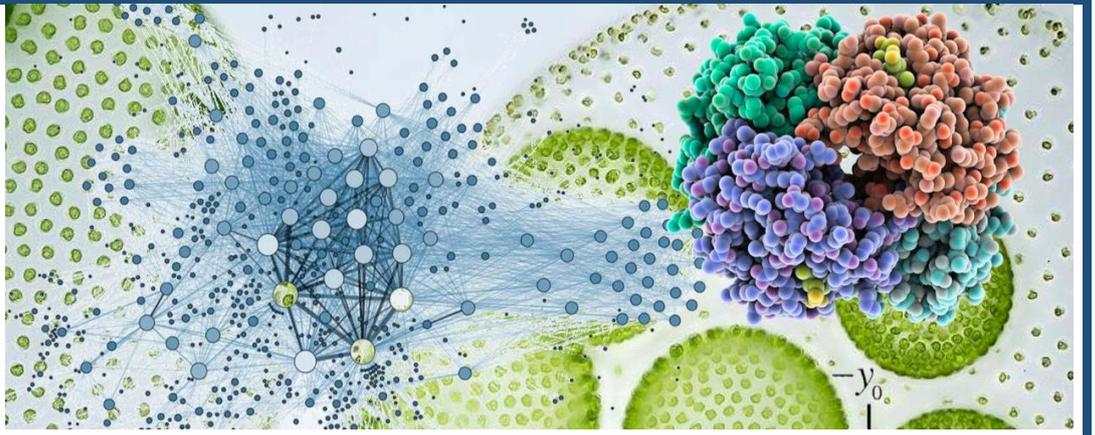


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 07/2018
14th September



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

Dear colleagues,

This newsletter comes to you from Budapest, where our administration and I are having a seminar and discussing how we can provide the best possible support for our scientific staff so that they can conduct internationally leading research and excellent education. Our common goal is that our department will continue to be the leading ICT department in Norway, with several groups rated as excellent and internationally leading. At the same time, we will strive to give the best and most solid ICT education in the country, producing graduates who are able to help Norway face and solve the increasingly serious challenges of today and the future.



There is a lot of attention and focus on research and education in ICT these days. Unfortunately many decision makers seem to be lost in the abundance of buzzwords. Technology is changing rapidly, but the ground pillars of our discipline are steady and solid since the times of Alan Turing. Proper education and fundamental research within computer science itself are now more important than ever. There is a misconception that every field that uses ICT belongs under the umbrella of ICT education or ICT research. But ICT is now used everywhere, and the foundations of our discipline itself have been neglected over the last couple of decades. Norway is in serious danger of not educating enough ICT experts with the deep and fundamental computer science knowledge that is increasingly crucial and sought for by leading companies in every field. Equally worrying is the risk of ending up not having enough researchers who are able dig into the deep problems underlying all the buzzwords.

On my way to Budapest I made a stop in Oslo, where I had a meeting with the Research Council of Norway, together with representatives from University of Oslo, NTNU, Simula, National Security Authority, and the Ministry of Education and Research. The agenda for the meeting was “More funds for fundamental research within ICT”, and it was an utmost productive and uplifting meeting. ICT professors across the universities are unified in their concern about the above issues, and our message seems to have gotten through! Both the research council and the ministry agree that fundamental research in ICT has been underfunded through many years, and finally there seems to be willingness to do something about it. It will be very interesting to see how the government will follow up this meeting. I am, as always, optimistic. ☺

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

-Pinar

PS. I recommend that you read our dean Helge K Dahle's blog! This week he writes about [offshore wind energy](#).

Welcome new employees!



Siv Midtun Hollup

Siv started in her new position as Adjunct Associate Professor, 20%, on 1st September. Her main position is consultant with Bouvet.

She will be teaching our INF112 course in system construction, and will contribute to supervision of student projects in connection with the courses INF219 and INF319.

Siv holds a PhD from our department, obtained in 2010, after which she was a postdoc with us between 2010 and 2014. She has solid teaching experience, especially in system construction and programming. She is Norwegian and from Bergen.



Kim Brügger

Kim is from Denmark. He started in his new position as senior engineer in the CBU, Service group on 1st September.

