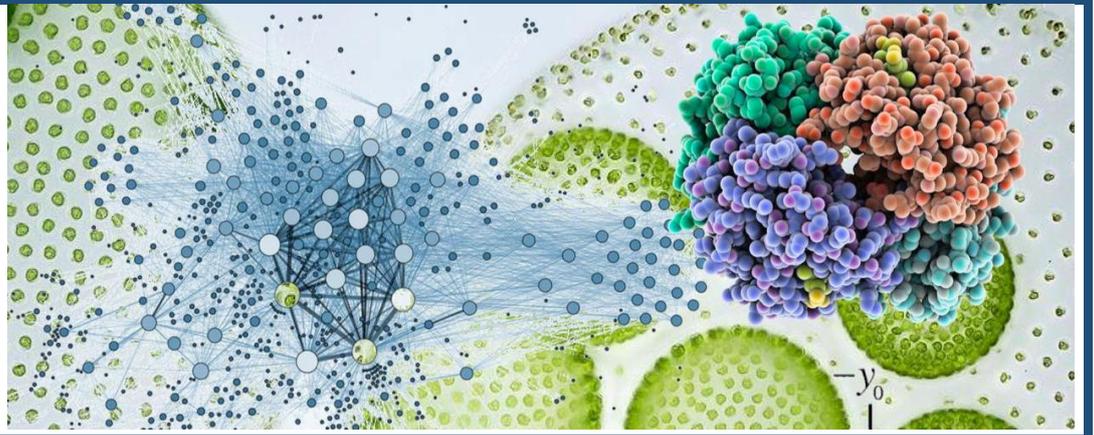


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 4/2020
28th February 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

The population of Norway is getting older. 10 years ago, the average number of births per woman in Norway was 2; today it is 1.5. 10 years ago, there were 5 people in the working age range (18-67) compared to those who were too young or too old to work. Already today, that number is 4.5. In 20 years, it is expected to be 3, and towards 2060 there could be less people in working age range than those who will be retired. The numbers are from [Statistics Norway's future predictions](#). It is quite clear that Norway will have a huge lack of work force for the most important societal functions. The economic consequences are also easy to imagine; there will be less people paying taxes and many more who are in need of social benefits. Thus it might not be possible to have as many public servants per inhabitant as we have today.



Perhaps because it is still in the future, and human nature tends to ignore problems that are not urgent, this issue is not really that much on the national agenda, although worrying reports have been delivered to the government. In fact, most people are rather worried about robots and digital helpers replacing more and more human workers, thinking that this will lead to unemployment. Given the statistics above, robots are not a threat; they are the solution. It will not be possible to keep the living standard and welfare level of Norway without robots, self-driving public transport, and more automatization of work tasks in all professions. Already today, the routine tasks of many professions are automatized. Digital solutions are not only a necessity, but they also help give better and more personalized service in most fields.

All of the above indicate how central computer science will continue to be in the future. There will be more and more need for clever solutions for complicated problems, and every person will have to deal with software one way or the other, actually in many ways. Already today almost every person walks with a powerful computer in their hand, in the form of a smart phone. And we are all constantly contributing to the collection of massive data. Consequently, not only will there be need for more computer scientists, but every member of the society will need a completely different level of computer and data literacy. This is exactly why the minister of local government and modernization Nikolai Astrup stated about a month ago that “we can no longer educate doctors or nurses or any other professionals who do not have basic knowledge about tools of artificial intelligence”.

A basic understanding of computer science and how modern software works, how the interaction with such should be interpreted, and how to use these tools, should be a part of every study program in all fields. The faculty of mathematics and natural sciences has taken the first step in this direction by making INF100 “introduction to programming” mandatory in all degrees issued by our faculty. From our side, we are working to get acceptance for the view that all students of technology should also learn the basics about digital security, digital ethics, data science and machine learning. This will have to happen sooner or later. Making it happen sooner would place our university in the forefront of this development.

