

NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 7/2020
7th April 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

As we are going through unusual and challenging times, it is my pleasure to be able to bring you some good news also in this newsletter. Our colleague Chunlei Li has just been granted a research project from the Research Council of Norway's IKTPPLUS program. Congratulations and well done Chunlei! This is wonderful news, not only for our department but also for the whole University of Bergen, as the results from the last FRIPRO application deadline were not so uplifting for our university in general. I am in particular happy and proud that this important achievement is by one of our young colleagues. Our department has always put the highest focus on recruiting the best people, and we have a tradition for focusing on young talents. Today we have five associate professors in tenure track positions, two women and three men, and we have high expectations from all of them. Such a grant is a milestone in every CV towards a professor promotion. I am very happy that Chunlei is now one step closer to this goal.



From research, I move on to education. Only eight days are left until the [nationally coordinated application deadline for higher education](#). From our recent discussions, you all know how much it means for our department, and for each of you as educators, to have a large number of applicants to our studies. There is an increasing interest for informatics studies among high school pupils, as well as a huge demand in society for computer scientists. Hence every year we admit more students to our study programs than our official capacity. However, to make sure that we end up with a student body who is dedicated, motivated, and skilled to complete their studies on time, we need to attract even more applicants to our study programs. The larger the number of applicants, the higher the competition to enter our programs, and consequently the better suited the students who end up getting an offer from us. I would like to ask all of your help in this respect during the Easter holidays. Please do spread the word. If you are using social media, please like and share posts from our department and from our faculty. Further down in this newsletter, you will find details of how to follow our department on various social media platforms. I thank you all in advance for your help in this direction.

Our newsletter this time comes on a Tuesday rather than a Friday, since today is the last official full working day before entering the Easter holidays. Easter in Bergen this year is very different from how it usually is. Normally most people would take this whole week off, obtaining an Easter break of 10 days, starting from last weekend and lasting until the end of next Monday. During this break, families would travel abroad to warmer places or to the mountains of Norway for skiing or visit their families and relatives abroad or in other parts of Norway. This Easter, though, with all the restrictions for travel and social gatherings, most of us are in Bergen, and many of us have been working yesterday and today. I hope that you will all now take some time off work at least during the official holidays and try to recharge your batteries. On Thursday, it will be four weeks since we closed campus, and these past weeks have put a lot of extra work on all our shoulders. We all deserve a proper break!

I hope you will enjoy this Easter edition of our newsletter (if you read all the way to the end, you will find a surprise ☺), and I wish you all a peaceful, safe, healthy, and happy Easter vacation, where I hope you will find plenty of opportunities for recreation and social interaction, maintaining of course your physical distance.

God Påske! ☺

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: [Sosial distansering](#) - [Omstilling i virrevandringens tid](#) - [Dugnadsånd i ei krise](#) - [Det er ikke nok å bare kunne litt programmering](#) - [Det er ikke rart det blir bråk av slikt](#)



Welcome new colleagues!



Elisabeth Bonnevier

Elisabeth just started a PhD position with the Programming Theory group. Her main supervisor is Håkon Gylterud. Elisabeth is Swedish; born in Uppsala and grown up in Stockholm. She is married, and she is looking very much forward to coming to Bergen together with her Finnish-Swedish husband, as soon as the travel restrictions due to the pandemic are lifted.

Elisabeth says that she has been in love with mathematics as long as she can remember. When she started university, she also discovered that programming is pretty cool. When she then learned about type theory, where you can actually program mathematics, she found this to be the perfect topic of study for her. She completed her master's degree at the University of Stockholm last week.

Congratulations colleagues!



Chunlei Li

Chunlei has just received a grant of 8.7 million NOK from the Research Council of Norway's IKTPLUSS program. Congratulations and well done Chunlei! We are very happy and proud!

Chunlei's project title is "Sequences and their applications", and the proposal was submitted to the call on "Ubiquitous Data and Services".

The emerging 5G technology promises ambitious use cases, which include not only high data rate in the order of several Gbps, but also massive connectivity of IoT devices and ultra-reliable communications for real-time control of rescue robots in emergency. These use cases raise a number of research problems in the design of multiple access schemes and the design of carrier signals that modulate periodic waveforms for data transmission.

