Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

We are now approaching the exam season and busy times for both students, lecturers, and the study section. I´d like to say a few words about our students and their organization "echo".

First of all, we are lucky to have a high number of students. Our studies are popular. And our students are popular! There is a shortage of ICT experts – and the industry and public sector are lacking ICT staff. We know that when it comes to our master students, almost all of them have jobs waiting for them when they finish. Echo has a "Bedkom" group organizing events where companies present themselves to – and wine and dine – our students hoping to recruit some in the future.

On this topic, I'd also like to say that we would like some of them to stay with us and be employed as PhD research fellows. As we know that many have secured jobs long before they finish their exams, this year we are announcing three PhD research fellow positions with deadline December 1st open also for students who will finish their master before the summer of 2024 – hoping to make this more attractive also for our own students. And I'd like to encourage all master student supervisors to talk about this option with students who they think might be interested in this opportunity and point them to the announcement.

Many of our students are actually also employed by the department, mainly as group leaders. We have more than a hundred group leaders employed in part-time positions with responsibility for leading group sessions, grading assignments, giving feedback and so on. They are performing a really important job for the department. The group leaders provide important help for the students in their groups. They also benefit immensely by going even deeper into course content and at the same time get valuable work experience and of course a salary.

Echo is doing a great job to help create a good study and social environment for our students and help us directly (through their Gnist group) and indirectly recruit new students. They also help with communication between the students and the department administration and leadership and help us to better understand challenges the students – and group leaders – are facing. We really appreciate this – and look forward to working closely with – and supporting – echo in the years to come!

Finally, I´d like to remind you that Thursday next week (November 16th from 1700), we will have "lønningspils" in Programmerbar (again: thanks to good collaboration with echo!). Once again, the department is sponsoring the event with free pizza for everybody. So I hope to see you all there!
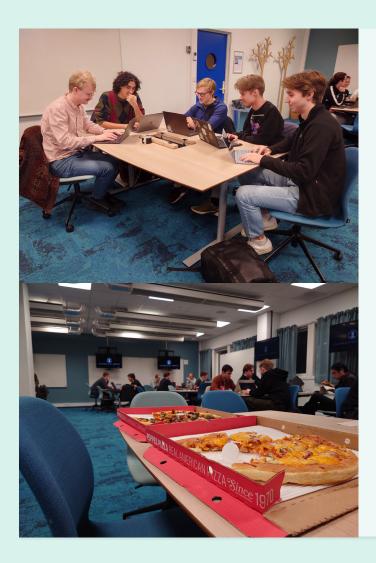
Inge

The Dean's Blog - Gunn Mangerud

The Dean's blog aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Her latest post:

Nye statsråder og forslag til statsbudsjett

Data Science Competition

Inspired by the joint summer school in August, The Department of Informatics, as well as CEDAS and NORBIS, invited bachelor, master and PhD-students in informatics to compete in a data science competition.

From November 3 – 5, 24 participants worked either solo or in groups. We were very happy with their enthusiasm, with much anticipation for potential future data science competitions. A reviewing committee is currently going over the submissions, with plans to announce the winners on Friday, November 17th at 2pm.

Good luck with the results to all who participated!

PhD updates

We have a new PhD in town….

Congratulations, Pierre Gillot!

Pierre successfully defended his thesis "Scalable Learning of Bayesian Networks Using Feedback Arc Set-Based Heuristics" today, the 10th of November.

Congratulations, Pierre!

Current Issues

Christmas dinner - Registration open!

Put on your party outfit and join us for a Christmas feast at Grand Hotel Terminus!

The party is on the 15th of December from 19:00 until 23:00, and the department pays for dinner and the first round of drinks.

After the main event, participants are free to join the afterparty at Programmerbar, which will be open until 02:00.

Please sign up for the Christmas party here.

Lønningspils

Join us for our monthly staff meet-up on Thursday the 16th of November from 17:00 to 20:00 at the bar on the first floor, which can be found in the corner to the right when you exit the lifts.

To celebrate the very special second edition of the lønningspils, there will be **free pizza!**

Meeting with Dean Gunn Mangerud: Important Processes for the Faculty

22nd of november, 12:30-13:30, Blåbær

The Dean invites all employees for department meetings to inform and discuss important strategic topics. Budgeting, external funding, educational quality, IT security, and strategic positioning will be among the things she addresses. We hope that as many of you as possible will attend the meeting and take this opportunity to provide valuable input on the topics being discussed. We look forward to seeing you there!

Teacher's retreat

Save the date: 21th of March

To all teachers at the faculty

For the third time, the Faculty welcomes you to the MN teacher's retreat. The seminar will be held on 21 March on campus at UiB Læringsarena.

