Dear colleagues,

We are in the middle of the exam period. It has been a challenging semester, and the preparations for the exams have been tough both for our students and for our lecturers and teaching assistants, as well as our study administration. I am very relieved to see that so far, the exams have gone quite smoothly, and the few small problems encountered during some exams, have been resolved efficiently. I would like to once again thank you all for your wonderful efforts in this direction!

This has been a true team work, where lecturers and teaching assistants have been working in close collaboration with the study administration to make everything work smoothly. To accommodate as much flexibility as possible for our students during this difficult period, we extended the time window of some of the exams, so that some students can take two exams on the same day. This means that members of our study administration have to work late afternoons and evenings, providing technical and administrative support during the exams, as such support from the university’s central exam administration has limited hours. I would like to thank our study administration for implementing all the flexibility that we wanted to give our students, although it meant a tremendous amount of extra work for them. They are real heroes! I want to in particular extend my special gratitude to Mo Yan and Eirik, who have been taking the main load in this venture, as well as advising and helping our lecturers in all the mysterious ways of Inspera. Your service-mindedness has impressed me over and over again!

Also, some of our lecturers and teaching assistants deserve special thanks. Their close interaction and clear communication with the students throughout the remote education period, all the extra efforts they made for preparing their students for the exam, their creativity and efficiency in preparing and conducting the exam, and not the least their efficient, kind, helpful and on-time interaction with our study administration, have resulted in extensive positive feedback about them from many, so massive that I think it would be unfair not to mention their names. Thank you, Tom, Chunlei, Nikolay, and Ahmad for your dedication, enthusiasm, true caring for our students, and for all the extra time and effort that you put into excellent education! Your creative ways of designing the exam and preparing your students for the exam show that the road to the exam can be a valuable learning tool for the students, rather than simply a testing tool.

I keep saying that students are our most important assets, and I mean it. We are proud of our excellent research, and we work hard for our position in the international forefront of our research areas. The impact of our research results is nevertheless under constant discussion. The impact we make through our graduated students is not. Our students will form the future when they start working as IT specialists or scientists. We form the future through them.

I wish you all a very nice weekend,
Pinar
Welcome new colleagues!

Kornel Labun

Kornel started in his new postdoc position in bioinformatics on 1st June.

His position is funded by the Norwegian Cancer Society and connected to Eivind’s project “Metastatic in translation - decoding the protein synthesis program for metastatic potential”. In this project they will use ribosome profiling-related assays to investigate the translational program in cancer in order to understand how this is regulated. In particular, they will profile ribosomal small subunits to investigate the role of scanning-mediated regulation during metastasis. Kornel will be the main computational part of this effort and be responsible for analyzing the data and model the regulation of protein synthesis during metastasis.

Kornel is Polish. He finished his PhD at our department in 2019. Since then, he has worked as a Senior Consultant for Sonat Consulting Bergen. Welcome back to us, Kornel!

Current Issues

Corona updates

Check the UiB Corona webpage

It is utmost important that everybody checks the coronavirus information page of the UiB frequently.

Access to campus

On this webpage you will find information from the UiB regarding the updated regime of access to campus and an overview of recommended protective measures.

When coming back to your department office, please follow these steps:

1. Read thoroughly the 29th May email from Pinar.
2. Take this course. You must pass the test at the end of the course.
3. Fill out and submit this form. You need no longer a confirmation from anyone, you can start using your office after filling out the form above and taking the online course on contamination control.

We are currently preparing for further opening and less restrictions for the using of department facilities, and a new email from Pinar will be sent to you on Monday 😊

New elected members for the Department Board

Every year new members for the groups B (academic staff in temporary positions) and D (students) are elected for the Department Board. These are the new members elected for the period 01.08.2020 – 31.07.2021:

**Group B**
Member: Håkon Tjeldnes
1st deputy: Martha Norberg Hovd
2nd deputy: Erlend Raa Vågset
3rd deputy: Tam Thanh Truong

**Group D**
Members: Brigt Arve Toppe Håvardstun and Tonje Hellestøl
1st deputy: Martin Øines Eide
2nd deputy: Christian Scheie Hein
3rd deputy: Tuva Ulveseth Kvalsøren
4th deputy: Hjalmar Svenstrup Andersen
Welcome to hiring lectures for the associate professor position in algorithms in June

For the associate professor position in algorithms that was announced with deadline 31.01.2020, five candidates will be interviewed and give trial lectures. Everybody is very welcome to attend the lectures that will be held over Zoom. Abstracts and zoom links will be sent out by email to all employees and master students. Information will also appear in the web calendar.

