

# **High Performance Programming and Systems**

## **Course Outline - Student Version**

Troels Henriksen  
Kenneth Skovhede  
Teaching Assistants  
DIKU

**2020/2021**  
**Block: 2**  
**Schedule Group: A**

# Lab 1: Tuesday 17 November, Week 1 (47)

**Location:** DIKU, Zoom

**Lecturers:** Kenneth Skovhede and Troels Henriksen

## Outline

- General introduction to the course and assignments
- Analog and digital signal primitives
- Working with numbers in a binary system
- Building a simple processor
- Improving a simple processor for speed
- Writing a simple program for a general purpose processor

## Learning Goals

- Enumerate differences between analog and digital systems
- Compute basic arithmetic
- Enumerate properties of numbers in Two's complement notation
- Describe the basic properties of a Von Neumann Architecture
- Describe the basic properties of a Turing Machine
- Explain how modern machines are equivalent to a Turing Machine
- Sketch out a conceptual CPU
- Describe the role of registers in a CPU
- Enumerate the pros and cons of a pipelined CPU
- Explain Amdahls Law and relate it to computer programs
- Enumerate the differences between RISC and CISC classes
- Describe and create small programs written in machine code

## Reading

**Computer Systems: A programmers perspective:** Chapter 1, Pages 43—47, Chapter 2, Pages 67—95, Chapter 3, Pages 200—202, Chapter 4, Pages 432—436, Pages 440—457:

- 2.0 Representing and Manipulating Information
- 2.1 Information storage
- 1.4 Processors Read and Interpret Instructions Stored in Memory
- 4.3.2 SEQ Hardware Structure
- 4.3.4 SEQ Stage Implementations
- 4.4 General Principles of Pipelining
- 3.0 Machine Level Representations of programs

## Notes

For this introductory session you can view the video here:

- [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/cO5fYbAdlo/1%20-%20Lecture.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/cO5fYbAdlo/1%20-%20Lecture.mp4)

For the lab session, the details are here:

- <https://github.com/diku-dk/hpps-e2020-pub/tree/master/material/1-l-1>

The first session will be online only, join here:

- <https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/63242906073>

# Lab 2: Thursday 19 November, Week 1 (47)

**Location:** DIKU, Lille UP1 + Zoom

**Lecturers:** Kenneth Skovhede

## Outline

- Numeric representations in hardware
- Introduction to the C programming tools and language
- Introducing assignment 1

## Learning Goals

- Enumerate different kinds of bitwise integer representations
- Explain how to add and multiply integer numbers in hardware
- Describe how floating point numbers are stored with bits
- Explain the purpose of floating point normalization
- Describe the method for normalizing floating point number
- Read and write a basic C program
- Enumerate common C errors and messages

## Reading

**Computer Systems: A programmers perspective:** Chapter 1, Pages 39—43, Chapter 2, Pages 95—162, Chapter 3, Pages 205—213:

2.2 Integer Representations

2.3 Integer Arithmetic

2.4 Floating Point

1.1 Information Is Bits + Context

1.2 Programs Are Translated by Other Programs into Different Forms

1.3 It Pays to Understand How Compilation Systems Work

3.2 Program Encodings

**Modern C:** Chapter 3, Pages 21—28:

3. Everything is about control

## Notes

The video presentation covers the basics of the C programming language, to the extent it is required for solving the first assignment. If you have never encountered a C-like programming language, or feel unsure about the syntax and operations, we suggest that you also briefly read chapters 1 and 2 in “Modern C”.

The video for this session is here:

- [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/hMrFbYiUgC/2%20-%20Lecture.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/hMrFbYiUgC/2%20-%20Lecture.mp4)

For the lab session, the details are here:

- <https://github.com/diku-dk/hpps-e2020-pub/tree/master/material/1-l-2>

Join by zoom with this link:

- <https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/63242906073>

# Exercise 1: Thursday 19 November, Week 1 (47)

**Location:** DIKU, 1-0-30 + 1-0-34 + 1-0-14 + A111

**Supervisors:** Kenneth Skovhede, Troels Henriksen, and Teaching Assistants

## Plan

30	30	30	30
Amdahls law and binary numbers	Boolean algebra	Integers	Floating point