We are not in a new “dot com bubble” that might soon burst. It is only just beginning!

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: [Strategien som former bærekraft-samfunnet](#) - [Matematikk vil fortsatt være bærebjelken i alt vi driver med](#) - [Kommunikasjon, fakta og forskning: Hvor mye metall fins det i dyphavet?](#)



Current Issues [På Høyden](#) - [Krono](#) – [News from NFR](#) – [News from UiB](#) – [Informatics on Facebook](#)

Precautions around the Corona virus

Habits which help prevent infection

- A paper tissue**
cover your mouth and nose protects others when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands.
- Use a flexed elbow**
when you cough or sneeze and do not have a tissue handy.
- Wash your hands**
thoroughly and often, particularly when around other people.
- Hand disinfection**
with alcohol-based products is a good alternative when you are unable to wash your hands, for example when you are travelling.

NIPH
Norwegian Institute of Public Health

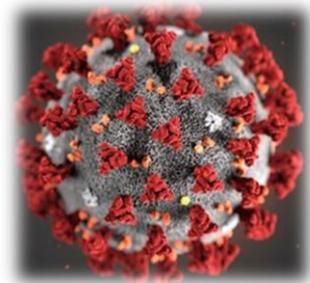
Helsedirektoratet
Norwegian Directorate of Health

The Corona virus covid-19 is not dangerous for healthy people but it might be lethal for those who suffer from serious diseases. For that reason, we all need to cooperate and stop the virus from spreading.

If you are or you have recently been in mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Iran, South Korea, or in one of the regions Lombardia, Piemonte, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto of Italy, please let Pinar and Linda know immediately.

If you have just come home from these areas and you encounter symptoms of cold or flu, please do not leave your home, in particular **do not go to the doctor's office or the hospital**. Instead, call your GP or 116117, and follow their instructions on how to act.

You can read more about the virus and the general health advice from the Norwegian authorities at the [web pages of Norwegian Institute of Public Health](#).



[Our university has also prepared an information page](#) about the routines connected with the virus, however it is only in Norwegian.

Scheduled Power Stop in our building on April 17-19!

On April 17-19, the main power supply to Thormøhlens gate 55 (Datablokken) will be replaced. This means that the building will be closed in the period from 17 April at 17.00 until 19 April at 24:00.

During this period, the building will be closed off and no one will have access to the building other than those working with the power supply.

Important! The building will be able to regain power at any time during this period. It is important that all planned activities in the building during this period are moved or postponed. The building is secured with 24-hour security and fire guards.

For questions, contact the UIB Real Estate Department, tel. 55 58 49 00

Registration for the department's annual gathering is now open!



Department of Informatics Voss gathering April 27-28

Some flavors from the preliminary program content:

- Recruitment campaign, application and admission numbers
- Ethics in computer science education
- Good practices and student peer grading in computer science education
- Open access publishing agreements of our university and how they work
- Travels and stays abroad, membership in the Norwegian social security, how to make sure you are always covered
- What kind of mathematics courses are essential for our study programs?

Please observe that all faculty members and permanent staff are expected to participate. PhD students, postdocs and researchers are most welcome, as well.

[Please register here by 25th March](#)

Høringsmøte for ansatte og studenter om ny UH-lov 19. mars

Ansatte og studenter ved MN-fakultetet inviteres til høringsmøte om ny Universitets- og høyskolelov 19. mars kl. 10-12 i Realfagbygget, aud 1. I dette åpne innspillsmøtet vil studenter, ansatte og arbeidstakerorganisasjonene kunne delta med spørsmål og innspill. UiB legger også opp til å drøfte saken i dialogmøter med studentene og tillitsvalgte.