Tuesday June 9, 11:15-12:00: William Lochet - Zoom meeting link
Tuesday June 16, 11:15-12:00: Mateus de Oliveira Oliveira
Tuesday June 23, 11:15-12:00: Johannes Langguth
Thursday June 25, 11:15-12:00: Pål Grønås Drange
Friday June 26, 11:15-12:00: Marc Hellmuth

First candidate, scheduled for this upcoming Tuesday: William Lochet

The entropy compression method for random algorithms

Trial lecture in connection with recruitment for Associate Professor position in Algorithms
William Lochet
Tuesday 09.06.2020 at 11.15
Zoom

Abstract:

The Lovász Local Lemma (LLL) is one of the most important tools of the celebrated Probabilistic Method in combinatorics. The idea behind it is that, in order to prove the existence of a combinatorial object with some nice properties, one can select such an object at random and prove that it satisfies said properties with non zero probability.

This lemma, since it appeared in 1975, has been used many times in very different settings, including theoretical computer science. An important drawback was for a long time the absence of an efficient algorithm to find the object which existence is guaranteed by the LLL. In a major breakthrough, Moser and Tardos were able in 2010 to design an algorithm which covers most of the application of the LLL. Perhaps even more importantly, they introduced in this paper a new method called "entropy compression", which has since then been used in several different contexts to prove that some random algorithm terminates.

The goal of this lecture will be to present this method. We will first give an overview of Moser and Tardos’s algorithm before presenting different examples of situations where this technique can be applied.

Full announcement for the other candidates will be sent to you later by email and announced in the dept web calendar.
PhD updates

Bopilot Hackathon 16. og 17. juni
Byarkitekten og Innolab i Bergen kommune skal arrangere Bopilot Hackathon – en 24 timers online idékonkurranse! Vinn 50.000,- for digital løsning som kan koble boligutviklere og boligkjøpere FØR boligene kommer på tegnebrettet! Dette er en del av forskningsprosjektet Bopilot – kommunen som pådriver for alternative boligløsninger.

Nå ønsker vi at flest mulig skal melde seg på konkurransen, som er åpen og egnet for alle og studenter er hjertelig velkommen! Man kan melde på et team eller delta som enkeltperson. Påmeldingsfristen er 9. juni.

NORBIS Annual conference – save the date!
NORBIS Annual conference will be arranged November 2-4th, 2020! If the national guidelines allow, we will gather at beautiful Ullensvang Hotel in Hardanger for student talks, poster sessions, invited speakers and other fun activities. More information here

ICT Research School Annual Meeting 2020 - save the date!
This year’s meeting has been scheduled for 26-27 October 2020 in Park Hotel Vossevangen. This year’s organizing committee has now been appointed and consists of Alessandro Budroni, Dan Zhang and Nooshin Heidari. More information will follow.

UiB Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 – save the date!
Welcome to the Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020!

The Department of Informatics offers a scientific writing course for PhD candidates enrolled in the department's PhD program.

Registration will open after the summer break and be announced in a separate email.

Please find more detailed information here

Student / Teaching matters

Important: old server with recorded lectures will be shut down this autumn
The University has previously (2012-2018) tested a solution for recording lectures. For reasons related to security and administration this pilot phase is being discontinued. The recordings done between 2015 and 2018 are still available at http://video.dig.uib.no – but stored on a server that will be shut down this autumn.

However, the University would like to offer everyone who wishes to download their recorded lectures an opportunity to do so, as well as assisting with uploading to Kaltura. If you have any recorded lectures you want to keep, please notify the responsible parties using this form. The deadline for submitting a request is August 1st.
The Nordic Nanopore-Seq Network Meeting 2020, September 14

The Valen Lab at the Computational Biology Unit Bergen is hosting a conference to get to know Oxford Nanopore Sequencing and its applications.

The free-of-charge, one-day meeting aims at bringing together Nanopore experts with interested scientists from various disciplines. Experts from the company as well as experienced scientists will cover a wide range of scientific areas.

