inf451 - Complexity Theory

Module label: Complexity Theory
Module code: inf451
Credit points: 6.0 KP
Workload: 180 h

Used in course of study:
- Master's Programme Computing Science > Theoretische Informatik

Contact person:
- Eike Best
- Die im Modul Lehrenden

Module responsibility:
- Eike Best
- Die im Modul Lehrenden

Authorized examiners:
- Eike Best
- Die im Modul Lehrenden

Entry requirements:
This module covers the computational complexity of algorithms. Complexity considerations are concerned with the time, the memory, and the parallelism required or allowed, for solving an algorithmic problem. In particular, one is interested in lower and/or upper time and space bounds, and in approximative investigations providing information about entire classes of algorithms. For any concrete problem, complexity theory aims at being able to find out which class it belongs to, and thus estimating the cost of the most efficient methods of solving it. Methods taught in this module are general, not depending on any particular algorithmic model or chosen programming language.

Professional competence:
The students:
- use Turing machines and variants thereof
- define time, memory, and processor requirements of algorithmic problems
- specify the most relevant complexity classes
- estimate the computational complexity of the most important problems

Methodological competence:
The students:
- analyse the complexity of algorithms
- apply techniques of simulation, reduction, and diagonalisation
- compare new problems in terms of complexity

Social competence:
The students:
- present proof sketches, proofs, and algorithmic solutions in front of an audience

Module contents:
- Mathematical foundations
- Turing machines and register machines
- Space and time hierarchies, equivalence and hierarchy theorems
- Complexity classes: P, NP, NPC, PSPACE, and others
- Alternating automata and polynomial time hierarchy
- Circuit complexity

Reader's advisory:
- Eike Best: Skript zur Vorlesung (2015)

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<td>Duration (semesters)</td>
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