13. februar ble [Aune-utvalgets](#) forslag til ny [universitets- og høyskole lov](#) lagt fram. For de som ikke har hatt tid til å lese NoU-ens over 400 sider har [Khrono sammenfattet de viktigste forslagene](#). Her er noen av disse:

- Krav om to sensorer ved alle eksamener og prøver
- Blind sensur fjernes. Det skal sikre reell overprøving av første karaktervedtak
- Fjerner hjemmel til å gi tilleggspoeng til det underrepresenterte kjønn
- Ny karakterskala i tillegg til dagens to. Skalaen som foreslås: Utmerket, bestått, ikke bestått
- Styreleder skal være ekstern, oppnevnes av departementet
- Institusjonen velger selv om den skal ha valgt eller ansatt rektor
- Ved valg til rektor: lik vektning av stemmer for alle grupper av ansatte (studentenes stemmer vil fortsatt vekte 25%)

Den store formidlingsprisen 2020

Fakultetet fortsetter arbeidet med å stimulere til økt formidling, og opprettet i fjor en pris på 50 000 kroner som deles ut i forbindelse med bachelorseremonien i Universitetsaulaen i juni.

Kandidaten vurderes etter følgende kriterier:

«Formidlingsprisen skal inspirere til å ta formidlingsoppdraget alvorlig. Prisvinneren skal strekke seg langt for å bidra til å opplyse samfunnet, skape debatt, synliggjøre forskning og utdanning ved Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet, stimulere til formidling eller på annen måte være en viktig bidragsyter til kunnskapsspredning og samfunnsdebatt.»

Alle som studerer, arbeider eller forsker under Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet oppfordres til å [sende inn nominasjoner her](#). Det er også mulig å nominere flere personer. Frist for å nominere kandidater er **15. mai 2020**.

Nomination for election – Faculty board

Election of members to [group B](#) (temporary academic staff) and [group D](#) (students) of the MN-Faculty- and Institute Boards - spring 2020. The candidates will be elected for the term 01.08.2020 – 31.07.2021.

Are you interested in running, or do you know someone who wants to be part of the MN-Faculty board, or of their respective Institute Board we would like to hear from you! Deadline for proposals: 20th March, 12:00 PM

For more information about the election and how to run, please visit the [MN-website](#).



Nomination for election – Department Board

Each year group B (temporary academic staff) and group D (students) elect new members to the Informatics Institute Board. The deadline for nominating your candidates is 20th March at 12 pm. The candidates will be elected for the term 01.08.2020 – 31.07.2021.

Are you interested in running, or do you know someone who wants to be part of the Informatics Institute Board we would like to hear from you!

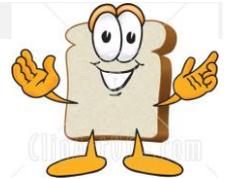
Deadline for proposals: 20th March 2020, 12:00 PM.

[More information about the election and how to run](#)



Next Faculty & Staff lunch, March 3

The next Faculty & Staff lunch will be on 3rd March in the fourth floor lunch-room! There will be celebration of a birthday 😊!



PhD Updates

Call for applications - VIVA 2020 PhD Summer School, June 15-19



It is our pleasure to announce the organization of the 1st VIVA European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence and Software Verification and Validation.

Location: Belambra Club, La Grande Motte, Montpellier, France.

Dates: 15 - 19 June 2020

Organizers: Arnaud Gotlieb (Simula Research Laboratory, Oslo), Nadjib Lazaar (LIRMM, University of Montpellier) and Florent Masegla (LIRMM, Inria).

Website: <http://www.lirmm.fr/viva2020/>

Department of Informatics



Galileo authentication

Prof. Vincent Rijmen



Abstract:

Galileo is the global navigation satellite system created by EU to provide an independent high-precision positioning system (similar to GPS which is developed by USA).

Vincent Rijmen was involved in the development of a cryptographic authentication mechanism that will be used to protect the Galileo open signals.

In this talk he will describe the background of satellite navigation, the Galileo requirements and the solution his team provided.

