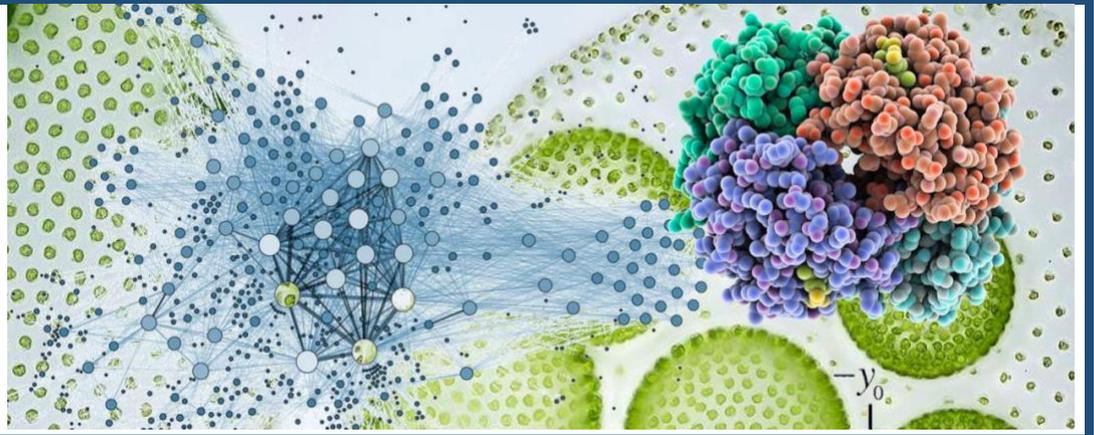


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 13/2018
7th December 2018



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

Dear colleagues,

Last week we celebrated that our dear Saket Saurabh has been awarded an ERC consolidator grant for the period 2019 - 2024. This is the fourth personal ERC grant to our department, and the second personal ERC grant to Saket. He held an ERC starting grant between 2012 and 2017. Receiving a personal ERC grant is an outstanding achievement. I have no appropriate superlative to describe how astonishing it is to receive two! I am deeply impressed, and I congratulate Saket once more with this amazing achievement, as well as express my gratitude to him for increasing the visibility and the excellence of our department.



To succeed at this level, being a brilliant world class researcher is a necessary but not sufficient condition. Everyone who has ever tried, knows what it takes and how much hard work it is. Not just the time and effort to write the proposal itself, but to actually become a researcher at that level. It takes dedication, passion, and not the least the energy and willingness to dive deep into all the details and ingredients that might not be as much fun as coming up with new results or new theory. In this round [Norway received in total nine ERC consolidator awards](#). Two of these came to Bergen, both in the mathematical and natural sciences.

For those who are interested in trying an ERC grant, please note that that our university, together with the Research Council of Norway, is organizing courses for writing such proposals. [On March 13, 2019 there is a course for writing Advanced grants](#), that is also relevant for those who plan to write an SFF proposal. [On June 19, 2019 there is a course for Starting and Consolidator grants](#). More information about these can be found in this newsletter and even more to arrive soon.

To be successful in any type of grant proposal, it is of utmost importance to understand the call, the premises and the assessment criteria properly. That is why we invited the Research Council of Norway to our department on March 7, 2019, to tell us about the new procedures for the IKTPLUSS and the FRINATEK programs. [IKTPLUSS is trying something new this time](#); they do not have fixed deadlines any longer, and they will be welcoming and assessing proposals all the time. They have divided the proposal types into those that have short term, middle term, or long term expected applications or impact. I assume that fundamental and basic ICT research fits well within the long term dimension. We will have the opportunity to ask and dig for details on March 7, which is well ahead of the April 10 deadline of the FRIPRO program.

I consider it an important part of my job to be constantly in a dialogue both with funding agencies and with government authorities, as well as providing access points and facilitating for all our colleagues to come in touch with them. Already in January we will also be meeting the Bergen Research Foundation to discuss possible projects and funding. Success in this direction requires the true meaning of the word dialogue. We want to learn what the funding agencies are considering as important. At the same time, with our broad and state-of-the-art expertise in the ICT field, knowing its potential, possibilities and limitations, we want to tell them in which directions we think Norway should focus her research funding resources and why.

It is an incredible privilege to be a researcher in our field at this point in time. Even more exciting times are ahead of us. I am so much looking forward.

