

Computational Thinking

Discrete Mathematics

Number Theory

Topic 00 : Module Introduction

Logic

Lecture 01 : Module Overview

Dr Kieran Murphy 

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Graphs and
Networks

Autumn Semester, 2025/26

Collections

Outline

- Motivation and aim of this module.
- Administration trivia — Contact hours, Assessment structure, ...
- Resources

Enumeration

Relations & Functions

Outline

1. Module Introduction	2
1.1. What is the Aim of this Module?	3
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What?

(Aim)

Aim, as per the Module Descriptor ...

This module provides a solid foundation of selected topics in discrete mathematics related to computing and information sciences. The topics are covered in an elementary manner in order to reinforce understanding of concepts and improving algebraic problem-solving skills so that the student can effectively proceed with their study of a degree programme in computing.

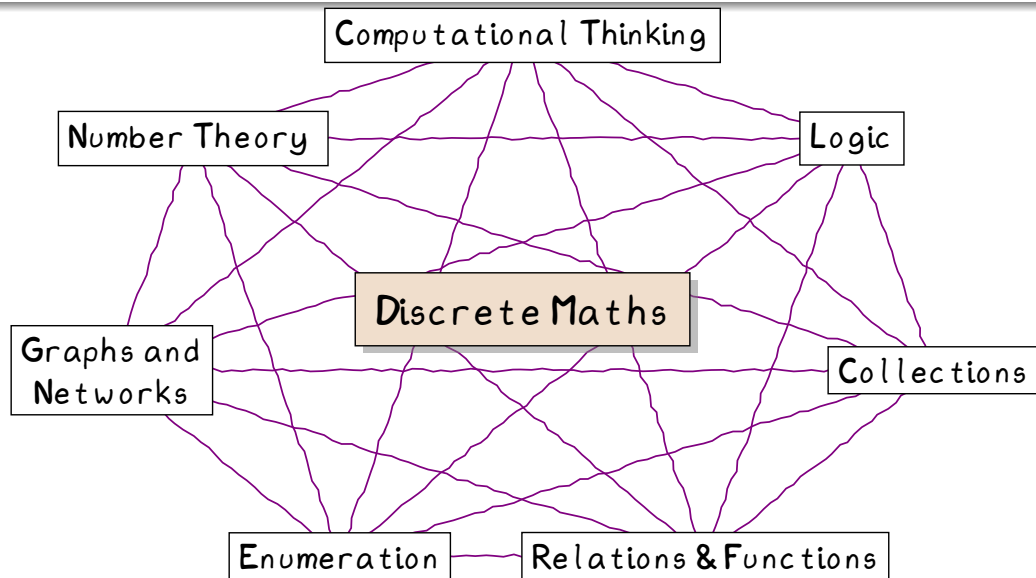
Translation (Informal Aims)

- 1 Reason logically — aim for precision and correctness over speed.
- 2 Develop and manipulate theoretical models
— a **set** is a collection of things, a **relation** is a collection of pairs of things, a **graph** is a collection of things with pairwise connections, etc..
- 3 Translate