Thursday March 5th, 2020,
from 14:15

Big Auditorium, 2nd Floor, Datablokken
Refreshments will be served from 14:00



Visual Computing Forum

<http://vis.UiB.no/vcf/>

The Presence and Future of Molecular Visualization

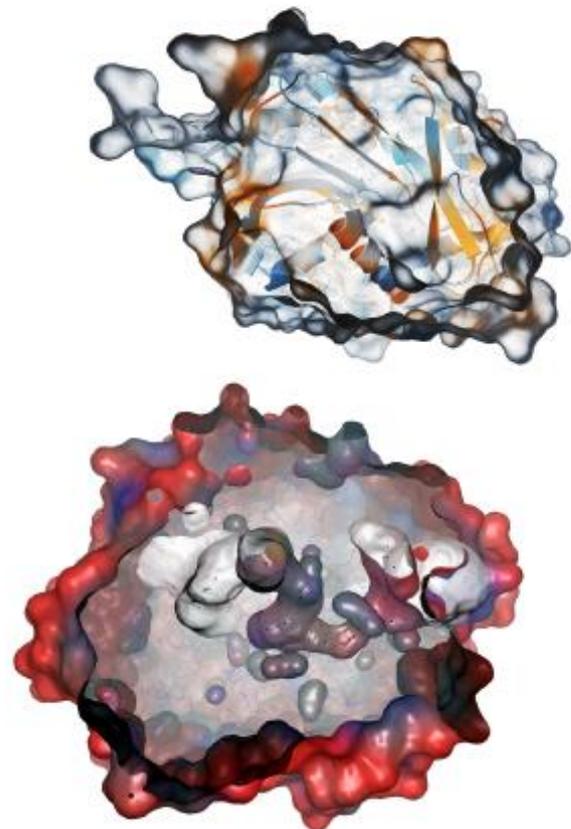


Friday, 13th of March, from 10:15
Allégaten 41 (Realfagbygget)
Auditorium 2

Barbora Kozlíková
Associate Professor
@ Masaryk University, Brno

Abstract:

Molecular visualization has been a research topic for many decades already, resulting in many exciting publications, techniques, and even robust software tools. The progress in biomolecular research enables to explore larger and larger structures in atomistic detail and observe long trajectories of their behavior in time which poses many research challenges for the visualization community. In my talk, based on recent exemplary cases, I will present the tight connection between biochemistry and visualization, with the aim to give an overview of the current status of biomolecular visualization. Then, I outline the current limitations of existing approaches and present sources of new domain knowledge and data, which still lack proper visual representation.



PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR PHDS & POSTDOCS

12 / 13.03.2020

09:00 - 16:00

Thormøhlens gate 51

VilVite Konferanserom D

Register now!



by Katia Van Belle,
professional coach and trainer

UiBdoc is very pleased to provide you with the opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop on project management for scientists. Held by Katia Van Belle (<http://www.propellor.be>), an enthusiastic trainer with ample experience in research, industry and governmental institutions, the training will teach how to: set realistic goals, prioritize the right work and communicate and supervise effectively.

[Register early](#) for either Thursday 12.03 or Friday 13.03. ONLY 15 SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR EACH DAY!

[Facebook event](#)

Sikkerhetskonsferansen 2020, March 25-26

Nasjonal sikkerhetsmyndighet (NSM) inviterer til Sikkerhetskonsferansen 2020, 25. og 26.mars.



**NASJONAL
SIKKERHETSMYNDIGHET**

Sikkerhetskonsferansen 2020 har et overordnet fokus på helhetlig forebyggende sikkerhet. Vi byr på internasjonale gjester som forteller om erfaringer og utsikter i cyber, og to store norske virksomheter med erfaringer fra uønskede hendelser som rammet virksomhetene hardt.