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

-Pinar

The Dean's Blog – Helge K. Dahle

[The Dean's blog](#) aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

His latest postings: [Det er flere grunner til at EU liker vår satsing på energiomstilling](#) - [Vi trenger flere flaggskip innen energiomstilling](#) - [Tiltak for god kjønnsbalanse er nødvendig](#)



Welcome new colleagues!



Phillippe Samer Lallo Dias

Phillippe started this week in his new position as Research Fellow in the optimization group. Dag Haugland will be his main supervisor.

Phillippe is from Brazil. He holds a Master's degree in computer science from the UFMG - Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in 2014. Since 2017, he has been following a postgraduate study program in pure mathematics at the UFMG. He has also been assistant professor at Molde University College some years ago, and has teaching experience in programming, algorithms and optimization.

“Maia, one of two beloved dog sisters left in Brazil”



Thomas Trautner

Thomas is a new Research Fellow in the visualization group on the MetaVis project funded by the Research Council of Norway. Stefan Bruckner is his main supervisor.

Thomas is from Austria. He holds a Master's degree in Visual Computing from the VRVis Research Center in Vienna, 2018. He had a three months research internship in Bergen in 2017.



Fourough Gharbalchi

Fourough started this week in her new position as Research Fellow in the visualization group. Stefan Bruckner is her main supervisor.

Fourough is from Turkey. She holds a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering from the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, in 2015. She has also worked as Software Developer and research assistant, and has experience with medical image analysis, machine learning and programming.



Laura Garrison

Laura started this week in her new position as Research Fellow in the visualization group. Helwig Hauser is her main supervisor.

Laura is American. She holds a Master's degree in Biomedical Visualization from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2012. She has previously worked as a Director of Medical Media at I-Human Patients and as Scientific Technical Director at BioDigital.

Saket Saurabh - ERC consolidator grant – congratulations!



The Dean congratulates Saket.

Please also check the nice web interview with Saket:
[Making sense of Big Data](#)



Happy, happy!!

UiB Purchaser of the year prize: Department of Informatics ☺

Last week, our department won a prize for excellent routines for purchasing. Thanks to Liv Rebecca's initiative and Tor and Ingrid's nice work, we have come up to 99% use of the purchasing system this year. Congratulations!



Gratulerer
Institutt for informatikk

Årets innkjøpspris

Prisen deles i år ut til et institutt som de siste årene har utmerket seg gjennom målrettet bruk av uib sitt elektroniske bestillingssystem. Instituttet har både store og små kjøp innen et vidt spekter av varer og tjenester. De handler med leverandører fra hele verden og mange av varene er svært spesialiserte.

I 2017 lå de på 85% som er høyt. De siktet imidlertid høyere og i 2018 er andelen bestillinger gjennom PM hele 99%.



Picture report from the department Christmas Party



Scandic Ørnen – nice place, nice food, nice party!



Photo: Fredrik Lygre Bergesen:



Nice students!



Nice professors!



Crazy people



More crazy people ☺



Next faculty and staff lunch December 12, 2018

Our next faculty and permanent staff lunch will be on December 12 at 12:00. Since our common lunch room and social area on the fourth floor is still being refurbished, we will again use the “Yoga room” (room 510N3) on the fifth floor.

Research, Science, and Seminars

Guest Talk by James Cussens 11th December

Department of Informatics



Learning Bayesian network structure from data using integer programming



Dr. James Cussens from the University of York will give a guest talk on Tuesday, December 11th at 14.15 in lecture room 510N3 on the 5th floor in Datablokken. Refreshments will be served before the talk.

Abstract:

The structure of a Bayesian network is a directed acyclic graph (DAG) which provides a compact and intuitive representation of the conditional independence relations between the variables in a joint probability distribution. Bayesian network structure learning (BNSL) attempts to 'learn' this structure from data. Once we associate a 'score' (e.g. posterior probability) with any candidate DAG the BNSL problem becomes one of discrete constrained optimisation.

In this talk I will describe how one can use integer programming (IP) to (attempt to) solve this problem. There will be two main foci. On the positive side I will argue that viewing this machine learning problem as constrained optimisation facilitates the exploitation of whatever prior knowledge one might have. On the negative side I will address the problem that a naive approach to BNSL with IP requires having too many IP variables - and I will outline ongoing work on what a less naive method would look like.

Register your publications in the Crstin database

The budget of our department is partly dependent on the publications that our scientific staff are authors and coauthors of. We therefore ask everybody to kindly register all their publications that have appeared in 2018 in the [Cristin Database](#): after logging in, please choose “Research results” and then “Register result”. Some publications are automatically gathered from various journals, so please search for your publications via “Search in results” and register only the missing ones. Please try to complete this by mid January.

