came to us, she worked as study advisor at the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology.



Kirill Simonow

Kirill started in his position as Research Fellow (PhD candidate) on 3rd April. He belongs to the Algorithm research group, and Fedor Fomin is his supervisor.

The position is funded by the NFR MULTIVAL project. The project concerns establishing multivariate algorithms as the standard approach to algorithm design and analysis. The work will involve the study and development of parameterized algorithms and complexity.

Kirill is from Russia. He did his Master's in Mathematics, Matrix multiplication algorithms, at Saint Petersburg State University in 2017.



Wrya Kadir

Wrya started in his position as Research Fellow (PhD candidate) on 19th March. He belongs to the Selmer research group, and Chunlei Li is his main supervisor.

His position is funded by the UiB.

Wrya is from Irac. He did his Master's in mathematics of Cryptography and Communications at the Royal Holloway University of London in 2013. Before he came to us, he served as Assistant lecturer at the Ministry of Higher Education, University of Sulaimani.



Adnan Muhammad Naizi

Adnan started in his position as Research Fellow (PhD candidate) on 12th March. He belongs to the Bioinformatics research group.

His position is funded by the UiB.

Adnan is from Pakistan. He did his Master's in Human Media Interaction (Computer Science) at the Universiteit Twente in 2012. Before he came to us, he served as lecturer at the Institute of Integrative Biosciences, CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences, Pakistan.



Christophe Dominique Crespelle

Christophe started in his Researcher position on the 1st February. He belongs to the Algorithm research group.

His position is funded by the H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA), and his project is «Modelling Complex Networks Through Graph Editing Problems» (PROXNET).

Christophe is from France. He did his PhD in computer science at the University Montpellier in 2007. Before he came to us, he held a position as Assistant Professor (*Maître de Conférences*) at UCBL, Université Claude Bernard Lyon.



Martha Norberg Hovd

Martha started in her position as Research Fellow (PhD candidate) on 15th January. She belongs to the Simula@uib research group, and Håvard Raddum is her supervisor, co-supervisors Øyvind Ytrehus and Mohsen Toorani.

The position is funded by the UiB. The project will focus on cryptography and security notions.

Martha is from Norway. She finished her Master's in Algebra (applied algebra) at the Department of Mathematical Sciences, NTNU in 2017.



Jonathan Steven Prieto Cubides

Jonathan started in his position as Research Fellow (PhD candidate) on 1st January. He belongs to the PUT research group, and Marc Bezem is his supervisor, co-supervisor Bjørn Dundas.

The position is funded by the UiB. The project concerns Formalising of Graph Theory.

Jonathan is from Colombia. He did his Master's in Applied Mathematics at the EAFIT University in 2016.

Actualities [The Dean's blog](#) - [På Høyden](#) - [Khrono](#) - [Gemini](#)

Garden Party at Petter's on the 6th June!



Petter Bjørstad is inviting all of us plus the participants of the SIAM Workshop on Combinatorial Scientific Computing to a garden party at his house in the evening of Wednesday June 6! There will be a bus to take us from the department to Petter's house at Østre Nattlandsfjellet 14. The bus will leave from in front of the department building at 17:30. The bus returns to HIB at 21:30.

There will be food and drinks for everyone! Please bring some warm clothing in case of falling temperatures up there in the mountains ☺. Reserve the evening and wait for more details to arrive by email!

Do you have pictures for the entrance area of Datablokken?

The UiB Estate and Facilities Management Division (Eiendomsavdelingen) are currently planning a facelift/upgrading of the entrance area for Datablokken. Among other measures, they are planning to decorate one wall with ICT related pictures, like the ones in the main entrance area for the HIB-building (mostly marine biology pictures). Picture contributions from us are most welcome. Please send your suggestions for ICT related pictures to [Ingrid Kyillingmark](mailto:Ingrid.Kyillingmark@iuh.uib.no).

Research, Science, and Seminars

Department seminar 4th June

Department of Informatics



User Interface Design - An Engineer's Perspective.

Richard Fellows is a veteran of product design and production in Silicon Valley since 1976. He has been involved in designing lasers, medical products, voltage contrast imaging, fiber-optics, video, audio, computers, RFID and payment systems. Mr. Fellows is currently Principal Electrical Design Engineer at Verifone. He has been awarded four patents. He is a member of the IEEE EMC Society.



Abstract

A discussion of why user interface design is important for leaders in algorithmics. The topics to be discussed include:

- What forces act to create so many poor designs?
- Common pitfalls in design and implementation and how to avoid them.
- The importance of the user interface.
- The business implications of improved algorithms.

Based on experience, the talk will give a humorous look at what can go wrong, and advance some suggestions for improving user interface design practices.

The talk may be of particular interest to students who are considering a career in industry.

Thursday, June 4th, 2018, from 14:15
Big Auditorium 2nd floor, Datablokken
Refreshments will be served from 14:00

Department of Informatics



Hardware/software algorithms for computing multiplicative inverses over extended finite fields

Anwar Hasan is an Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor at the University of Waterloo. His research interests include cryptographic computations and embedded systems, dependable and security for cloud computing, and security for cloud and Internet of Things.



Abstract

Finite fields play an important role in areas such as cryptography, coding and integrated circuits design.

Some public key cryptosystems use very large finite fields. Performance of such cryptosystems depends on the efficiency of arithmetic operations over the finite fields used.

Arithmetic operations over large finite fields are however not well supported by today's general purpose processors.

This talk critically looks into a number of hardware/software algorithms for computing multiplicative inverses over extended finite fields.