He will take part in programming and development of software systems in a scientific environment with a focus on e-infrastructure, bioinformatics, and computational biology. The position is linked with the Elixir Norway infrastructure and the Nordic project "Tryggve2" (supported by NeIC) that focuses on secure computational research infrastructure for sensitive data such as human genomic sequences.

Kim received his PhD in bioinformatics from the University of Copenhagen in 2006. His latest position was as leading bioinformatician in a medical genetics laboratory under National Health Service (NHS) at the Cambridge University Hospitals in England.



William Locket

William is French, and started in his new position as researcher in the Algorithms group on 6th September.

His position is connected to the project «*Parameterized Complexity for Practical Computing*» funded by the Research Council of Norway. The project will investigate innovations in how to deploy parameterization (paradigms for parameterization) and its engagement with new areas of application, where multivariate analysis might be useful, but has not yet reached.

William received his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Cote d'Azur in July 2018.



Lene Engelsgjerd

Lene is our new HR-person in the administration from 10th September. Her office is next to the reception, and she will be present at our department on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays and Fridays she will be working at Realfagbygget, but she can always be reached by email lene.engelsgjerd@uib.no or phone 55584241.

Lene is Norwegian, born in Stavanger, and she has lived in Bergen for the last 4 years. She holds a bachelor degree in HR and HR management from the University of Stavanger, obtained in 2007. She has worked with HR in private companies within the oil industry for many years.

Greetings from Budapest!



PACE 2018 – good results for our teams!

Two teams from Bergen entered The PACE 2018 Parameterized Algorithms and Computational Experiments Challenge, track C: Heuristics.

Out of 24 teams, they came as number 4 and number 7.

The photo (courtesy of Frances Rosamond) shows 4th place team members Eduard Eiben, Tomáš Masařík, and Dušan Knop, together with the chair of the steering committee Bart Jansen. The other Bergen team consisted of Mateus Oliveira and Emmanuel Arrighi.



Research, Science, and Seminars

Nomination of journals to level 2

Journals and other publication channels classified as “level 2” give more publication points than “level 1”. You can read about this national classification system at <https://npi.nsd.no/>. We can all suggest which journals should be lifted to level 2 and which should be taken down to level 1. If you have suggestions in this direction, please give your feedback using the following procedure:

- a. gå til <https://npi.nsd.no> og registrere seg som bruker, eller logge seg inn hvis man allerede har en brukerkonto
- b. velge fagfelt «Informatikk» eller «Datateknikk og datavitenskap» og deretter publikasjonskanal man ønsker å foreslå
direkte link til **Informatikk**: <https://npi.nsd.no/fagfeltoversikt/fagfelt?id=1039>
direkte link til **Datateknikk og datavitenskap**: <https://npi.nsd.no/fagfeltoversikt/fagfelt?id=1045>
- c. klikke på tannhjul ved siden av publikasjonskanalnavn
- d. skrive inn forslag til nivå-2 med begrunnelsen som faglig kommentar og kom også med forslag hvilke kanaler evt. skal ned fra nivå-2 til nivå-1; kommentaren er ikke anonym, og alle kan lese kommentaren
- e. **frist: 5. oktober**

Tenure track associate professor position in machine learning: welcome to trial lectures on September 17 and 28

As many of you know, we are in the process of hiring a tenure track associate professor in machine learning. We will be interviewing two candidates during September, and they will both give trial lectures for the whole department. We encourage all employees and students to attend the trial lectures. This could be your new long term colleague or teacher.

First candidate out is **Hamed R Tavakoli**. Hamed has a PhD in computer science from the University of Oulu in Finland and he is now a postdoc at Aalto University and Tampere University of Technology. His lecture is on Monday September 17 at 09:15 in the seminar room on the 5th floor of Høyteknologisenteret.



Title of the lecture: Computer vision: from visual perception to describing image content

Abstract : Computer vision goal has been enabling machines to perceive their surroundings. Computer vision has been a long standing research domain in artificial intelligence (AI). With the advent of AI and machine learning approaches, a wave of methods for bridging computer vision with natural language processing have appeared to enable a machine provide a description of the visual content. In this talk, we will go through basics of perception algorithms and how they can be combined with a language model to describe an image with human readable language. At the end, we will review and example of how such algorithms can be used for multimedia information retrieval



Second candidate out is **Martin Vatselle**. Martin has a PhD in informatics from our department and he is now a data scientist at Octio Gravitudo Bergen. His lecture is on Friday September 28 at 11:15. Venue, title and abstract will be announced by email.