Ett år med ny sikkerhetslov har gått, og vi vil se nærmere på hvordan begreper og avhengigheter kan omsettes til praktisk sikkerhetsarbeid i virksomhetene. NSM presenterer også grunnprinsipper i alle våre fagområder – for helhetlig forebyggende sikkerhet i alle ledd. Videre vil konferansen ta for seg temaer som personellsikkerhet, ny teknologi, risikoforståelse, et spor er om og med Nasjonalt cybersikkerhetssenter, globalisering og teknisk sikkerhet. Avslutningsvis vil vi tradisjonen tro se fremover. Vi byr på foredrag om verdenssamfunnets «uorden», NATO og dets rolle fremover, og avslutter med Jessica Barker og «the human side of cybersecurity».

Flere spennende foredrag og temaer blir lansert etter hvert som konferansen nærmer seg. Program finnes [her](#).

Fjorårets Sikkerhetskonsferanse hadde over 150 personer på venteliste, og var fulltegnet allerede 7.mars. Vi anbefaler derfor å være tidlig ute med påmelding for å være sikret plass i år. Påmelding til årets konferanse finner du [her](#). (Påmeldingslenken leder til tredjepartsløsning)

Upcoming funding opportunities [Research support services](#) - [Upcoming funding opportunities](#)

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!

At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:



IKTPLUSS. The call for the open deadline version of IKTPLUSS will change; there will be a new, revised call available soon. "The new call for proposals will give priority to artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomy with associated systems. RCN will also prioritize projects that focus on collaboration across sectors or across fields and disciplines." Most likely, the new call will only be for collaborative projects.

Unfortunately we expect the new call to be not that relevant for most of our researchers. We encourage all of you who are close to completing a project proposal, to submit their proposal to the CURRENT open call. The current call will remain for a few more weeks still. This might be your last opportunity at a more generous scheme than FRIPRO!



Researcher Projects 2020. This year, an individual may serve as project manager for only one grant application submitted for [Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal](#), [Researcher Projects for Young Talents](#), and [Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility](#) for the 6 May 2020 deadline. In addition, the same individual can serve as project manager for one grant application for a [Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project](#). Please note that IKTPLUSS has no separate sub-call(s) in relation to the May deadline; they have the open-ended calls and, in addition, 25 million NOK are earmarked for ICT-research and digital transformation under the FRIPRO scheme (deadline 6 May). **Application deadline: 6 May 2020.**



COST. COST is the [European Cooperation in Science and Technology](#). The organization provides funds for researchers from all fields to set up international, interdisciplinary research networks (so-called COST Actions). COST Actions run on average for 4 years and require the participation of at least seven COST Members. **Application deadline: 29 April 2020.**



SPIRE. [SPIRE-funds](#) are strategic funds that shall help to facilitate international research collaboration. One can apply for funds in two different categories: 1) international research collaboration, and 2) invitation of guest researchers. The faculty has now announced a new SPIRE call because not all funds from round 1 have been used up. In category 1, you can apply for up to 200 000 kr. Otherwise, the university's guidelines stated on their website apply. **The department's application deadline: 20 March 2020, 10 am (Norwegian time).** Please send your applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no.



Project support in global challenges. To support cross-faculty collaboration in research & education within its strategic area "Global Challenges" (sub-topics migration, health and inequality), the university has recently issued a funding call. The **department's deadline is 10 am (Norwegian time) on 23 March 2020.**

You can apply for minimum 10 000 kr and maximum 100 000 kr to support the following activities in 2020: meetings, seminars, travels – if their purpose is to promote cross-faculty education activities or will lead to new funding applications related to cross-faculty research projects. At least 2 faculties need to participate in an application to this call.

Please contact Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no for more details.



Information. RCN has entered into "Money Follows Cooperation" agreements with the research councils in Switzerland, the Netherlands, South-Korea, and Japan.