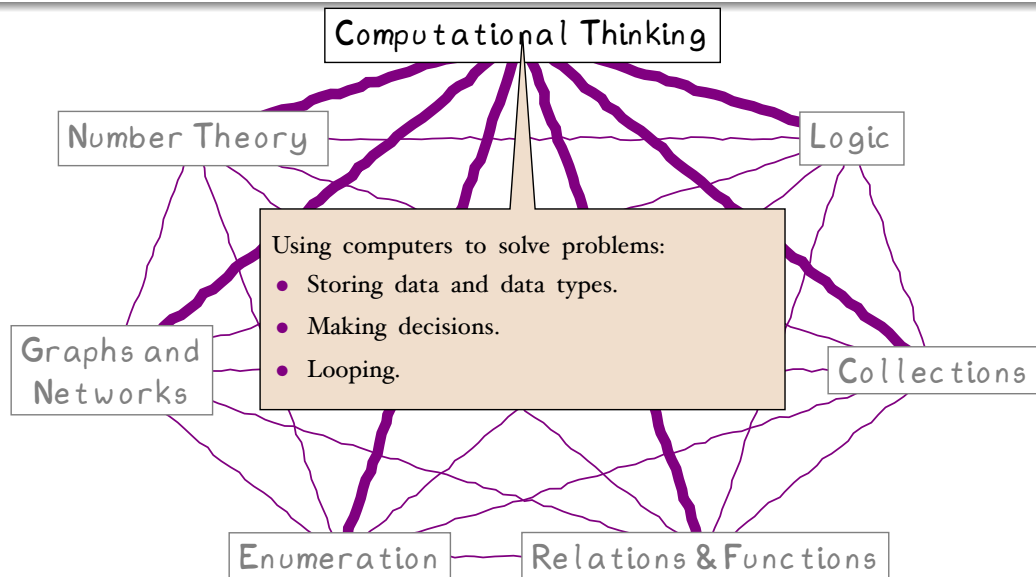
computing concepts/implementation (Python) \leftrightarrow theoretical models (mathematics).

What?

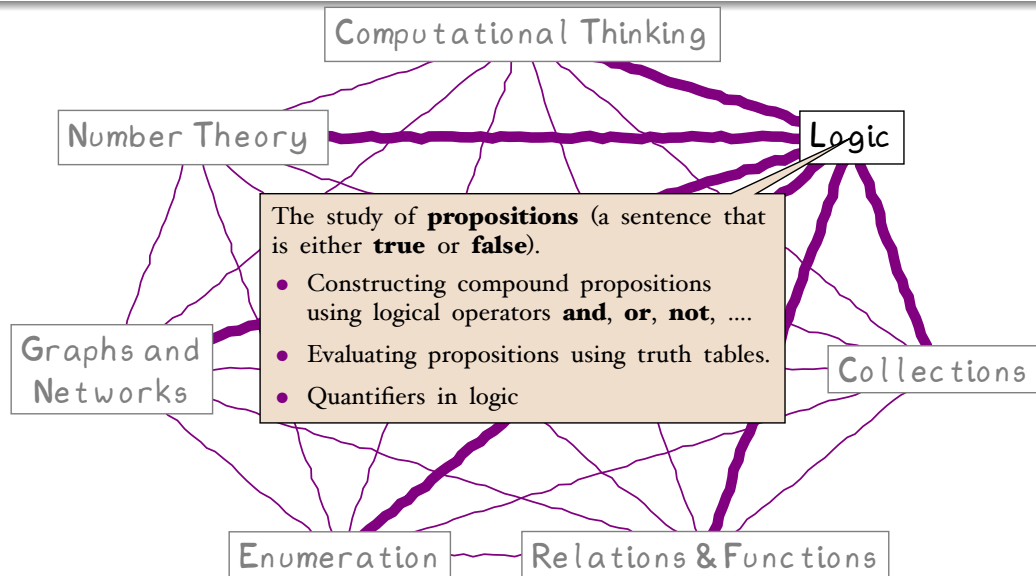
(Discrete Mathematics)