NTVA lecture by Noeska 18 September: “Medical Visualization: Visualizing the Invisible”



Time: Tuesday, 18 September at 19:00-22:00. Venue: Nansensenteret, Marineholmen.



Our own Noeska Smit is the invited speaker in the first lecture of the autumn 2018 series of NTVA lectures. The NTVA lectures in Bergen are organized in cooperation with Tekna, and they are open to everybody who is interested. This particular lecture is a part of the Innovation Week OPP, which is held in Bergen by BTO this week. Those who want to attend a free meal after the lecture must sign up to post@ntva.no by Friday 14 September.

In the field of medicine, there has been a tremendous growth in the amount of medical imaging data that is acquired, such as computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. In medical visualization, computer-based interactive visual representations of such data are made, often aiming at improved diagnosis, treatment planning, treatment guidance, and/or doctor-patient communication.

At times, there are structures that are not visible in the original medical imaging scans. When these invisible structures are nerves, and they are at risk for damage during surgery, visualizing these invisible structures can be crucial to avoid such damage. In this talk, I will present several examples of my research, aiming at enhancing medical imaging data by integrating information from various sources into a combined visual representation for surgical planning and education purposes.

Welcome to Department Seminar on 27th September

Department of Informatics



Recent developments on the Blockchain technology



Thursday, September 27th, 2018
From 14:15 Large Auditorium
2nd floor, Datablokken.
Refreshments will be served from
14:00

Abstract

Blockchain is a decentralized transaction and data management technology developed with the Bitcoin cryptocurrency in 2008.

Since then the blockchain technology has gained increasing interest and become one of the furthestmost prevalent topics nowadays. While there are many critical questions on its scalability, sustainability and the hype of itself, the excitement from the industry has pushed a rapid evolvement of the blockchain technology in past years, and more attention from the research community to this subject.

This talk will explain the core components of the blockchain technology in detail and discuss recent developments in this area.

Academic affairs and PhD Updates

ICT Research School: Seminar 4th – 5th October

Department of Informatics



ICT Research School 2018

The PhD education at the Department of informatics is organized under The Research School in Information and Communication Technology. Every year the school invites to a seminar where the PhD students learn presentation techniques and learn about each other's research.



Date: 4th-5th October

Venue: Fjordslottet Hotell Osterøy

For more information: Marika.Ivanova@uib.no or Martha.Nordberg.Hovd@uib.no

The ICT research school is an annual event organized by PhDs for PhDs. The purpose is to attend talks on various topics and to meet colleagues from other research groups. Most of the talks this year are planned to be self elected topics given by some of the participants. There will also be talks given by senior research staff and other faculty members on various topics useful for PhD students.



Reminder: The International Learning Conference ISSOTL2018 Toward a Learning Culture

ISSOTL18 International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

TOWARD A LEARNING CULTURE

OCT. 24-27 2018 BERGEN, NORWAY

[Learn more her.](#)

[Sign up for pre-conference workshop here.](#)

Questions? Please contact [Kåre Helleve](#),

We are also invited to [sign up](#) for the [full conference](#).

Deadline Early Bird: **1st September.**

UiB organizes the International Learning Conference ISSOTL2018 Toward a Learning Culture 24-27 October 2018. Employees at the UiB are invited to attend one of the conference's pre-conference workshops free of charge. Since UiB hosts ISSOTL2018, this offer will replace the UiB Learning Conference in 2018. Please note that there are limited seats on each workshop, and are assigned according to the first-come-first-served principle.

The conference's main theme is Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) - a research approach to teaching and learning in higher education. On October 24, six pre-conference workshops with different themes are offered by experienced and talented international experts.

Funding

Research start up funding for collaboration with HVL etc:

<https://uhnettvest.no/utlysing-av-forskningsmidler>

Vacant positions

Forskningskoordinator (rådgiver)

Closing date: 16.09.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#).

PhD positions (2) in information theory

Closing date: 15.10.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#).

HR, Operations, Health, Safety and Welfare sikresiden.no – [UiB welfare offers](#)

Reminder: Yoga on Wednesdays!