Reminder: Next Faculty and Staff lunch 12th June

Our next faculty and permanent staff lunch will be on the 12th of June at 12 o'clock in the lunch room at the 4th floor.

Reminder: Workshop in Bergen on Combinatorial Scientific Computing June 6 – 9

The Algorithms group is arranging the SIAM Workshop on Combinatorial Scientific Computing June 6 to June 9. The workshop centers around solving practical combinatorial problems often motivated from linear algebra and in many cases using parallel methods. Invited presenters include Alex Pothén, Åke Björck and Sherry Li. The workshop will be held in the student center. [Information about the meeting and schedule.](#)

Academic affairs and PhD Updates

There's a new PhD in town: Angèle Arlette Hélène Abboud - congratulations!



Warm congratulations to Angèle Arlette Hélène Abboud, who successfully defended her thesis "*Structure and dynamic of the N-terminal acetyltransferase family: a computational study*" for the PhD degree on 31st May.

Congratulations also to her group and to her supervisor Nathalie Reuters.

Bo Sun – trial lecture for the PhD degree

Bo Sun will hold the trial lecture «Differential cryptanalysis» for the PhD degree on 11th June at 14:15 in the large auditorium, Høyteknologisenteret. All are welcome!

Please be on time with the exam grading!

Deadline for announcing exam results is 3 weeks from the exam date. Unfortunately, the results sometimes reach the students later than this. As an attempt to avoid delays, the faculty of mathematics and natural sciences plans to issue fines to departments who are not able to meet the deadlines for their course exams. This will commence autumn 2018, if the total number of courses with delayed announcement at our faculty does not diminish this semester. We kindly ask you to finish your grading within the deadline. If you have a course with many students, you can get external help for the exam grading. Please consult with the study advisors well ahead of the exam date, if you need such help.

Reminder: Mitt UiB – introduction course for employees

New with Mitt UiB? Sign up for an introductory course on 12th June! The target group is new employees and other employees who have not started using Mitt UiB yet. Please find detailed information and link for registration [here](#).

Reminder: Master's Ceremony 13 June

We remind you that all Master students who complete their degree in the academic year 2017/18 are invited along with supervisors to the Master's Ceremony 13 June 2018 in the University Aula.

[More information.](#)

Important: Supervisor must use [this link for registration](#)



Vacant positions

PhD positions (4) in computer science

Closing date: June 3, 2018. Please find [the announcement here](#)

PhD position in computer science (machine learning)

Closing date: June 3, 2018. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Defibrillator – check it out!



Our department has a defibrillator located on the wall next to the lifts in the 4th floor.

The defibrillator should be user-friendly. However, some employees have received proper training in using the defibrillator. These are Ingrid Kyllingmark and Liljan Myhr.

All new employees will from now on be guided in where to find and how to use the defibrillator. We also aim to find a way to give the same guidance for those of us who have «lived here» for a while. Meanwhile, we strongly encourage all employees and students to take a look at the defibrillator and to read the instructions for how to use it.

Ergonomic assessment day 14th June

UiB's physiotherapist will visit us on Thursday 14th June at 12:00-15:00 to help us with ergonomic assessment of our new employees' office workplaces. If you are not among the new employees since January 2018, but still want us to visit you for an ergonomic assessment of your office workplace – please give notice to [Linda Vagtskjold](#).

Muscle therapy at BIO Friday 15th June

As an HSE measure, our neighbor department BIO offers muscular therapy once or twice a month. The muscular therapist Lars Kallevåg brings his own bench, paper and oil (which does not contaminate clothing) for treatment. A treatment session = 30 min and costs 350 kr. You can book as many treatment hours as you wish. If you are sick or for another reason can not make it to your appointment, you must find a replacement yourself. He prefers payment ahead of the treatment and via Vipps.

The next session is on 15th June. [Please register on Doodle here](#)

Reminder: Fire extinguishing

All employees at our university are required to attend a fire extinguishing course at least once. There are several courses in May, and one in June which is held in English. You can get information about the courses and sign up using [this link](#).

Please notice that there are offering a course in English only once per semester. This semester the course in English will be held on 21st June.

New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken - autumn 2018

It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottosheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the autumn period from 19 August until 14 October 2018.

Please use the [UoB electronic cabin system](#) by logging in with your registered username and password. Upon initial application you must enter some information. All applications must be registered in the electronic cabin system to be included in the draw.

The application deadline is 18 June. Drawing will be done 19 June 2018.



Welfare service for UiB's employees



«**PLUTSELIG** står jeg igjen med meg selv i hånden og ser utover byen...»
(*"Suddenly I am left holding my own hand, gazing out over the city"*)

A play about dreams: Humor and seriousness in Teaterkjelleren.

Premiere: May 26th

[Read more about "Suddenly..." here](#)



UiB-tickets are available for Wednesday June 13th, 19:30 – Teaterkjelleren:
Ticket price UiB only kr. 250,- (Ordinary price kr. 390,-)
Tickets can be purchased to this price up to and including June 4th.

Follow your dream, they say... But where do our dreams lead us? We talk about the dream destination, the dream house, the dream job. This play holds room for all sorts of dreams: The small and the big dreams, the strange, the wild, and the innocent, the secret, the private, and the professional..

Meet five DNS actresses whom have shared their dreams, longings, hopes and experiences with Danish theater maker Kamilla Wargo Brekling. She is renowned for her punchy and surprising plays, where she with care and humor looks into the modern way of living.

Join us in a universe of dreams, and perhaps become a little bit wiser on the life and the world we are living in right now?

[Book your UiB tickets here \(Wednesday June 13th\).](#)

Tickets can also be ordered by phone 55 60 70 80 or in the box office at the theatre.