## Notes

***In this exercise session you will work with hands-on examples that will help you solve the first assignment, as well as train you in exam-like problems.***

### *Amdahls Law*

- Problem 1.1 A+B (page 58)

### *Binary numbers*

- Problem 2.1 A-D (page 73)
- Problem 2.3 (page 74)
- Problem 2.4 (page 75)
- Problem 2.7 (page 85) (extra)

### *Boolean algebra*

- Problem 2.9 (page 89)
- Problem 2.10 (page 90)
- Problem 2.14 (page 93)

### *Integers*

- Problem 2.17 (page 101)
- Problem 2.21 (page 112)
- Problem 2.23 (page 116)
- Problem 2.29 (page 129)
- Problem 2.33 (page 131)
- Problem 2.34 (page 134)

### *Floating point*

- Problem 2.45 (page 147)
- Problem 2.48 (page 155)
- Problem 2.52 (page 158)

# Lab 3: Tuesday 24 November, Week 2 (48)

**Location:** *Online*

**Lecturers:** *Troels Henriksen*

## Outline

- Compilers and Interpreters
- Interplay between interpreted and compiled languages

## Learning Goals

- Explain the key differences between compiled and interpreted programs
- How interpreted languages can be made fast, despite their overhead
- Understanding performance pitfalls when using interpreted languages

## Reading

**Course notes:** Chapter 1, Pages 3—15:

1.1-4 Compiled and Interpreted Languages

**Modern C:** Chapter 14, Pages 195—196, Chapter 5, Pages 38—48, Chapter 6, Pages 65—79, Chapter 8, Pages 96—105:

5.1-3 Basic values and data

6.1-4 Derived data types

8.3 Input, output, and file manipulation

14.4 Binary streams

## Notes

Basic videos:

- Compiled versus interpreted languages  
[https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/compiled-interpreted-tombstone.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/compiled-interpreted-tombstone.mp4)

Videos on C programming:

- Command line arguments: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/argv.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/argv.mp4)
- Addresses: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/addresses.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/addresses.mp4)
- IO: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/io-in-c.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/io-in-c.mp4)
- Makefiles: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/make.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/f8RgVGzIET/make.mp4)
- Using a Debugger: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWH-nL7v5F4>

See lab document here: <https://github.com/diku-dk/hpps-e2020-pub/tree/master/material/2-l-1>

# Lab 4: Thursday 26 November, Week 2 (48)

*Location: Lille UP-1, DIKU*

*Lecturers: Troels Henriksen*

## Outline

- Memory
- Advanced C programming

## Learning Goals

- Describe how dynamic memory and statically allocated memory differs
- Understand how to program with manual memory management
- Describe the differences between the stack and heap
- How to separate interface and implementation in C

## Reading

**Course notes:** Chapter 2, Pages 16—21:

2.1 Data Layout

**Modern C:** Chapter 12, Pages 150—160, Chapter 13, Pages 160—179:

12. The C memory model

13. Storage

## Notes

Videos:

- Linked lists (dynamic allocation):  
[https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSPvIjr/videos/2-l-2/list-alloc.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSPvIjr/videos/2-l-2/list-alloc.mp4)
- Linked lists (Makefiles):  
[https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSPvIjr/videos/2-l-2/list-makefile.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSPvIjr/videos/2-l-2/list-makefile.mp4)
- Arrays: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSPvIjr/videos/2-l-2/arrays.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSPvIjr/videos/2-l-2/arrays.mp4)

See lab document here: <https://github.com/diku-dk/hpps-e2020-pub/tree/master/material/2-l-2>

## Exercise 2: Thursday 26 November, Week 2 (48)

**Location:** DIKU, 1-0-30 + 1-0-34 + 1-0-14 + A111

**Supervisors:** Troels Henriksen, Kenneth Skovhede, and Teaching Assistants

### Notes

***In this exercise session you will work with theoretical problems similar to those that will appear in the exam.***

#### ***Tombstone Diagrams***

You have access to the following:

- an ARM machine,
- an interpreter for x86 written in ARM
- an interpreter for Python written in x86
- a compiler from F# to C written in Python
- a compiler from C to x86 written in ARM
- a compiler from MATLAB to ARM written in F#

Show Tombstone diagrams for the following cases:

1. How to execute an x86 program.
2. How to execute an F# program.
3. How to execute a MATLAB program.

#### ***Pointers***

Consider the follow fragments of C programs. For each program, fill in the empty underlined spots such that the final value of the variable x is 0.