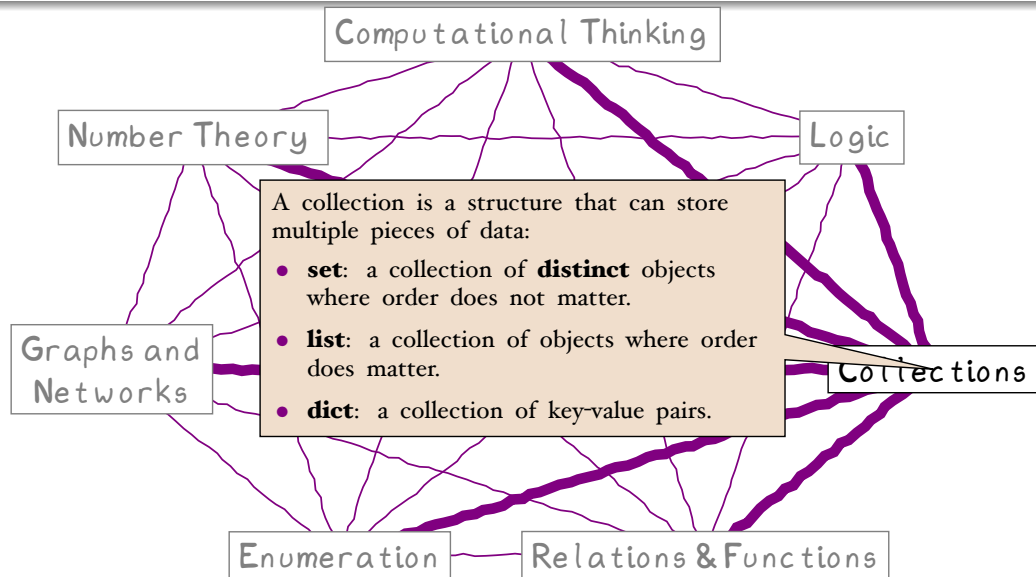
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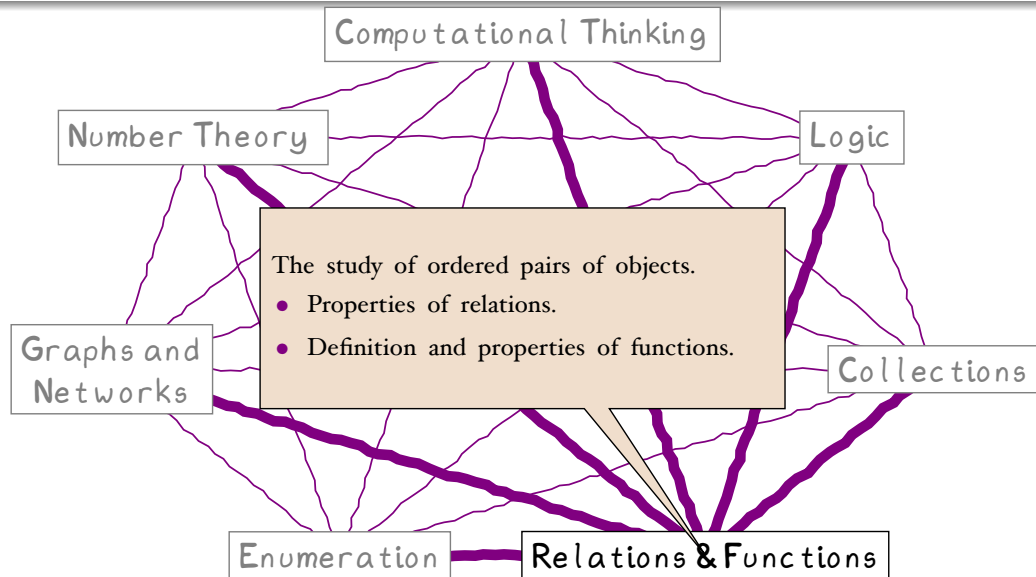
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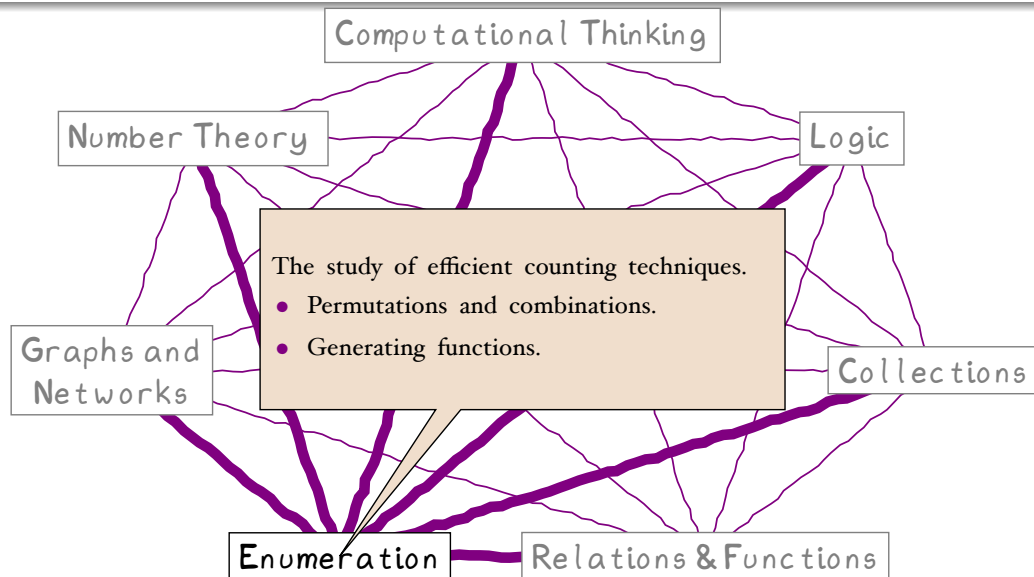
