

Subject card

Subject name and code	Mathematical Optimization and Applications, PG_00210619						
Field of study	Informatics						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject			2026/2027	
Education level	Master's studies		Subject group			Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery			at the university	
Year of study	2		Language of instruction			English	
Semester of study	3		ECTS credits			6.0	
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form			exam	
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Felix Huber				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	60
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	60		0.0		0.0	60
Subject objectives	The aims of the course is to get an understanding of mathematical optimization. In particular so that the student knows the theory of convex optimization methods such as linear, quadratic, and semidefinite programming as well as their applications in theory and practise. The aim is also that the student will be confident in using numerical software packages.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome			Method of verification	
	[INFMU2_U01] can apply mathematical knowledge to formulate, analyze and solve tasks related to computer science		The student is able to apply methods of linear algebra, convex analysis, and mathematical optimization, in particular linear programming, second-order cone programming, and semidefinite programming, to formulate, analyze, and solve computational problems in computer science, including combinatorial optimization, approximation algorithms, and solution certification.			[SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU5] implementation of a problem task	
	[INFMU2_W01] has in-depth knowledge of the branches of mathematics necessary for the study of computer science; has a good understanding of the role and importance of the construction of mathematical reasoning		The student has advanced knowledge of linear algebra, convex geometry, and mathematical optimization, and understands the importance of constructing mathematical reasoning in the analysis of optimization problems arising in computer science.			[SW4] test/exam - oral or written	

Subject contents	1 Review of linear algebra (matrix decompositions, positive semidefinite matrices, convex geometry) 2 Linear programming (duality theory, Farkas lemma, maximum weight matching) 3 Second-order cone programming 4 Semidefinite Programming (infeasibility certificates, duality theory, Lovasz theta bound on independent set size, euclidean distance matrices) 5 Approximation algorithms and randomized rounding (quadratic binary optimization, Goeman-Williamson randomized rounding) 6 Non-negative polynomials and sum-of-square certificates (Motzkin Polynomial, Putinar Positivstellensatz) 7 Polynomial optimization (Lasserre hierarchy)		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Linear Algebra, Programming with Python or Julia		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Participation exercise classes	80.0%	20.0%
	Written or verbal exam	51.0%	80.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Lecture notes by Lovász, https://sites.math.washington.edu/~thomas/teaching/m514_web/Lovasz_semidef.pdf Blekherman et al, Semidefinite Optimization and convex algebraic geometry, https://www.mit.edu/~parrilo/sdocag/	
	Supplementary literature	None.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	What is a Gram matrix? What is the Löwner order? Define convex cone, convex hull, dual cone, self-dual cone. Give examples of self-dual cones. Explain Farkas Lemma and its use. What is an approximation ratio? How is the Lovasz theta number defined as an SDP? Define independence number, chromatic number. What are their computational complexities? How does the Goeman-Williamson algorithm work? What is its approximation ratio? Formulate the primal and dual standard formulations of semidefinite programs. What are the problem parameters? Show weak duality.		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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