1.

```
int x;  
int *p;  
p = &____;  
*p = ____;
```

2.

```
int x;  
int *p;  
int **pp;  
pp = &____;  
p = &____;  
**pp = ____;
```

3.

```
int x, y;  
int *p = &____;  
p = ____;  
*p = 1;  
p = ____;  
*p = 0;
```

4.

```
int x, y;  
int* arr[2];  
arr[0] = ____;  
arr[1] = arr[0];  
*(arr[1]) = ____;  
*(arr[0]) = *(arr[0]) - 1;
```

## Arrays

In this exercise you must rewrite multidimensional array indexes to flat array indexes for arrays of various shapes. For each array and index, provide the flat index for when the array is in row-major order and in column-major order, respectively. Also indicate whether the original index is out-of-bounds, regardless of whether the flat index is.

- Array size: 10 x 20 Element index: (5,11)
- Array size: 20 x 10 Element index: (5,11)
- Array size: 2 x 3 x 4 Element index: (1,2,3)

## Inverse

Now you must do the opposite of above, and convert *flat* indexes to the corresponding *nested* index for a given array. Again, indicate whether the flat index is out-of-bounds.

- Array size: 10 x 20 Flat index: 111
- Array size: 2 x 3 Flat index: 6
- Array size: 2 x 3 x 4 Flat index: 5



# Lab 5: Tuesday 1 December, Week 3 (49)

*Location: DIKU, Zoom*

*Lecturers: Troels Henriksen*

## Outline

- Physical memory
- Caches

## Learning Goals

- Enumerate memory hierarchies
- Explain performance impact of memory hierarchies
- Describe the difference between spatial and temporal locality
- Enumerating the different reasons for cache misses
- Understand the cache implications of data layout
- Understanding how to program in a cache efficient way

## Reading

**Computer Systems: A programmers perspective:** Chapter 6, Pages 640—683:

- 6.2 Locality
- 6.3 The Memory Hierarchy
- 6.4 Cache Memories
- 6.5 Writing Cache-Friendly Code
- 6.6 Putting It Together: The Impact of Caches on Program Performance

## Notes

Videos:

- Caches: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-1/caches.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-1/caches.mp4)
- Locality-aware programming:  
[https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-1/locality.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-1/locality.mp4)

# Lab 6: Thursday 3 December, Week 3 (49)

**Location:** DIKU, Lille UP1 + Zoom

**Lecturers:** Troels Henriksen

## Outline

- Looking at processes
- Understanding operating system concepts
- Understanding the purpose of virtual memory
- Virtual memory from an OS perspective

## Learning Goals

- Explain the reason for having an operating system
- Understanding the fork/exec model of Unix
- Understanding of children and zombies
- Understanding how and why processes provide isolation
- Understanding at a high level how virtual memory is implemented in hardware
- Understanding the purpose served by virtual memory in Unix
- Knowing how to program in a VM efficient way

## Reading

**Computer Systems: A programmers perspective:** Chapter 1, Pages 768—792, Chapter 9, Pages 839—860:

- 1.1 Processes
- 1.2 System Call Error Handling
- 1.3 Process Control
- 9.1 Physical and Virtual Addressing
- 9.2 Address Spaces
- 9.3 VM as a Tool for Caching
- 9.4 VM as a Tool for Memory Management
- 9.5 VM as a Tool for Memory Protection
- 9.6 Address Translation

## Notes

The book will contain some references to low-level mechanics, such as interrupts and interrupt vectors. These are not terribly important at the level we are going to be working at, so don't worry about those details. Also, we will not focus overly much on process handling (e.g. the whole zombie business). You should focus on the idea of the isolation that processes provide.