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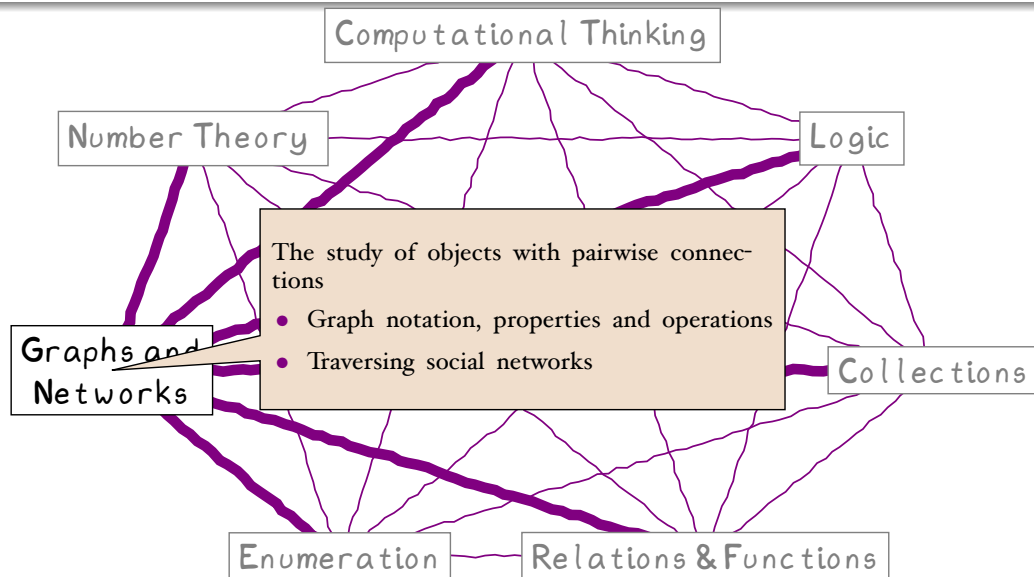
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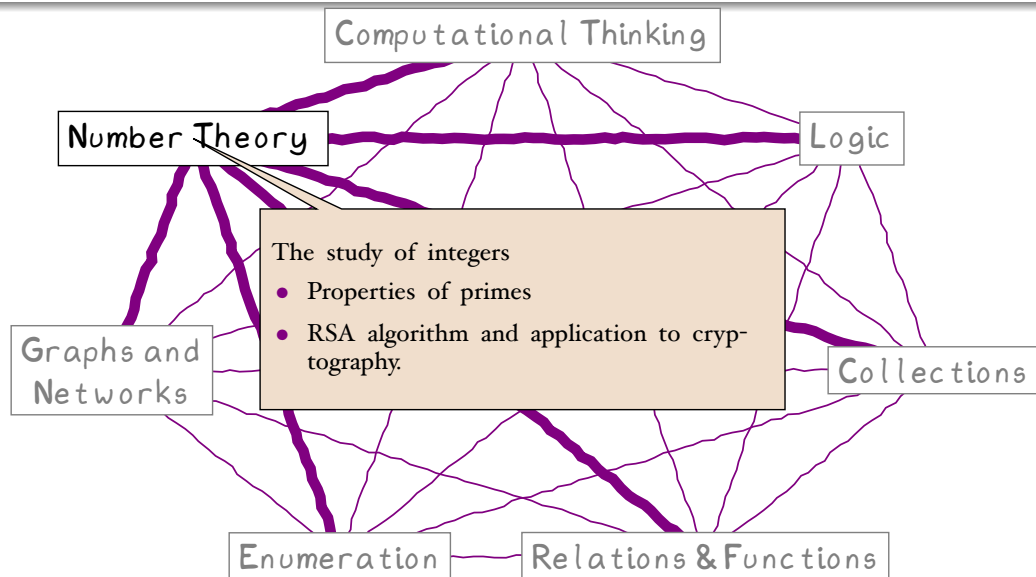
What?



