UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Complex and Uncertain Systems

2122-2-F1801Q125

Aims

In line with the educational objectives of the Master Degree in Computer Science, the course aims at providing the knowledge to formally face models describing complex systems and uncertain systems. Moreover, the student will be able to deal with real problems also by techniques from soft computing and machine learning.

Contents

Formal treatment and applications of complex and uncertain systems.

Cellular Automata, Tiling and applications (modelling of real systems and cryptography), symbolic dynamics and applications (coding, data storage, Google's PageRank algorithm), many-valued logics, evidence theory, fuzzy sets, rough sets.

Detailed program

1) Introduction

- what a complex system is, what the uncertainty is and from which different sources it comes

- revision of basic notions: classical propositional logic, partially ordered sets and Boolean algebra

2) Cellular Automata as models for complex systems:

- formal properties associated to reachability, reversibility, stability, instability, and chaos. Related classifications

- decision algorithms/undecidability of formal properties

3) Tilings:

- Tile set, tiling, simulation of a Turing machine, and Domino Problem

- undecidable properties of Cellular Automata

- hint of self-assembly (DNA computing)

4) Symbolic Dynamics:

- subshifts and languages

- subshifts of finite type, sofic subshifts and related representations

- entropy of a subshift, Perron Frobenius Theorem, data coding/decoding schemas based on subshifts

5) Applications (Complex Systems):

- cryptography (secret sharing schemes and pseudo-random number generation) by Cellular Automata

- fluid simulation, traffic simulation,... by CA

- Google's PageRank algorithm and data storage (subshifts)

- Reaction Systems as a model for simulations of biochemical reactions

6) Many valued logics and Fuzzy Sets

- Three valued logics and applications (NULL value in database)

- Logics with truth values in [0,1]: t-norms, t-conorms and residuated lattices

- Fuzzy sets and linguistic variables

7) Introduction to knowledge representation with evidence theory and possibility theory

8) Rough Sets:

- Concept Approximation

- Learning of rules and feature selections with applications in data mining

- Link with many-valued logics

9) Introduction to uncertainty handling in machine learning

Prerequisites

Basic Knowledge from the Computer Science Degree.

Teaching form

Lectures and practice exercises. E-learning support for individual study with material provided by the instructors. The teaching language is Italian. However, the course may be provided in English language if a foreign student attends lectures and exercises.

During the Covid-19 emergency, lectures and practice exercises will be online and recorded.

Textbook and teaching resource

P. Kurka. Topological and symbolic dynamics. Société Mathématique de France, 2004.

D. Lind, B. Marcus. An introduction to Symbolic dynamics and coding. Cambridge University Press, 1995.

J. Kari. Cellular Automata. Lecture Notes. http://users.utu.fi/jkari/ca/

D. Palladino, C. Palladino, “Logiche non classiche. Un’introduzione”, Carocci, 2007

G. Gerla, “Logica fuzzy. I paradossi della vaghezza”, 2011

D. Ciucci, "Rough Sets and Non-Classical Logics”, Lecture Notes

Semester

Spring Semester

Assessment method

The exam consists of two parts.

part 1. An oral exam on all the topics concerning the Complex Systems (items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the detailed program). The Theorem's proofs will be required only on a part choosen by the candidate.

part 2. Regards to the uncertainty part, some exercises (usually 3) will be assigned on different topics of the course, including a written dissertation on a topic agreed with the lecturer, proposed by the lecturer himself or by the student.

The final assessment takes into account equally the assessments of both the parts.

Office hours

On appointment