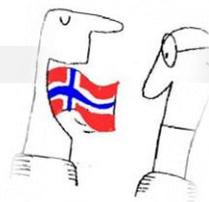
Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. We invite you all to Yoga classes on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm at the Meeting room in 5th floor.



Our professional yoga instructor, Kjersti Næss, is teaching in English. No signing up, and no participatory fee will be charged. Please bring your own yoga mat. We also have some mats for loan.

Reminder: Kakeklubben on Mondays

Kakeklubben møtes til lunsj hver mandag kl. 12.00 i spiserommet i 4. et. Alle tar med sin egen lunsj. Vi spiser kake, snakker norsk sammen og kanskje vi også bryner oss på noen quiz-spørsmål fra Bergens Tidende. Astrid tar med kake til oss kommende mandag. Alle er velkomne!



Kakeklubben aims to help our international colleagues to practice Norwegian while spending nice time together with people across group borders. Club meetings are held on Mondays at 12 o'clock in the lunchroom, 4th floor. You bring your own lunch, and we share a cake. We hope for volunteers among the club members to bring cakes, and we plan to make a department cake recipe book after some time. All are welcome! We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!

Christmas Party 23 November – save the date!

This years' Christmas Party will be on Friday 23 November at the Scandic Hotel, Haakonsgaten. Please save the date. More information will follow.

Velferdstilbud fra UiB: Putti Plutti Pott



Fredag 30/11 kl. 19.00
Lørdag 01/12 kl. 18.00
Søndag 02/12 kl. 18.00

Sted: Grieghallen
Pris per billett: 285,- (ord.kr. 365,-)

[Mer informasjon.](#)

Bestilling av billetter via billettkontor ved Grieghallen eller telefon: 55216150
Ved bestilling/betaling må en oppgi referanse for UiB pris: Ansattkortet

Theater: Hotel Norge

Here comes an overview and brief presentation of UiB's welfare offers this fall. Tickets are popular and limited in number, so you should book your tickets quickly! First out is the crime-comedy Hotel Norge!



UiB-tickets are available for the following dates:

Thursday September 27th at 20:00 – Store Scene

UiB Price: Only NOK 270,-

Book your tickets here before September 13.th.

<https://dennationalescene.eventim-billetter.no/webshop/webticket/shop?event=433&kassierer=webuib>

Friday September 28th at 20:00 – Store Scene

UiB Price: Only NOK 270,-

Book your tickets here before September 13 th

<https://dennationalescene.eventim-billetter.no/webshop/webticket/shop?kassierer=webuib&event=434>

Opening of Lønningen Lystgård 30 September

INVITASJON

Bli med Avinor og Universitetet i Bergen

på den offisielle åpningen av nye Lønningen lystgård,
Universitetets nye storstue i Botanisk hage på Milde



Søndag 30. september 2018, kl. 12.00-15.00

Avinor og Universitetet i Bergen har gledet av å invitere til nøkkelseseremoni med offisiell overlevering av nye Lønningen lystgård i Botanisk hage på Milde med orientering om den nye visjonen for hagen.

PROGRAM

Taler
Kunstneriske innslag
Enkel servering
Omvisning i Lønningen lystgård
Aktiviteter for barn og voksne i Botanisk hage

Arrangementet er åpent for alle
Hjertelig velkommen!

Aslak Sverdrup
lufthavndirektør
Avinor



Dag Rune Olsen
rektor
Universitetet i Bergen



Følg oppdatert arrangement på Facebook:
Arboretet og Botanisk hage, Milde

Arrangementet foregår utendørs
Buss nr. 53 går til Mildevågen

Concert: Real Ones 3rd November at USF Verftet

UiB employees are offered tickets at reduced price to folk rock band Real Ones' concert in Røkeriet, USF Verftet, on Saturday November 3, at 8 pm.

Real Ones is known as a fantastic live band and one of the most original bands in Norway. They held their first concert in their hometown Bergen in 1994. 24 years, 11 albums, 4 EP's, 2 Spellemenn (Norwegian Grammy Awards) and 975 concerts in 15 countries on 3 continents later, the 5 childhood friends are ready with a new album and new concerts. First stop: USF Verftet on November 3rd!

Tickets for UiB employees [are available here](#)

NOK 250,-