Existing mobile communication technologies all employ orthogonal multiple access schemes that enable multiple signals to share the same communication channel simultaneously. However, the orthogonal schemes cannot meet the demanding requirements in the new 5G use cases. In his project, Chunlei will explore several types of non-orthogonal multiple access schemes for the 5G technology, with the primary objective of optimizing the usage of limited frequency bands shared by multiple signals and securing data communications. Besides, he will investigate properties of the carrier signals used in the proposed schemes, formulate theoretical bounds on their parameters, and also design optimal carrier signals that reach or approach the established theoretical limits.

The project will improve multiple access schemes for the 5G networks and bring transforming impact to the current paradigm of mobile communications. At large, the outcome of 5G would push forward the deployment of non-orthogonal multiple access schemes in the 5G and bring customised security solutions to diverse use scenarios.



Inge Jonassen

Inge has been visible in the news recently with research collaboration and research infrastructure related to the coronavirus. Well done Inge, and congratulations! We are very proud.

[Here is a news article from the Bergens Tidende newspaper](#)

[Here is a news article from UiB](#)



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

Corona situation update - <https://www.uib.no/korona>



Employees and students have to follow the advices given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Institute of Public Health. Photo: Colourbox.com

It is utmost important that everybody checks [the coronavirus information page of the UiB](#) frequently.

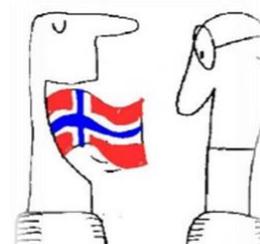
Access to our building. Only Pinar, Inge, Linda, Stanislav and Olaf have access at to Datablokken. Linda makes a full inspection of all our floors once a week, and she also brings our parcels to Datablokken from the parcel reception at our neighbor department BIO. If you need access to the building, you can ask Linda for help after the Easter holidays. If there is a technical urgency or you cannot connect to our servers, please contact Stanislav for help.

Scheduled power outage in our building on April 17-19 – can affect your course schedule!

On April 17-19, the main power supply to our department building will be replaced. This means that the building will be without electricity from 17 April 17:00 until 19 April at 24:00. During this period, all servers run by our department will be unavailable. This will affect courses that use our servers for student submissions. Course lecturers should not schedule deadlines around this weekend.

Takeklubben online – special Easter edition tomorrow at 12:00!

Takeklubben is a social initiative for all colleagues who would like to practice their Norwegian language skills. Our meeting **Wednesday April 8 at 12:00** welcomes in particular all our new colleagues, and it will serve as a newcomers' club. If you would like to enter the Easter holidays together with new and old colleagues, please don't miss tomorrow's meeting. Watch out for an email from David!



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](#)

Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium - NORA

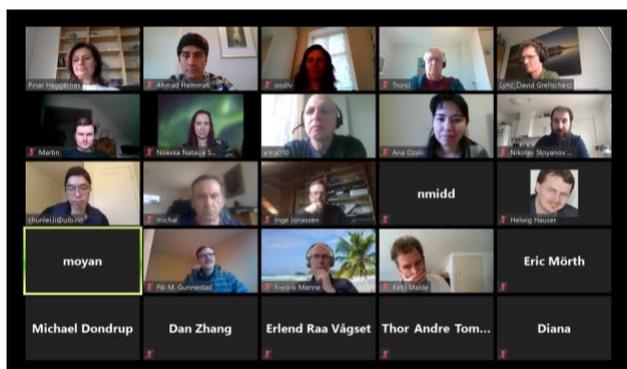


Recall that our university is a member [NORA](#), which is a collaboration on artificial intelligence research and education between seven universities and two research centers of Norway.

If your research is related to AI, it might be a good idea to [subscribe to NORAs newsletter](#). You can also follow NORA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to get the latest news on AI related research in Norway and Europe.

NORA would like to hear from you on your recent research achievements within AI. Please write to contact@nora.ai if you would like NORA to highlight your recent research on their webpage.

Next online all meeting about the exams of this semester – April 16 at 14:15



We had two successful all meetings on teaching and exams of this semester, with proficient guidance from our study section and fruitful discussions and challenging questions. We have scheduled a new one on April 16.