What?



What?



Why?

Many, many reasons ... pickinig one* ...

Machine learning is the future of computing

Discrete mathematics is the core of machine learning.

Why?

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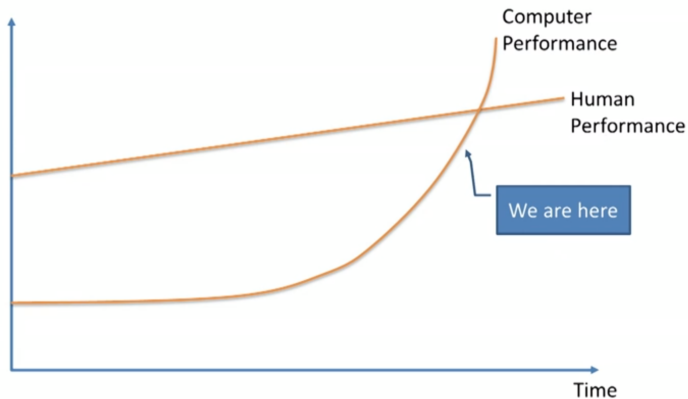
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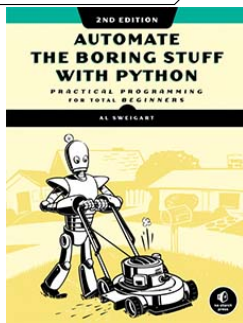
Why?

(Aim)

Computers are faster and more accurate* than us, they don't get board/distracted†

⇒ Get computers to do the hard (and/or boring) stuff

See Al Sweigart's books



Or our view on life



Why have a dog and bark?

Exception to this are the generative text models (chatGPT, Bard, ...) where accuracy is replaced by "most likely/probable".

†Well, if you don't count Teslas, in FSD mode, driving over pedestrians ...

How?

(Contact Hours)

⚙️ Three lectures per week

- ⚙️ Cover concepts, definitions, examples, etc.

- ⚙️ BUT feel free to stop me and ask questions at any point.

- ⚠️ **You should print out notes in advance of lecture, or have access to them during class.**

- ⚙️ Ideally you skimmed over the notes in advance of lecture.

- ⚠️ **Take notes during lectures.**

⚙️ One tutorial per week

- ⚙️ Review of exercises based on the material covered in the lectures.

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- ⚙️ Online quiz for self review at end of each topic.

⚙️ One practical per week

- ⚙️ Using Python (via *colab notebooks*) to demonstrate implementation details of discrete mathematics concepts.

- ⚙️ Introduce programming in Python — never have too much programming.