More information on the program and theme will be published later.

Panopto is replacing Kaltura

During the spring of 2023, UiB introduced Panopto as a new video system. Panopto will repalce Kaltura, which has been used for My Videos in Mitt UiB. All existing Kaltura videos will be copied to Panopto. Everyone who owns Kaltura videos will have their own Panopto folder created. There are also some limitations with this solution:

- If a video has shared editing access, this must be shared again after transfer.
- **Videos that are integrated into specific courses and pages must be re-entered via Panopto.** We will share a simple guide on how to do this.
- **Kaltura videos that contain Quizzes will not retain the Quiz**.

Read more about the switch to Panopto

Genmodifisering i et forskningsetisk lys – Er det uetisk å ikke satse på GMO? (Seminar)

28.11.2023 - 09.00–13.00
NG5 – STORSALEN

Read full event description (Norwegian)

Holiday

Autumn is upon us and soon it will be 2024! Whether you are planning to spend the rest of your 2023 vacation days under the sun or in the snow, there is one thing you must do immediately: Register your remaining vacation days for 2023 in Selvbetjeningsportalen! It is a requirement that everyone register their vacation, and it is the general rule that all vacation days have to be taken out within the calendar year.

Not certain when you wish to take some days off? Register them now anyway (you can change the dates later) and avoid risking that someone else decides when you're taking your holiday. You will also avoid follow-up via emails and visits from the administration.

So, if you have any vacation days left, please make it your priority to register these now!

Further information on how to register holiday can be found here (in Norwegian):Universitetet i Bergen :: Medarbeiderhåndbok :: ferie (compendia.no). If you have any questions regarding holiday or how to register this in Selvbetjeningsportalen, you are welcome to ask your local HR contact, Karoline Skudal Christiansen.

Upcoming department seminars…

"National Prior Knowledge Test in Programming - How proficient are incoming higher education students?"

A talk by Sondre Bolland (Ph.D. student, Dept. of Informatics, UiB)

16.11.2023 - 12.45–13.45

"The implementation of Kunnskapsløftet 2020 (LK20) has made programming a mandatory part of the curriculum within mathematics subjects in secondary school. Three years later, the first cohort of students with this programming experience entered higher education institutions. This existing programming competence can have significant implications for the teaching of ICT subjects at universities and colleges. If students already possess a solid understanding of basic programming elements, instruction can be intensified and reach a more advanced level as early as the first semester. However, it is necessary to investigate whether this is the case. […]"

The talk starts at 13:00, coffee will be served from 12:45. Please help us cut down waste by bringing your own mug.

Read full abstract on the event page: National Prior Knowledge Test in Programming - How proficient are incoming higher education students?

"Example-Driven Interactive Specification of Database Queries"

A distinguished lecture by Balder ten Cate (University of Amsterdam)

30.11.2023 - 12.45–14:00

Large auditorium, 2nd floor, Høyteknologisenteret

Abstract: Examples can be a useful tool when a formal specification must be synthesized or communicated. They sometimes provide a more convenient medium for communication than the formal specification itself. We all know this from daily life: think about teaching someone a card game. Simply reading out loud the rules of the game is not an effective way of doing this. Instead, what works best in practice is to give examples of valid and invalid game plays.
In data management, data examples have been proposed and used in the context of schema design and the interactive specification of schema mappings, as well as database query synthesis, refinement and debugging. [...]

Read full abstract on the event page: "Example-Driven Interactive Specification of Database Queries"

UiB FERD
career center for early stage researchers

"UiB Ferd supports early stage researchers in their career development"

UiB Ferd Career Centre supports doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows, researchers and associate professors. We offer a range of services designed to help you develop your career within or beyond the university.

You can sign up for the UiB Ferd newsletter here.

Upcoming UiB Ferd events include:

16.11.23: Boost your career by building international networks (Course)
Registration deadline: 10.11.2023 at 16:00

16.11.23: Interdisciplinary research - why should I bother? (Presentation)

17.11.23: Finding & reusing research data (Course)
Registration deadline: 16.11.2023 at 12:00

20.11.23: MN Faculty: Academic English (Course - language)
Registration deadline: Expired.

29.11.23: MN Faculty: Academic English (Course - language)
Registration deadline: Expired.

01.12.23: Introduction to Data Management Plans (Course)
Registration deadline: 30.11.2023 at 10:00

06.12.23: How can young UiB researchers make the world great again? (Course)
Registration deadline: 01.12.2023 at 23:30

07.12.23: Jingle that job- interview. We prepare for the holidays with a live job interview mock. (Event)
Registration deadline: 05.12.2023 at 23:55

22.01.24: GIS Workshop (Workshop)
Registration deadline: 19.01.2024 at 12:00

The UiB University Library and its Digital Lab offer a wide range of interesting courses and events – please find more information in the calendar.