Videos:

- Processes: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-2/intro-and-processes.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-2/intro-and-processes.mp4)
- Process control: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-2/process-control.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-2/process-control.mp4)
- Virtual memory: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-2/virtual-memory.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-2/virtual-memory.mp4)
- How to solve address translation exercises: [https://sid.erda.dk/share\\_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-2/address-translation-example.mp4](https://sid.erda.dk/share_redirect/AjdMSpVlJr/videos/3-l-2/address-translation-example.mp4)

## Exercise 3: Thursday 3 December, Week 3 (49)

*Location: DIKU, 1-0-30 + 1-0-34 + 1-0-14 + A111*

*Supervisors: Troels Henriksen, Kenneth Skovhede, and Teaching Assistants*

### Notes

#### *Caching*

- Problem 6.7 (page 644)
- Problem 6.8 (page 645)
- Problem 6.29 (page 687)

#### *Processes*

- Problem 8.3 (page 781)
- Problem 8.4 (page 784)
- Problem 8.9 (page 824)
- Problem 8.12 (page 825)

#### *Virtual memory*

- Problem 9.4 (most important)
- 9.11, 9.12, 9.13 (like 9.4, with different constants)

# Lab 7: Tuesday 8 December, Week 4 (50)

**Location:** DIKU, Zoom

**Lecturers:** Kenneth Skovhede

## Outline

- Physical layer (Wire signals)
- Data link layer (Ethernet / MAC)
- Network layer (IP)
- Transport layer (TCP)
- Application layer(s) (Software)

## Learning Goals

- List the layers in the OSI model
- Give examples of signal transfer technologies
- Describe how MAC addresses are assigned and their usage scope
- Explain the difference between a switch and a hub
- Describe how IP addresses are assigned and their usage scope
- Describe the role of ports in IP addresses
- List the states required in the TCP protocol
- Enumerate the key differences between UDP and TCP
- Describe how DNS addresses are assigned and their usage scope
- Enumerate the steps required to resolve a hostname to an IP address with DNS
- List examples of applications using networks

## Reading

**Computer Systems: A programmers perspective:** Chapter 11, Pages 953—968:

- 11.0 Network Programming
- 11.1 The Client-Server Programming Model
- 11.2 Networks
- 11.3 The Global IP Internet

# Lab 8: Thursday 10 December, Week 4 (50)

**Location:** *DIKU, Lille UP1 + Zoom*

**Lecturers:** *Kenneth Skovhede*

## Outline

- The worlds most used protocol: HTTP
- The de-facto HPC protocol: MPI
- The new-way protocol: ZeroMQ
- When there is no server: P2P
- Challenges in a distributed system
- Building applications on a network
- Introduction to assignment #3

## Learning Goals

- Explain the client/server model
- Describe various high-level network approaches
- Explain tradeoffs between network approaches
- Sketch a basic P2P system
- Describe relation between latency and bandwidth
- Enumerate fundamental problems and solutions in a distributed system

## Reading

**Computer Systems: A programmers perspective:** Chapter 11, Pages 968—1000:

11.4 The Sockets Interface

11.5 Web Servers

11.6 Putting It Together: The TINY Web Server

## **Exercise 4: Thursday 10 December, Week 4 (50)**

***Location: DIKU, 1-0-30 + 1-0-34 + 1-0-14 + A111***

***Supervisors: Kenneth Skovhede, Troels Henriksen, and Teaching Assistants***

### **Notes**

TBD - Assignments related to networks

# Lab 9: Tuesday 15 December, Week 5 (51)

*Location: DIKU, Zoom*

*Lecturers: Troels Henriksen*

## Outline

- Concurrency
- Parallel execution
- POSIX threads
- Semaphores as synchronisation mechanism
- Concurrency abstractions

## Learning Goals

- Describe how threads and processes differ
- Enumerate challenges with concurrent programming
- Understand the need for load balancing
- Understand the overhead of multi-threading
- Practical POSIX threads programming
- Building a work-queue abstraction

## Reading

**Computer Systems: A programmers perspective:** Chapter 12, Pages 1009—1056:

- 12.1 Concurrent Programming with Processes
- 12.2 Concurrent Programming with I/O Multiplexing
- 12.3 Concurrent Programming with Threads
- 12.4 Shared Variables in Threaded Programs
- 12.5 Synchronizing Threads with Semaphores
- 12.6 Using Threads for Parallelism