DKNVS Stiftelses forskningsfond. Support of research on sustainable development of society, travels and field work, seminars and conferences. **Application deadline: 1**



Webinar on RCN calls 2020. Find out more about the upcoming RCN calls in May (Researcher Projects) and September (Collaborative and Knowledge-building Project). **Webinar: either 4 March (2-3 pm) or 6 March 2020 (9.30-10.30 am).**

Information seminar on RCN calls 2020. As part of the department seminar series, our research coordinator will hold an information seminar on the upcoming RCN calls for Researcher Projects. We will briefly look at the calls, discuss the application templates (in general and pointing out changes from last year) and inform you about the evaluation routines (with some insights from 2019). Furthermore, we will include some tips on how to improve the different chapters of the project description. An overview of the department's proposal support services will also be provided. **Seminar: 19 March 2020, 2.15 pm in the Large Auditorium.**



RCN Fagdag om impact og kommunikasjon. «I løpet av dagen [11. mars, Oslo] vil du få ulike perspektiver på hvordan det står til med impact i Norge i dag og hvordan dette kan sees i et kommunikasjonsperspektiv.» **Registration deadline: 6 March 2020 (noon).**

NORA 2020 annual conference. NORA, the The Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium, will hold its first annual conference on 21 April 2020 in Oslo (Norway). Save the date! **Registration deadline: to be announced.**

TAILOR - Foundations of Trustworthy AI - Integrating Learning, Optimization and Reasoning. The TAILOR workshop (8-9 June 2020, Santiago de Compostela, Spain) will bring together different groups and researchers “to discuss the state of the art and the latest advances in the integration of learning, optimisation and reasoning to provide the scientific foundations for Trustworthy AI.” **Submission deadline: 15 March 2020.**

CEDAS conference 2020. The first conference organized by the Center for Data Science will be held between 15-16 June 2020 in Bergen (Norway). Save the date! **Registration deadline: to be announced.**

VIVA 2020. The first VIVA European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence and Software Verification and Validation will be held between 15-19 June 2020 in La Grande Motte (France). **Registration deadline: 29 February 2020.**

Need help?

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your planned and ongoing funding applications! In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services. There you will find a list of our services as well as a comprehensive overview over upcoming funding opportunities.

Vacant positions

PhD position in informatics - Algorithmic foundations of big data

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 31.03.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in informatics – algorithms

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 01.04.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in informatics - applied cryptology

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 30.04.2020.

PhD position in informatics - applied cryptology

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 30.04.2020.

Fire Safety courses, spring semester 2020

All employees at the UiB are required to complete a fire safety course. The course lasts two hours – 1 hour of theory and 1 hour of practice. If you have not attended a course previously, you are required to do so as soon as possible.

Thursdays March 19, April 23, May 28 and June 25.

Please notice that this spring semester there will be one course in English intended for non-Norwegian speaking staff: Thursday June 25.

[Follow this link to sign up.](#) For «Fakturadresse» use this code: 121200



Brannøvelse

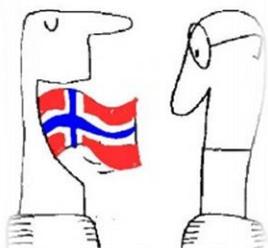
Aksjon «Sykle til jobben» 2020

Informatics people – please join in! This is actually not only for those who bicycle to and from work – all physical activities and sports activities counts! The II Administration is already in with a team of 5 (Pål, Linda, Tor, Ingrid and Pinar) 😊 We challenge all the II research groups to join. If there will be more than two teams from our department – we will set up an internal prize for the best II-team!

[Registration here](#)



Welcome to the cake club on Wednesdays!



Kakeklubben aims to help our international colleagues to practice Norwegian while spending nice time together with colleagues across group borders. Club meetings are held on Wednesdays at 12 o'clock in the lunchroom, 4th floor.

You bring your own lunch, and we serve cake and coffee.

Everyone is welcome, no matter how much Norwegian you speak. We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!

Yoga on Wednesdays!

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. Yoga classes are held at our department 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 participation fee. Please bring your own yoga mat. We also have some mats for loan. All employees are welcome – also those of you who never tried yoga before.

And remember: When you are too busy to go to the yoga class – then is when you need it the most!