Our department's study section needs to have your plans for the spring exam by April 15.

In the next [meeting on April 16](#), we will get a list of all the courses and their exam plans, listen to a few colleagues on why they chose their particular exam type and how then plan to conduct the exam, as well as exchange ideas on how to keep in touch with our students before, during, and after an exam. [We meet on Zoom at 14:15.](#)

In the meantime, it might be a good idea to check the [information and help from UiB on conducting digital exams from home](#). In particular, there is newly added information about [pulling random tasks for each question in Inspecra](#), as well as [how to conduct oral exams via Zoom](#). Our university has been running webinars on online teaching and assessment throughout the second part of March. The webinars will continue after Easter; [you can follow the program here](#).

Trial lectures and PhD defenses of this semester

Public defenses and trial lectures are conducted online during the pandemic period. We deem that the process of holding a trial lecture and public defense should, as a general rule, be held at the planned date, in keeping with the rule that the defense should normally take place within two months after the thesis has been accepted. Please read more detailed information on this [here](#).

Department seminars April 30 and May 7

Since we had to cancel our department gathering that was planned to take place in Voss April 27-28, we turn some parts of the Voss program into several department Thursday seminars conducted via Zoom. So far we have two such seminars scheduled: April 30 and May 7.

Thursday April 30 at 14:15 on Zoom: Application numbers and good exam related practices



[Welcome all to this seminar on Zoom with meeting ID 972 651 447.](#)

Our colleagues Fredrik, Dag, Pål and Øystein have kindly agreed to provide for us a seminar on Zoom, with the following preliminary program:

- Welcome and introduction (Fredrik)
- Very fresh application numbers for admissions to our studies from the April 15 nationally coordinated deadline, and other useful statistics about our programs and how our students are doing (Øystein and Pål)
- Guidance for exam grading (sensorveiledning): what is it good for and examples of good practices (Dag and Fredrik)

The formal part of the seminar is planned to end at 15:00, including 5-10 minutes for questions. If there is an interest to continue the discussion, then we can continue for another half hour after a short break.

Thursday May 7 at 14:15 on Zoom: Open access agreements of UiB and how to use them



Public (European or Norwegian) funded research must be openly accessible. The universities in Norway have entered agreements with several of the large publishers so that each of us can publish there without our peers having to pay to read our publications. But how should one go ahead to benefit from such agreements and what if there is no agreement with the journal one wants to publish with?

Paul Simon Svanberg from University of Bergen Library will hold a seminar for the Department of informatics to explain to us how we can benefit from the existing agreements easily, and what to do in case there is no agreement with a particular publisher.

In fact, our university has established funds that we can all apply for open publishing in case there is no agreement covering a journal that we want to publish with.

It is important to check the [information available on open publishing at University of Bergen Library webpages](#) before the seminar. (See more information below.) There will be an opportunity to ask specific questions after the presentation.

The seminar will be held in English. [More information is available here.](#)

Everybody is welcome to attend the seminar on [Zoom with meeting ID 943 839 791.](#)

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](#).



**Publication fund for
Open Access at UiB**



**Open access
publishing deals**



**Open Access - what,
why and how**

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:



Researcher Projects 2020. To support scientific renewal and development in research, the Research Council has opened the following calls for researcher projects:

- Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal,
- Researcher Projects for Young Talents,
- Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility.

“Researcher projects are to contribute to important new insights, scientific publication, researcher training and international research collaboration.” In addition, each of the three calls has a special set of requirements and objectives that have to be taken into account when writing a grant application. **Application deadline: 20 May 2020.**



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.**



INFRASTRUKTUR. The Research Council of Norway has published information about the upcoming INFRASTRUKTUR call on their [website](#).

Applicants have to follow a two-stage application process. In the first stage, applicants have to submit a mandatory project outline by 27 May 2020. The deadline for submitting full proposals will then be on 18 November 2020.

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB requires all departments to send them a **list of initiatives** our researchers are involved in; either as coordinator or partner. Please contact the department's research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) regarding the details; **latest by 16 April 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](#).

