News from
THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS

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Department seminar Thursday 20th February at 14.15

The Algorithm group is happy to Lecturer: Prof. Peter Bro Miltersen from Aarhus University
Place: : Store auditorium på HiB

CONCURRENT REACHABILITY GAMES: TO PURGATORY AND BACK

There are seven terraces in Purgatory, indexed 1,2,3,4,5,6,7. Dante enters Purgatory at terrace 1.
Each day, if Dante finds himself at some terrace i, he must play a game of matching pennies against
Lucifer: Lucifer hides a penny, and Dante must try to guess if it is heads up or tails up. If Dante
guesses correctly, he proceeds to terrace i+1 the next morning — if i-1 is 8, he enters Paradise and
the game ends. If, on the other hand, Dante guesses incorrectly, there are two cases. If he incorrectly
guesses “heads”, he goes back to terrace 1 the next morning. If he incorrectly guesses “tails” the
game ends and Dante forever loses the opportunity of visiting Paradise. How can Dante ensure
ending up in Paradise with probability at least 3/4? How long should he expect to stay in Purgatory
before the game ends in order to achieve this?
We solve the riddle (which is joint work with Hansen and Koucky) and uncover its connections to seemingly unrelated areas of mathematics and computer science, including formal verification, algorithms, and real algebraic geometry.

**Lilya Budaghyan got young research talent grant**

Our researcher Lilya Budaghyan has got a young research talent grant for her project "Discrete Functions and Their Applications in Cryptography and Mathematics". It is supposed to fund 7 MLN NOK within 3,5 years in our department. [http://www.forskningsradet.no/progrnt-fripro/Nyheterv/450_millioner_til_ung_forskertalenter/1253992505663/p1226994096468](http://www.forskningsradet.no/progrnt-fripro/Nyheterv/450_millioner_til_ung_forskertalenter/1253992505663/p1226994096468)

Congratulations Lilya from all of your collegues!

**Firefighting course – mandatory for all new employees**

During the next months there will be arranged several firefighting courses, with 1 hour theory and 1 hour practical firefighting. All new employees will have to attend one of the courses. More information and course dates, please see [http://www.uib.no/foransatte/37306/brannvernoppl%c3%a6ring](http://www.uib.no/foransatte/37306/brannvernoppl%c3%a6ring). Unfortunately the only course with instruction in English will be held the 3rd April, when we have the Department arrangement in Øystese. For registration, please send an e-mail to anne.lien@ii.uib.no

**The next Informatics’ walkabout 2014: Kanadaskogen 4th March at 13.00**

We had a very nice walk in Fjellveien a few weeks ago (see picture), and will now invite everyone to a walk in Kanadaskogen. The name, Canada Woods, seems quite strange. It was invented in 1918, when some scouts sat around the bonfire in the woods. One of the boys had been to Canada, and he thought this area in Bergen reminded him of the wilderness in Canada. Kanadaskogen is one of the few quite large woods in Bergen, documented as far back as the 1660s. There are more than 180 different kind of threes in the area, and Kanadaskogen is regarded an important place for biological diversity, with abundance of insects and thus also many different birds, also species that are not found many other places. It is possible to find both deer and fox in Kanadaskogen, there is plenty of fish in the lakes, and as late as in the 1970s lynx was observed in the woods.

We start by taking a bus to Fyllingsdalen, and then we have a nice walkabout in the woods, around 5-6 kms. We expect to finish around 16.00. Please register by sending an e-mail to Anne, anne.lien@ii.uib.no.
Registration for the Department Spring Seminar: 2nd – 3rd April in Øystese

This year’s Department Spring Seminar/II getaway discussions will be held Wednesday 2nd to Thursday 3rd April in Øystese, [http://www.hardangerfjord-hotell.no/en/](http://www.hardangerfjord-hotell.no/en/). Please meet outside the Department building not later than 07.50 Wednesday 2nd April for departure at 08.00. The bus will leave at 08.00 sharp and take us via Åsane and Arna to Øystese and Hardangerfjord Hotel. Return with bus from Øystese Thursday 3rd April at 16.00, arrival Bergen around 17.30/18.00.

Please register for the Spring Seminar now, to anne.lien@ii.uib.no. Welcome!

Registration of additional information/sidegjøremål in PagaWeb

The so-called “sidegjøremål” is a term for any activity the UiB employees might have in addition to their employment at UiB. No matter if it is voluntary or paid activities, the employees will have to register these activities in PagaWeb. The purpose is to avoid conflicts of interest between the activities and UiB. The only exception from this obligatory registration is minor tasks regarding for instance work as sensor, referee, member of external committees, etc.

For more information, please see: [http://www.uib.no/aktuelt/36857/f%c3%a5r-full-%c3%a5penhet-om-sidegj%c3%b8rem%c3%a5l](http://www.uib.no/aktuelt/36857/f%c3%a5r-full-%c3%a5penhet-om-sidegj%c3%b8rem%c3%a5l)

To register in PagaWeb, please follow these steps: Tasks – new form – additional information – add – 5000 Søknad om sidegjøremål, and then add the proper category and additional information.

Horizon lecture - The Evolving Tree of Life - by Henrik Glenner and Andreas Hejnol

The Horizons lectures series by The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences aims at reaching staff, students and other interested parties, with a focus on major scientific questions and challenges. The next lecture will be 20th. February, in Egget, Studentsenteret, at 18.00
The event starts with a snack and refreshments in advance of the lecture that begins at 18.15
The lecture is held in English and is open to all. Welcome!


Det finnes en Facebook-gruppe for Horisontserien, og for denne hendelsen:
[https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/230084477091655/](https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/230084477091655/)
[https://www.facebook.com/events/250866805073062/?ref=22&source=1](https://www.facebook.com/events/250866805073062/?ref=22&source=1)
New application period for the UiB cottages – deadline 14th March

It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the summer period 22 June until 10 August 2014.


Upon initial application you must enter some information for example invoice address.

All applications must be registered in the electronic cabin system to be included in the draw. Application forms and information can be found at Employee Pages - Welfare - Cabin hire (NO). Use your UiB username and password to login.

The application deadline is 14 March, drawing will be done 17 March.

Russiske statsstipend for norske studenter - sommerskole og lengre studieopphold 2014-2015


Summer job with IAESTE, deadline 24th February

IAESTE tilbyr sommerjobber til realfag- og teknologistudenter i utlandet slik at du kan få relevant erfaring i tillegg til å oppleve et nytt land og nye kulturer. Vi lyser nå ut jobber fra nesten hele verden som nettopp du kan søke på!

Når du reiser med oss trenger du aldri være alene! Våre medlemmer rundt om i verden står klar med det norske flagget for å ta imot deg! De vil alltid sørge for at det skjer noe gøy når du ikke er på jobb.

Gå inn på [http://www.iaeste.no/jobb](http://www.iaeste.no/jobb) for å finne jobber. Har du noen andre spørsmål kan du sende e-post til uabergen@iaeste.no. Søknadsfrist er mandag 24. februar