Additionally, this conference aims at founding a network of Nanopore Sequencing users in the Nordics.

If you are interested, find out more information at the conference website.

Olav Thon Stiftelsens priser for fremragende undervisning og støtte til studentaktive forskningsprosjekter innen naturvitenskap og medisin 2021

Olav Thon Stiftelsen ble etablert i 2013. I stiftelseserklæringen § 7a) er det fastsatt bl.a. følgende oppgave for Stiftelsen:

Støtte kan ytes til formål innen det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige og medisinske fagområde. Som en del av de midler som styret måtte stille til rådighet for dette formål kan det utdeles følgende priser:

Inntil 10 priser, hver på NOK 500 000 - femhundretusen -, kan tildeles norske og utenlandske akademiske forskere som yter fremragende undervisning av studenter innen det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige og medisinske fagområde ved norske læresteder. Midler kan også utdeles til forskningsprosjekter, under forutsetning om videreformidling av den ervervede kunnskap ved norske læresteder.


Publishing Open Access

The University of Bergen Library has prepared very good websites on the current status of local, national and international open access (OA) policies as well as their services related to OA publishing. Please have a look at their websites and make yourself familiar with the different policies as well as the existing publishing deals with several of the academic publishers. Furthermore, UiB has a publication fund for OA that can cover the article processing charges (APC) when publishing in eligible open access journals.

Before you (your group) pay(s) any fees for making an article openly available, please consult the webpages to see if you are entitled to a discount, may get the fees refunded through the publication fund, or maybe don't even have to pay anything based on an existing agreement with the publisher!

If you have questions, please contact the department’s research coordinator Stefanie Meyer.

Upcoming funding opportunities

On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over upcoming funding opportunities on its website for research support services. Please inform research coordinator Stefanie Meyer about all planned and ongoing funding applications! This includes both applications you coordinate yourself, and those where you are included as a partner/collaborator! At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:

IKTPLUSS. The Research Council has an open call on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. “The objective of this call is to further develop expertise and capacity in artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems. Efforts are to help to move the research front, build vital competence and create new opportunities for people and society in the short and long term.”

Please note that these are collaborative projects where two or more of the project partners have to come from outside academia (i.e. the private or public sector) and have to stand for at least 10% of the effort. Application deadline: open-ended.

ERC Grants 2021. The tentative application deadlines for next year are as follows:

- Starting Grant 2021 – March 2021,
- Consolidator Grant 2021 – April 2021,
- Advanced Grant 2021 – August 2021,
- Synergy Grant – no information available at the moment.

Please note that these dates can still change as the budget for Horizon Europe has not yet been finally decided.

Information on the (new) panel structure can be found here: ERC panels 2021 & 2022.
Fulbright stipends. The Fulbright Program annually allocates funds to:

- Norwegian researchers from all research fields to help them teach or conduct research in the US
- Norwegian students who wish to do all or part of their master or PhD studies in the US

Application deadline: 1 October 2020.

Abel Prize. “The Abel Prize recognizes outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics, including mathematical aspects of computer science, mathematical physics, probability, numerical analysis and scientific computing, statistics, and also applications of mathematics in the sciences.” Application deadline: 15 September 2020.

Did you know?

Research Council of Norway. The Research Council has recently released its new strategy for the years 2020-2024 (available only in Norwegian). Therein, they describe three main goals: sustainable development, groundbreaking research & radical innovation, and transition of the business/industry and public sectors. The have further defined the following five strategic areas: ocean, green shift, health & well-being, technology & digitization, and samhørighet & globalization.


ICPerMed Conference 2020 'Personalised Medicine – From Vision to. “During the conference, ICPPerMed will be committed to demonstrate the importance and the need to address personalised medicine challenges through the prism of these critical pillars focusing on data & technology, intersectoral synergies and education & literacy necessary to initiate the translation into healthcare systems.” Event: 25-26 February 2021.

Need help?

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your planned and ongoing funding applications as well as all contractual work related to external funds! All applications and agreements/contracts need to be approved by the department leadership. In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services. There you will find a list of our services.
Corona update

Several funding agencies and institutions have updated their websites with special information and guidance. Please inform the department’s research coordinator if you are affected.