## Notes

CSAPP 12.1-12.6

# Lab 10: Thursday 17 December, Week 5 (51)

*Location: DIKU, Lille UP1 + Zoom*

*Lecturers: Troels Henriksen*

## Outline

- GPGPUs as computational accelerators

## Learning Goals

- TBD



## **Exercise 5: Thursday 17 December, Week 5 (51)**

*Location: DIKU, 1-0-30 + 1-0-34 + 1-0-14 + A111*

*Supervisors: Kenneth Skovhede, Troels Henriksen, and Teaching Assistants*

### **Notes**

GPGPU exercises

## **Lab 11: Tuesday 5 January, Week 6 (1)**

*Location: DIKU, Zoom*

*Lecturers: Troels Henriksen and Kenneth Skovhede*

### **Notes**

This lab session is reserved for any subjects that needs further exploration.

# Lecture 12: Thursday 7 January, Week 6 (1)

**Location:** *DIKU, Lille UP1 + Zoom*

**Lecturers:** *Kenneth Skovhede and Carl-Johannes Johnsen*

## Outline

- What are FPGAs?
- When to use FPGAs, and when NOT to use FPGAs
- Programming models for FPGAs
- Tools for FPGAs
- Next-gen FPGA hybrid devices
- Examples and current research
- Introduction to assignment #4

## Learning Goals

- Give examples of applications that fit CPU, GPGPU and FPGA respectively
- Explain how FPGAs are constructed
- Describe FPGA properties and limitations
- Explain how a programming language can be used to describe a circuit
- Enumerate the different approaches to programming FPGAs and their properties

## Plan

45

*FPGAs*

45

*FPGAs (cont)*

## **Exercise 6: Thursday 7 January, Week 6 (1)**

*Location: DIKU, 1-0-30 + 1-0-34 + 1-0-14 + A111*

*Supervisors: Kenneth Skovhede, Troels Henriksen, and Teaching Assistants*

### **Notes**

Content TBD

## **Lab 13: Tuesday 12 January, Week 7 (2)**

*Location: DIKU, Zoom*

*Lecturers: Kenneth Skovhede*

### **Outline**

- TBD

### **Learning Goals**

- TBD

# Lecture 14: Thursday 14 January, Week 7 (2)

**Location:** DIKU, Lille UP1 + Zoom

**Lecturers:** Kenneth Skovhede and Markus Jochum

## Outline

- Guest Lecture from Markus Jochum - TeamOcean
- Worlds fastest computers: Fugaku, Summit, Sierra, TaihuLight, Tianhe
- Smart-storage
- In-network processing
- Programming a million cores

## Learning Goals

- Reflect on large scale simulations
- Enumerate properties of large-scale systems
- Describe metrics for comparing large-scale systems
- Enumerate emerging technologies for HPC

## Plan

45	35	10
Ocean Simulation (Markus Jochum)	Future HPC techniques and hardware	Q&A for the exam

## Notes

**This session is *not* a lab session, it is a traditional lecture!**

The lecture will be held in-person in Lille UP1 if permitted, but available on zoom regardless.  
There is no reading required for attending this lecture.

## **Exercise 7: Thursday 14 January, Week 7 (2)**

*Location: DIKU, 1-0-30 + 1-0-34 + 1-0-14 + A111*

*Supervisors: Kenneth Skovhede, Troels Henriksen, and Teaching Assistants*

### **Notes**

TBD

# Assignment 1 — Numeric representations in CPUs

**Set:** Thursday 19 November

**Due:** Friday 27 November

## Guesstimated Time Breakdown

1h	Familiarisation
2h	Finding and reading relevant documentation
2h	Learning to write C code
4h	Implementation and testing
4h	Writing report

---

Total: 13 hours

## Learning Goals

- Writing small C programs
- Learning numeric representations
- Reflecting on bounds of numeric values in a program

## Notes

In this first assignment you will be constructing a simple floating point emulation library, which could be used on a CPUs that lacks a floating point unit.