NB: Please also inform our research coordinator about all ongoing **contractual work** (contracts with funding sources, collaboration agreements with other institutions related to externally funded projects)! The department has to (co-)sign, and therefore needs to be informed about and approve, all agreements!



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships.

The [MSCA Individual Fellowships](#) are highly attractive mobility grants for experienced researchers as they actively support the individuals' careers. Researchers from all scientific disciplines can apply, and funding includes an allowance to cover living, travel and family costs as well as costs for training, networking, research, management and indirect costs. Find out more about MSCA-IF on [this website](#).

Application deadline: 9 September 2020.



ERC Advanced Grant.

“Are you an established, leading principal investigator who wants long-term funding to pursue a ground-breaking, high-risk project? The [ERC Advanced Grant](#) could be for you. Applicants for the ERC Advanced Grants [PIs] are expected to be active researchers who have a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years. The [PIs] should be exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.” **Application deadline (not yet officially announced): 26 August 2020.**



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: 17 April between 12:00 and 13:00.**

Webinar on MSCA Individual Fellowships. “The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral-level researchers, will soon open for proposals. Whether you intend to recruit a young talent to your lab, institute or your business, or you are looking for a research stay yourself anywhere in the world: Improve your chances by attending this seminar.” **Seminar: 20 April 2020. Registration deadline: 18 April 2020.**

Webinar on Horizon 2020 - Horizon Europe: A practical insight. Information event about the next EU framework program, Horizon Europe. **Webinar: 15 May 2020. Registration deadline: 8 May 2020.**

How to write competitive ERC StG & CoG Grant applications. The University of Bergen, together with Enspire Science and The Research Council of Norway, organize a workshop about ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant writing. **Event: 2 December 2020. Registration deadline: 26 November 2020.**

Corona update

It is important that you assess if the global outbreak of the Coronavirus has any implications for the implementation of your project. Several funding agencies and institutions have updated their websites with special information and guidance. In any case, please inform the department’s research coordinator (Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no) about all such cases.

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](#)

Vacant positions

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Molecular and Cancer Biology

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 12.04.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Informatics - Bioinformatics

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 12.04.2020.

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.

Health, Safety and Environment



Easter quiz fun

Easter is quiz time in Norway! Here you can have some fun during Easter as well as test your knowledge about Norway:

1. Which of these words does not mean “to be drunk” in Norwegian?

- a. Drita
- b. Pærings
- c. Påfyll

2. Why did hundreds of thousands of Norwegian move to the USA and Canada in the 19th century?

- a. Because they wanted to travel and see the world
- b. Because they were poor and starving in Norway
- c. Because there heard there were silver mines there and they needed more for their bunads

3. How much of the surface of the Norwegian land is suited for agriculture?

- a. 4%
- b. 10%
- c. 13%

4. Who is the famous mother of Fabian Stang, the former mayor of Oslo?

- a. Sissel Kyrkjebø
- b. Sophie Elise
- c. Wenche Foss

5. Where does the King of Norway Haakon VII (grandfather of current King Harald) originally come from?

- a. Iceland
- b. Denmark
- c. Sweden

6. What does the Norwegian saying *Du, store alpakka* (You, big alpaca) mean?

- a. That your skin is as soft as the alpaca
- b. That you are very surprised
- c. That you have to stop eating otherwise you will become as fat as the alpaca

7. Which of these Norwegian cities is called the Paris of the North?

- a. Bergen
- b. Tromsø
- c. Narvik

8. Where does the Venstre party stand according to other parties in the Norwegian political arena?

- a. at the left (according to Høyre – the Conservatives)
- b. at the left (according to SV- the Socialists Left)
- c. at the left (according to Arbeiderpartiet - the Labour Party)

9. How many Sami languages are there?

- a. One: the one spoken in the Sami Parliament
- b. Two: Sør-samisk and Sjø-samisk
- c. Nine: spread over the four countries of Sápmi (Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia)

10. What happened on the 17th of May 1814, which became Norway's National Day?

- a. Norway became independent
- b. Norway's constitution was signed
- c. Norway's first king was crowned

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3a, 4c, 5b, 6b, 7b, 8a, 9c, 10b.

