

ACADEMIC SKILLS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Lecture 1: Introduction and Motivation

Markus Krötzsch

Knowledge-Based Systems

TU Dresden, 2nd April 2019

Introduction and Organisation

Course Tutors



Markus Krötzsch
Lectures



Maximilian Marx
Exercises

Organisation

Lectures

Tuesday, DS 3 (11:10–12:40), APB E005

Exercise Sessions (starting 9 April)

Tuesday, DS 5 (14:50–16:20), APB E001

Web Page

[https://iccl.inf.tu-dresden.de/web/Academic_Skills_in_Computer_Science_\(SS2019\)](https://iccl.inf.tu-dresden.de/web/Academic_Skills_in_Computer_Science_(SS2019))

Lecture Notes

Slides of current and past lectures will be online.

Modules

INF-AQUA, INF-B-510, INF-B-520, INF-B-530, INF-B-540, MCL-CS – anything else?

Goals and Prerequisites

Goals

- Understand key aspects of the **scientific process**
- Learn how to **write** and **present** in research and technology
- Get to know basic ideas from the **theory of science and knowledge**
- Obtain working knowledge about helpful **tools and methods**, including LaTeX
- Discuss aspects of **ethics and quality assurance**

(Non-)Prerequisites

- No particular prior courses needed

Examination

- The examination will be oral
- Most likely including a prepared part (e.g., a short presentation)

Motivation

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“(ein begründetes, geordnetes, für gesichert erachtetes) Wissen hervorbringende forschende Tätigkeit in einem bestimmten Bereich”

[“research activity producing knowledge (that is justified, systematic, considered certain) in a particular domain”] – Duden, [Wissenschaft](#)

Note on English usage

Traditionally, the word **science** in English only referred to what are now known as the **natural sciences** (astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, . . .)

- still common, e.g., “science department”
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Computer science can connect to many of these areas:

- structural science: theoretical CS, formal logic
- engineering science: software and hardware design and building
- social science: communities & online interaction; Web science
- humanities: library studies; ontology and classification; digital humanities
- and many more ...

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“If something has been observed many times, then it will also be observed in the future (with high probability).”

Science: Theory and Practice

Scientific theory:

- How is science justified? In fact: is it? What is “scientific”?
- Related: What is knowledge?

Scientific practice:

- What constitutes “valid” science?
- Who can we trust? How can we discover cheats and errors?
- Rules of good scientific behaviour
- And “minor” practical details: how to find research questions? how to publish? how to build a career in science?

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Research as a Craft: Academic research requires many skills that can be acquired through practise

- How to structure, write, and produce reports?
- How to prepare and deliver presentations?
- What makes a sound evaluation or argument?

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- Understand how academic research works and what its weaknesses and limits are

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- Investigate a topic in detail
- Turns guesses & hopes into knowledge

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Presenting results

- Author reports, technical documents, etc.
- Present to audiences
- Your near future: seminar talks, project thesis, MSc thesis and defence

Live Survey: Student Haves and Wants

Lecture Outline (1)

- **The Research Process**

Quality assurance; peer review; publishing in computer science; public education

- **Information Gathering**

finding literature; how & what to cite; bibliometrics; research questions; reading

- **Writing**

goals & genres; structuring scientific reports; specific parts;
style; layout; language

- **Typesetting in Computer Science: LaTeX**

key concepts; document structure guidelines; bibliographies; figures & Tikz

- **Presentations**

goals & genres; structuring presentations; general considerations
presentation technique
media usage: slides, board, multimedia, etc.

Lecture Outline (2)

- **Theory of Science and Knowledge**

Knowledge; Popper; critical theory; (un)scientific methods; argument and reason; (in)validation

- **Empirical evaluations**

Goals, structure and content; experimental design; simple statistical evaluation; (mis)representing results; reproducibility

- **Ethics**

scientific misconduct; (co-)authorship; conflicts of interest; ethical guidelines

- **Further advanced topics** (time permitting)

Self management? More writing technique? Reviewing? Proposals and applications?