# Assignment 2 — Data layouts and dynamic allocation

**Set:** Monday 30 November

**Due:** Wednesday 9 December

## Guesstimated Time Breakdown

1h	Familiarisation
4h	Implementation and testing of brute-force method
5h	Implementation and testing of k-d tree method
5h	Writing report

---

Total: 15 hours

## Learning Goals

- Understand how to read and write structured data files
- Describing the memory layout of multidimensional arrays
- Develop and debug programs that use dynamic allocation
- Learning how to develop modular C programs
- Reasoning about performance implications of preprocessing

## Notes

In the second assignment you will be implementing the k-nearest-neighbours algorithm in C.

# Assignment 3 — Building a simple HTTP compliant Web Server

**Set:** Thursday 10 December

**Due:** Friday 18 December

## Guesstimated Time Breakdown

1h	Familiarisation
2h	Finding and reading relevant RFCs and documentation
8h	Implementation
5h	Writing report

---

Total: 16 hours

## Learning Goals

- Find, read, and understand material used for defining and describing Internet protocols, including RFCs
- Use and understand the socket library for a server
- Be able to implement a simple protocol directly using sockets
- Describe how a URL can map to a file system

## Notes

In this third assignment you will be writing a standards compliant webserver that can host static content.

# Assignment 4 — Parallelizing existing code

**Set:** Thursday 7 January

**Due:** Friday 15 January

## Guesstimated Time Breakdown

1h	Familiarisation
2h	Finding and reading relevant documentation
8h	Implementation
5h	Writing report

---

Total: 16 hours

## Learning Goals

- Identify potential for parallelization in existing code
- Measure and evaluate parallelization optimizations
- Implement programs with concurrency

## Notes

In this fourth assignment you will be parallelizing existing code to run on a HPC system.