Annual Department of informatics gathering will take place April 29-30, 2019



Every year in April, the employees of our department and the student council go for a two day seminar somewhere in the vicinity of Bergen. Next gathering will take place April 29-30, 2019 at [Solstrand](#). All faculty members are expected to attend this gathering, and all other employees are most welcome. At this meeting, we will discuss very important things like our department's research and education strategy for the next five years.

Please reserve the dates, and wait for more information!

Kommunikasjonsfrokost 13. desember at Media City Bergen

Hva kan du oppnå ved å bruke Twitter til forskningsformidling? Møt tre aktive UiB-tvitrere på morgenvisten og lær mer om mulighetene. Twitter er en arena for forskningsformidling, hvor du kan knytte kontakter, bidra i samfunnsdebatten og påvirke beslutningstakere. Men hvordan skal du gå frem? På denne kommunikasjonsfrokosten vil du få høre hvordan tre UiB-ansatte bruker Twitter som et nyttig redskap i sine jobber og få et innblikk i hvilke muligheter Twitter kan gi, i tillegg til konkrete tips og råd om hva det vil kreve av deg. Vi serverer enkel frokost og lussekatter fra kl. 08.00. Program kl. 08.30 – 09.30.

Innledere:

[Andreas Hadsel Opsvik](#) er en skrivende, filmende og snakkende kommunikatør, i tillegg til å være altfor aktiv på sosiale medier, i følge ham selv. Andreas vil snakke om hvordan han jobber med Twitter i forskningsformidling, forbereder Twitter-arbeid til store konferanser, og gi generelle tips om hvordan nå ut i Twitter-landskapet.

[Dorothy Dankel](#) er marinbiolog og forsker og er ansatt ved Institutt for biovitenskap. Hun arbeider tverrfaglig med ressursforvaltning og underviser bl.a. i FNs bærekraftsmål, bioetikk og vitenskapsfilosofi. Dorothy bruker Twitter strategisk i jobbsammenheng og vil bl.a. dele hvordan hun bruker Twitter både sosialt og faglig under konferanser.

[Erik Knudsen](#) er postdoktor ved The Digital Social Science Core Facility (DIGSSCORE) og Institutt for informasjons- og medievitenskap. Han forsker blant annet på hvordan folks meninger og politiske preferanser former folks tillit til og bruk av nyhetsmedier.

Møtet er gratis og åpent for alle interesserte UiB-ansatte. [Påmelding](#) innen mandag 10. desember.

SLATE Guest lecture 18th December



SLATE Guest Lecture

Social Set Analysis: A Set-Theoretical Approach to Big Data Analytics

Professor Ravi Vatrapu

Director, Centre for Business Data Analytics, Copenhagen Business School

14:15-15:30, 18 December 2018

Vektergården, Christiesgate 13, 3 etg.

Academic affairs and PhD Updates [bioCEED news](#)

New nice facilities for our students on the 2nd floor this week: two “kollokvieøyer”!



Online course for PhD supervisors

The course includes rules, regulations and procedures for the PhD program. All fresh professors appointed as main supervisor or co-supervisor of a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences from 1 December 2018 must complete the online course. You can take the course in [Norwegian](#) or in [English](#). Please make sure you verify the completion of the course when it is completed.

Funding opportunities

Research Council webinar 14th December: new types of applications and calls in 2019

Time: 14th December at 13:00-14:00. [Learn more.](#)

Program for the webinar:

- Why RCN implement these changes
- What do the changes mean for us
- How will the RCN organize the review process

[Please note that the Research Council of Norway is actually visiting our department to talk to us about the new procedures for IKTPLUSST on March 7!](#)

Course 10 January 2019: How to write the impact part of project proposals

In this course, Sean McCarthy will focus on the impact part of a proposal. 'Impact' is one of the most important evaluation criteria in European project proposals. Many researchers find understanding the concept and explaining the expected impact challenging. The course is aimed at clearing this up, and teaching applicants to sell their ideas in the project summary (abstract) and the impact part. The abstract should introduce the impact of the project to the evaluator.