International Newsletter

UiB has a newsletter made especially for internationals, where you can find useful tips and news about upcoming events.

If you have moved to Bergen from a different country, we highly recommend subscribing to the newsletter here.

You can also follow the International Centre calendar to find events that are of particular interest to international staff and students.

UiB AI

Seminar: Hva skal vi med en milliard til kunstig intelligens?

Tid: 24. november 2023, kl. 10.00
Sted: Universitetsaulaen i Bergen

UiB AI samarbeider med NORA om et Cutting Edge AI seminar i Bergen den 24. november i Universitetsaulaen. Bli med på en debatt om hvordan vi bør bruke KI-milliarden som nå er lovet av regjeringen. For hva skal vi egentlig med en milliard til kunstig intelligens?

Påmelding og mer informasjon:
https://www.uib.no/ai/165579/hva-skal-vi-med-en-milliard-til-kunstig-intelligens

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ staff mobility for training

All employees at the University of Bergen can receive a grant for a mobility to an institution, organization or university in Europe through Erasmus+.

Contact the administration or your group leader if you wish to travel on an Erasmus staff training. The application must come from the head of the department/faculty or leader, and should be sent to Erasmus institutional coordinator, Division of Student and Academic Affairs in ePhorte. Expenses that are not covered by the Erasmus grant must be covered by the department/faculty/unit or other funding sources.

UiB has two applications deadlines a year: September 15th and January 20th.

Read more about Erasmus+ staff mobility

Reminder: Guest routine

Inviting and hosting guest researchers is a natural and welcomed part of our academic work. It is still crucial to act according to our routines and procedures when planning to invite a guest.

If you are inviting a guest researcher to our department, you must follow the guest routine found here.

Vacant positions

- Senior Engineer/ Chief Engineer (Research software development)
- PhD Research Fellow in generative machine learning with geoscience applications [Distinguish]
- PhD Research Fellow in Informatics

See all open positions at UiB

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Please contact research coordinator <u>Stefanie Meyer</u> if you plan to apply. All applications need to be approved by the department leadership before submission. By following the link, you can find out more about our <u>research support services</u>.

Forskningsrådet

FRIPRO: The Research Council of Norway has published the upcoming FRIPRO (groundbreaking research) calls on their website.

- [Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists (FRIPRO)](#)
- [Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists (FRIPRO)](#)
- [Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility (FRIPRO)](#)

Application deadline: open-ended

Young CAS Grant

Young CAS Grant: "The [Young CAS Grant](#), (previously known as the Young CAS Fellowship), is the funding opportunity offered to early career scholars below the age of 40. Recipients of a Young CAS Grant receive funding and support for their research project and gain valuable experience in organising multiple workshops and a two-month research stay at the Centre."

Application deadline: 9 December 2023

Forskningsrådet

New **Support for events:** Now there are also [funds](#) available within the portfolio of Enabling technologies!

Application deadline: open-ended

TROND MOHN STIFTELSE

TMS Starting Grants 2024 - Nomination of applicants at the Department of Informatics: The [TMS Starting Grant programme](#) is a highly competitive and prestigious funding mechanism designed to help UiB in recruiting and/or retaining talented young researchers. The application process has several stages, starting with the nomination of applicants by the department (and faculty). We ask all research groups to send their suggestions for applicants to the head of department, who will select up to two candidates that will get the opportunity to apply for a TMS Starting Grant the following year (2024).

More detailed information has been sent to all scientific staff and Postdocs at the department via email.

Deadline: 1 December 2023. Please send the required documentation via email to the head of department, cc head of research section.

Forskningsrådet

Researcher projects (thematic calls): The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about researcher project calls for [early career scientists](#), [experienced scientists](#) and [large interdisciplinary projects](#) for a variety of pre-defined topics.

Application deadline: 6 March 2024 (tentative)

Forskningsrådet

New **Collaboration projects:** The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about [Collaborative Project to Meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges](). These projects address societal challenges and aim at the development of new knowledge and competence needed by society and/or the non-academic sector. Collaboration with non-academic environments is therefore a requirement.

Application deadline: 13 March 2024 (tentative)

Forskningsrådet

New **Knowledge-building projects:** The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about [Knowledge-building Project for Industry](). These projects address societal challenges and aim at the development of new knowledge and competence needed by society and/or the industry sector. Collaboration with industry partners is therefore a requirement.