# Exam

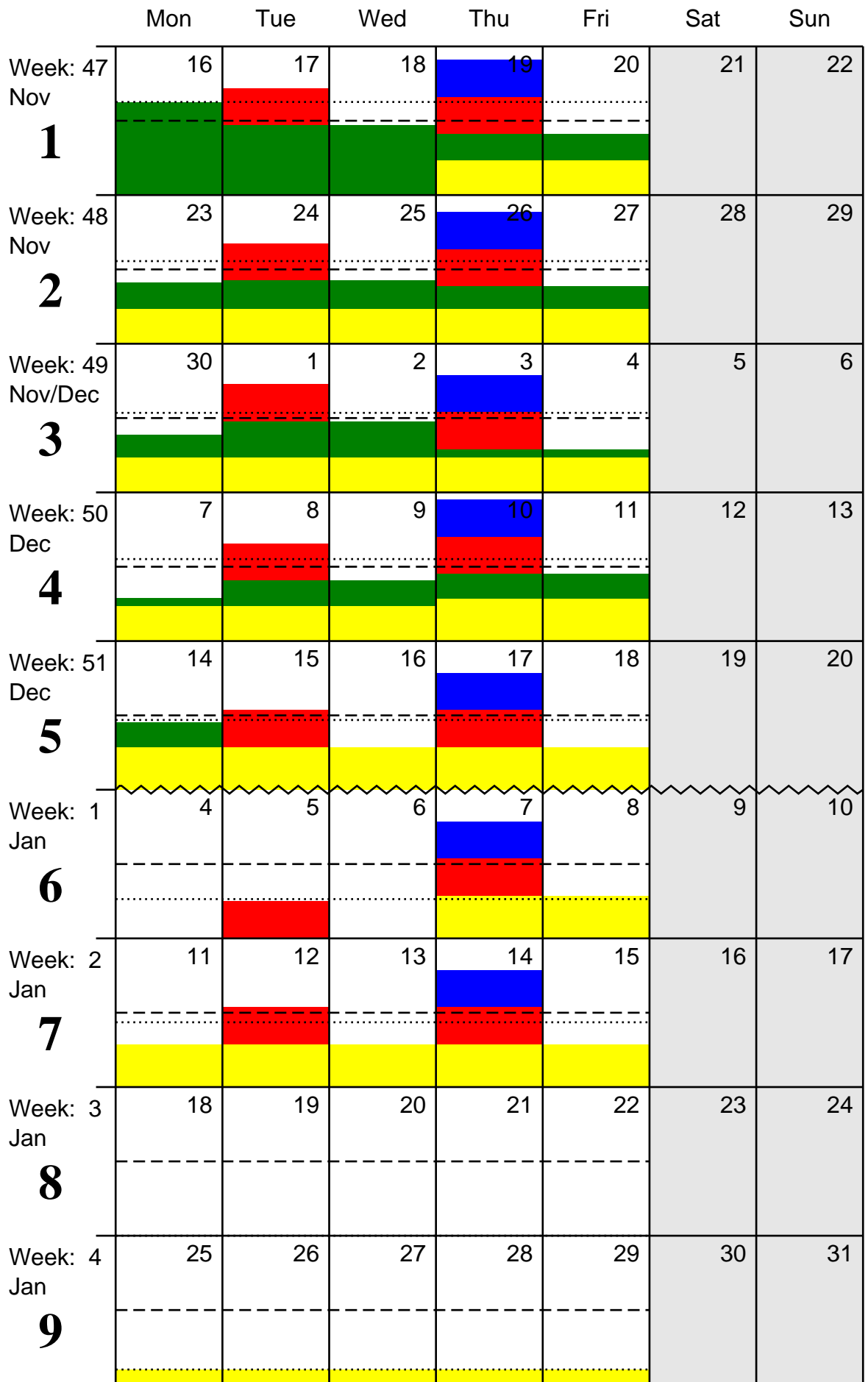
**Set:** Monday 25 January

**Due:** Friday 29 January

## Guesstimated Time Breakdown

4h	Written exam
<hr/>	
Total: 4	hours

# Guesstimated Work Pressure



Assignments    
  Reading    
 -- 20 hours per week, averaged over weekdays  
 Practicals    
 Labs    
 29 ..... actual hours, averaged over weekdays

# Using this Document

We have made this document to help use (the lecturers) prepare the course. We have also, however, made it as a tool to communicate to you (the students) what we expect you to get out of the course, the individual lectures, practical session, and assignment. Thus, we have presented the overview of the content covered in each lecture and practical session, together with a number of learning goals. At the end of a lecture or practical session you can use these learning goals to take stock of what you have learnt and what you need to work on. Do not expect to have the learning goals covered by just going to the lectures without doing any auxiliary work, such as reading other material.

## Updates

We will from time to time make updates to this document. You should check regularly on Absalon to see if you have the latest version. The version of the document can be seen on the front page of this PDF.

## The Assignments

We have made some guesses as to how long the assignments as a whole should take and provided an estimate of how you may want to consider dividing your time amongst the individual parts of an assignment. These are *guesstimates* and should be taken as a *guide* only.

## The Guesstimated Work Pressure

The guesstimated work pressure is divined by taking the time you are going to spend attending lectures and practical sessions, working on your assignments, and reading the set material in the book every week (with a generous amount of time allocated to read a page). Work on the assignments and required reading has been split evenly over the days from when it was set to when it is due. The assumption made in the diagram is that you work a five day week and do not work on the weekends. This may or may not reflect reality and you may of course work however and whenever you like.

You should note that the title of the diagram contains the word *guesstimate*, which a dictionary (*The New Oxford American Dictionary, Second Edition*) defines as: "an estimate based on a mixture of guesswork and calculation." This is exactly what it is, an estimate of how much time we think you need to spend on the course, it is not a prescription! You may use more time or less, this is fine. Thus, the *Guesstimated Work Pressure* is there for you to be able to visualise the workload in the course and thereby help you arrange your work schedule. Please don't throw a fit if my guesstimates turn out to be somewhat inaccurate, but do let us know so we can adjust them in future iterations of the course.

## Providing Feedback

At the end of the course we will be asking for your feedback. We would like to know how useful this document was to you and how we could improve it. As already mentioned, we will be asking you how much time you spent on different parts of the course to see how they match up with our expectations as to how long I think they should take you. It would therefore be useful if you can keep (rough) notes on the time you spend, for example on reading and your assignments.