Information from the Research Council of Norway: RCN’s service updates related to COVID-19
Information from the EU (Horizon 2020): FAQ on COVID-19
Information from the EU (ERC): Coronavirus - business continuity measures at the ERC
Information from the Trond Mohn Stiftelse: Information for PIs and partners
Information from the University of Bergen: Externally funded projects influenced by COVID-19

COVID-19 Data Portal: “EMBL-EBI and partners have set up the COVID-19 Data Portal, which will bring together relevant datasets submitted to EMBL-EBI and other major centres for biomedical data.”

Vacant positions

Førsteamanuensis i informatikk fagformidling og utdanning (informatikk-fagdidaktikk)
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 10.06.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in informatics - applied cryptology
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 15.09.2020.

PhD position in informatics - applied cryptology
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 15.09.2020.

HR-matters, Welfare and Health, Safety and Environment

Have you registered vacation days?
Are you ready to go? Summer is soon upon us, and whether you are planning on spending all of it in sunny Bergen or making other arrangements, there is one thing you have to do right away: Register your vacation in the HR-portal (some also call it PAGA). It is a requirement that everyone registers their holiday, and it is the general rule that all vacation days has to be taken within the year.

Not sure when you’ll be going? Register it anyway (you can change it later), and avoid running the risk of someone else deciding when you’re going on holiday. You will also be relieved from the stress of being followed up through emails and visits from the administration. The deadline for registering the summer vacation has already passed, so please make it a priority.

Further information on how to register vacation can be found here. If you have any questions regarding vacation or the registration of vacation, please contact your local HR professional at your department, Lene Sørheim.

The above information is a common information for all departments at our Faculty. We refer to the minutes from our last group contact meeting and the follow-up email to stoppers on June 4, and remind you of the new routine for our department: those among the scientific staff who do not register any vacation by June 20, will be registered for a fictitious vacation period in July/August. If you now or later prefer to update this registration with your actual vacation period, simply open a new form, click on previously registered this year, delete the fictious period, add a short comment and register you actual vacation in that same form.

Please notice that all staff in administrative and technical positions still are expected to register themselves and will be reminded by Linda until they do so if needed.
**Kakeklubben online!**

Kakeklubben is a social initiative for all colleagues who would like to practice their Norwegian language skills. The meetings are in Norwegian, at a pace that is easy for everyone with basic skills in Norwegian to follow and participate.

Kakeklubben meets every Wednesday at 12:00. In normal settings, we meet at the 4th floor lunch room, and the department orders cake. In the current situation, we are meeting on Skype at 12:00 every Wednesday.

*Please do join us!*

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**New application period for the cottages at Utsaoset and Tingviken - Autumn 2020**

It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Utsaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the autumn period from 16th August until 18th October 2020.

Please use the [UoB electronic cabin system](#) by logging in with your normal username and password.

The application deadline is **12th June**. Drawing will be done **17th June**.

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**Welfare offer, theatre: NAMNET og ARV OG MILJØ**

**NAMNET**

**ENESTÅENDE OM FAMILIÆRE FORTIELSER**

Nå kan du se det innsiktfulle familieportrettet til Jon Fosse på Store Scene!

**Av:** Jon Fosse  
**Regi:** Trine Viggen  
**Musikk:** Lars Vaular

[Lese mer og kjøpe billetter til forestillingen](#)

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**ARV OG MILJØ**

**STERK FORESTILLING BASERT PÅ VIGDIS HJORTS OMDISKUTERTE ROMAN**

Gjensyn med forestillingen som sterkt berørte publikum og kritikere i 2018! Vi følger en voksen kvinnes hjerteskjærende kamp for retten til å eie sin egen historie, koste hva det koste vil.

**Av:** Vigdis Hjorth  
**Regi:** Kjersti Horn

[Lese mer og kjøpe billetter til forestillingen](#)
Follow us on social media – like and share!
Social media channels are important for both recruiting new students and communicating our work. By following us and liking or sharing our content (or simply watching it, in some cases), you can help lift our brand and reach more people and potential future students. At the same time, you will keep yourself informed about our outreach activities.

If you use these media, please follow us there:
- Department of informatics at UiB on Facebook
- Department of informatics at UiB on Instagram
- Department of informatics at UiB on Twitter
- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on YouTube
- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on Facebook
- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science at UiB on Instagram
- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on Twitter