Application deadline: 13 March 2024 (tentative)

New **Meltzer, University Fund and more:** If you are looking for seed funding for travels, sabbaticals, events, and more, then please have a look at the [Application portal for Funds and Bequests](). At our department, the most commonly used funding schemes are:

- *Bergen University Fund*: dissemination and publication of research results, hosting of scientific conferences and workshops etc.
- *L. Meltzer's Research Fund, Project grant*: for students and PhD candidates, support for academic projects (e.g., project development, fieldwork, equipment, materials, etc.)
- *L. Meltzer's Research Fund, Academic activities at the University of Bergen*: applications in two categories – A) Sabbaticals (only for those who have been granted a sabbatical by the department leadership), B) Scientific Trips and Activities (incl. scientific trips, organization of events, research funds/small operating funds that support research)
- *Det alminnelige naturvitenskapelige forskningsfond ved Universitetet i Bergen*: research and other scientific activities at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (UiB)

Application deadline: 12 January 2024

NORBIS activities

Course open for registration!

Microbial comparative genomics

– phylogenetics, genome sequencing, genome annotation, antimicrobial resistance, comparative genomics

Time: April 8-12, 2024

Place: University of Bergen, Computational Biology Unit

Course responsible: Anagha Joshi and Tom Michoel

Invited lecturers: Dr. Grigorios Amoutzias, Marios Nikolaidis

Suggested amount of ECTS: 5

Number of participants: Max. 20

Registration form: Here Registration deadline: March 8th.

Course description

The course will be given over a week (5 days Monday-Friday) with lectures (34 hours including discussions) in the mornings and practical hands-on sessions in the afternoons. On the last day there will be a summing-up session where the students can provide feedback. The students will receive a reading list before the course and are expected to prepare well for the course. The students will do a project after the course and deliver a report within two weeks after finishing the course. Students must bring a laptop running a UNIX-Like operating system (any flavor of Linux, UNIX or Mac) to the course and will receive software installation instructions along with the reading list.

Link to course site: https://norbis.w.uib.no/sequence-analysi…arative-genomics/

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: SAVE THE DATE!

Course: Metabolic pathway analysis

Time: January/February 2024, two weeks

Place: University of Bergen, Biomedical Institute

Course responsible: Ines Heiland

Course description: This course will provide an introduction to the computational analysis and reconstruction of both small and genome-scale metabolic networks. The main goal is to familiarize students with relevant state-of-the-art computational tools and databases, as well as to provide the students with hands-on experience in metabolic modelling approaches. Furthermore, we will cover the mathematical basis of constraint-based analysis of genome-scale metabolic models and provide a foundation for stability and control analysis of dynamic models.

For more information about courses, see: https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/courses/

Workshop: Comparing genomes: Genome assembly and annotation, and hypothesis testing in comparative genomics.

Time: 1-5 April, 2024

Location: University of Oslo or University of Bergen

Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO), Ole Tørrensen (UiO), Inge Jonassen (UiB)

Workshop description: In this workshop, we will cover the technical principles of genome assembly, annotation, and genome comparison. We will explore the techniques related to genome sequencing, the software and strategies used for genome assembly and annotation. Following that, we will delve into comparative genomics, focusing on fundamental concepts such as genomic structural features (transposable elements, genes, centromeres), orthologs, and functional characterization of genes. Through this, participants will gain the necessary skills to test hypotheses in the field of comparative genomics.

For more information, visit our workshop website: https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/workshops/

Workshop: Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph
Time: April/May 2024

Location: Drøbak Research Station (Tollboden)

Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO) and Ole Kristian Tørresen (UiO)

Workshop description: The Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph workshop (GARG'w) is a comprehensive 3-day program designed to introduce participants to the fascinating world of population genomics and how recombination events shape genomes. This hands-on workshop will focus on utilizing the tskit environment, a powerful tool for simulating and analyzing genomic data (whole-genome resequencing data), to explore and understand complex inheritance patterns within populations. Join us for this immersive 3-day workshop to gain valuable skills and insights into the world of genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graphics using tskit. Unlock the secrets hidden in genetic data and discover the historical events that have shaped the genetic ancestry of species and populations.

In addition we have soft skills courses available that are organized with other national research schools. Please visit https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/transferable-skills/ for more information.

Travel funding from NORBIS

Are you NORBIS member and in need funding to go to an international course or conference? NORBIS are happy to announce that we have a limited fund available for travel for our members for these activities. If you like to know more, please visit our website: https://norbis.w.uib.no/travel-funding-f...-and-conferences/

Funding for arranging courses and workshops

Do you have a course you like to organize under the NORBIS umbrella but in need of funding? Our call for courses is open now: https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/proposals/

For more information, please see our webpage: https://norbis.w.uib.no