The course is UiB internal and all UiB staff and researchers are welcome. The course language is English. Lunch will be served - no registration fee. Sean McCarthy in Hyperion Ltd. is an experienced researcher, research manager and evaluator. He has trained researchers and research administrators from European universities for many years. [Learn more and registration](#)

ERC proposal writing courses in 2019 at UiB in collaboration with RCN

Academics can now register for the 2019 ERC grant proposal writing courses. This is a collaboration between UiB and RCN and therefore open to interested researchers from outside UiB as well. A more detailed program for the courses will follow soon.

The deadline for submitting an ERC Advanced Grant 2019 is 29.8.2019. [The course for writing an ERC Advanced Grants will take place on March 13, 2019.](#)

For the ERC Starting and Consolidator grants the deadlines are not announced yet (expected to be Oct 2019 for the 2020 StG and Feb 2020 for the 2020 CoG). [The course for writing ERC StG and CoG will take place June 19, 2019.](#)

Vacant positions

Four PhD fellowships in Computer Science

Closing date: 09.12.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#)

PhD position in computer science: parameterized complexity applications in visualization

Closing date: 15.12.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#).

Professor in informatics – machine learning

Closing date: 03.01.2019. Please find the [announcement text here](#).

Professor in information security – applied cryptography

Closing date: 06.01.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#).

Researcher in algorithms

Closing date: 15.01.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Førsteamanuensis i informatikk fagformidling og utdanning (IKT-fagdidaktikk)

Closing date: 20.01.2019. Please find [the announcement text here](#).

Postdoctoral positions (2) in Computer Science

Closing date: 05.02.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#).

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

Department of Informatics winner of the 2018 HSE prize!

The 2018 prize for health, environment and safety of the Faculty of mathematics and natural sciences was awarded to our department! We share the prize with the Department of Biosciences.

The prize was given to our department for the efforts we have put into improving the psychosocial environment at our department, creating natural meeting points among the staff, and establishing better information channels.



New safety delegates 2019-2020

For the period 2019-2020 Ida Rosenlund will be the safety delegate for our Department of Informatics, and Ingrid Kyllingmark will be the deputy safety delegate.

Reminder: Yoga on Wednesdays!

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work.

Yoga classes are held 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.

Welfare offer from the UiB: Kveder i julenatt 18th December

[Vokalensemblat Multa Paucis](#) inviterer til julekonsert i folkemusikalsk drakt! Benytt anledningen til å oppleve våre vakreste julesanger fremført av et prisvinnende kor og fremragende folkemusikere fra vestlandet. Med som band er [Johanne Løkensgard Mjøs](#) på fele, [Kristoffer Kleiveland](#) på torader, og [Erlend Styve](#) på gitar.

Programmet består av skandinaviske julesanger. Noen av sangene tilhører julens velkjente absolutte sangskatter, mens andre av melodiene vil muligens være nye for enkelte. Arrangementene er delvis utarbeidet av koret, musikerne, og dirigent Mikael Ringstad Hedne.

Vi lover både julestemning og julerol! Velkommen!

Tid: 18. desember, kl 19.30

Sted: Bergen domkirke

Pris: 250 / 150.

Billetter kan finnes på <https://multapaucis.ticketco.events/no/nb/> eller kjøpes i døren.

Er dere gruppe på over 8? Ta kontakt på post@multapaucis.no for gruppepris.

Link til arrangement på facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1706624339460537/>

Welfare offer from the UiB: Juleoratoriet 18th December in Griegsalen.

Tirsdag 18. desember kl. 1930 i Griegsalen

Alessandro De Marchi, dirigent
Vigdis Unsgård, sopran
Marianne Beate Kielland, alt
Jeremy Ovenden, tenor
Halvor Melien, baryton

Bergen Filharmoniske Kor
Edvard Grieg Kor
Håkon Matti Skrede, kormester
Bergen Filharmoniske Orkester

Johan Sebastian Bach, Juleoratoriet, kantate 1-3

Vi inviterer til Bachs jublende feiring av julen med orkester, stort kor og strålende solister! Bachs livsbejaende Juleoratorium er for mange en kjær del av juletradisjonen. Oratoriet består av seks kantater som ble komponert av Bach til julefeiringen i Leipzig i 1734. [Klikk her for å lese mer om konserten og får å kjøpe billetter](#)

Spesialtilbud til de ansatte ved UIB

RABATTKODE: UIB-DES

Kr. 330/290/240 (Ordinære priser 495/445/365)

Du må gå gjennom hele kjøpsprosessen før du kan taste rabattkoden. På høyre side er det en oppdateringsknapp som du må trykke på for å få frem tilbudsprisen som vil så føre deg til handlekurven.

