

WM3B2-24 Data Science, Algorithms and Complexity in the Cyber Context

21/22

Department

WMG

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Magdalena Zajackowska

Credit value

24

Module duration

30 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module develops the central concepts and skills required to design, implement and analyse algorithms for solving problems. Algorithms are essential in all advanced areas of technical cyber security and related subjects, including artificial intelligence, databases, data science, distributed computing, graphics, networking, operating systems, programming languages and security. An important part of using them well is the ability to select algorithms appropriate to particular purposes and to apply them, recognising the possibility that no suitable algorithm may exist. This facility relies on understanding the range of algorithms that address an important set of well-defined problems, recognising their strengths and weaknesses, and their suitability in particular contexts in combination with complementary data structures. Efficiency is a pervasive theme and a clear understanding of algorithmic complexity is essential if efficient algorithms are to be designed and used.

Module aims

1 - Critically evaluate the appropriateness of common algorithms, algorithmic strategies and data structures for application in the cyber context.

2 - Critically evaluate the complexity and efficiency of an algorithm.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The content of this module will be taught from a cyber security perspective.

Basic analysis

Algorithmic strategies

Fundamental data structures and algorithms

Basic automata, computability and complexity

Topics in data science and machine learning

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- 1 - Critically evaluate the appropriateness of common algorithms, algorithmic strategies and data structures for application in the cyber context.
- 2 - Critically evaluate the complexity and efficiency of an algorithm.

Indicative reading list

Cormen, T., Leiserson, C., Rivest, R. and Stein, C., "Introduction to Algorithms", MIT Press (2009)

Flach, Peter, "Machine Learning: The Art and Science of Algorithms that Make Sense of Data", Cambridge University Press (2012)

Grimaldi, Ralph P., "Discrete and Combinatorial Mathematics: An Applied Introduction", 5 Ed, Pearson (2013)

Sedgewick R., Wayne K., "Algorithms", Addison Wesley (2011)

Subject specific skills

1 - Critically evaluate the appropriateness of common algorithms, algorithmic strategies and data structures for application in the cyber context.

2 - Critically evaluate the complexity and efficiency of an algorithm.

Transferable skills

Problem solving

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Supervised practical classes	18 sessions of 2 hours (15%)
Private study	69 hours (29%)
Assessment	135 hours (56%)
Total	240 hours

Private study description

Independent activity between workshops, following up on activities initiated in previous workshops or preparing for upcoming workshops.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group C2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Coursework	50%	80 hours	Yes (extension)
Online Examination	50%	55 hours	No
~Platforms - AEP			

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Assessment group R

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Coursework	100%		Yes (extension)

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback for each assignment
Verbal feedback during tutorial sessions

Solutions provided to tutorial questions
Summative feedback on assignments and exam

[Past exam papers for WM3B2](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of UWMA-H651 Undergraduate Cyber Security