- ⚠️ **You need to upload notebook by end of week (Saturday 11:00pm).**

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How?

(Assessment Structure)

75% End of Semester Exam

Current plan (this is subject to change so ask about this in week 10!)

- 4 questions (typically 3–5 parts per question. Answer all questions (i.e. no choice).
- Tend not to have question per topic.
- 80% same material as last year — see pre-Covid exam papers, but there may still be some differences in format/style of questions as will the relative emphasis/weighting of the different topics.

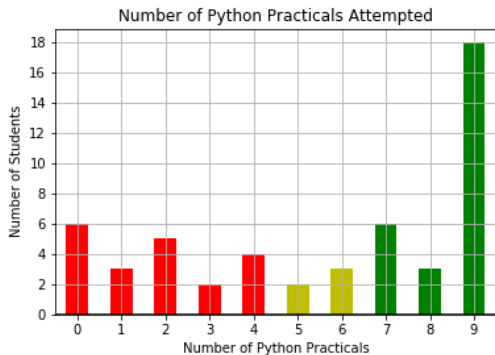
25% Continuous Assessment

- Practical work based on 10 python practicals and 2 online class tests[‡].
- In theory[§], weekly assignments, are graded in advance of next week.

[§]In practice, I ~~may~~ will fall behind a bit.

A Brief Look at 2019/20 Results

- 52 students enrolled, but only 28 passed! \Rightarrow pass rate of 53.8%.
- Of the 32 students who attempted at least 5 practicals, 25 passed \Rightarrow pass rate of 78.1%.
- Of the 27 students who attempted at least 7 practicals, 24 passed \Rightarrow pass rate of 88.8%.



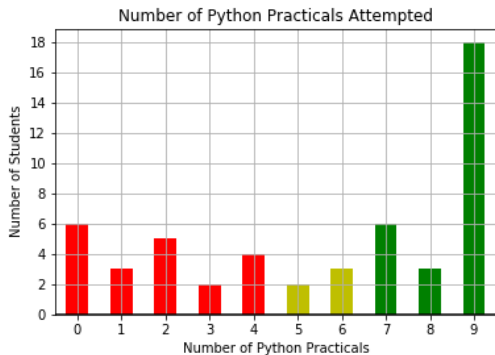
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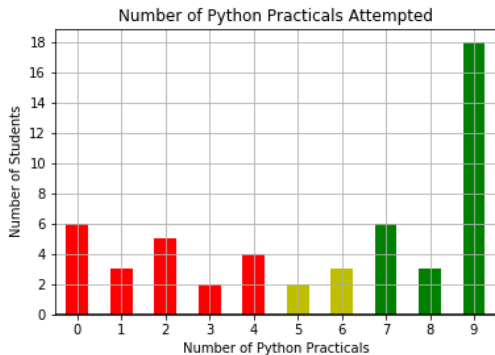
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A Brief Look at Last Year's Results (2024/25)

- 88 students, pass/compensation rate of 64%. (better but can still improve)
- Comparison of Practical Work (CA) vs Final Exam:
 - One student passed while failing the CA

It is possible to pass this module without doing the practical work but the odds are against you.

- Average grade on CA was 66.1% while on Final Exam was 47.5%

The CA is graded easier (a carrot to help keep you motivated during the semester).

- Average number of practicals attempted last year was 6.6.

While (like in 2018/19) the more practicals a student attempted the more likely they passed the module, but if you miss a week or two it is not “end of the world”.

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Who?

Dr Denis Flynn

📠 Room 327
☎ 051-30 2068
✉ Denis.Flynn@setu.ie



Background

- PhD in Applied Mathematics and Civil Engineering.
- BSc (H) Physics.

Academic Interests

- Dynamical systems, in particular systems with hysteresis
- Game development
- Languages: C/C++, Python, Java

Dr Kieran Murphy

📠 Room 313
☎ 051-30 2055
✉ Kieran.Murphy@setu.ie



Background

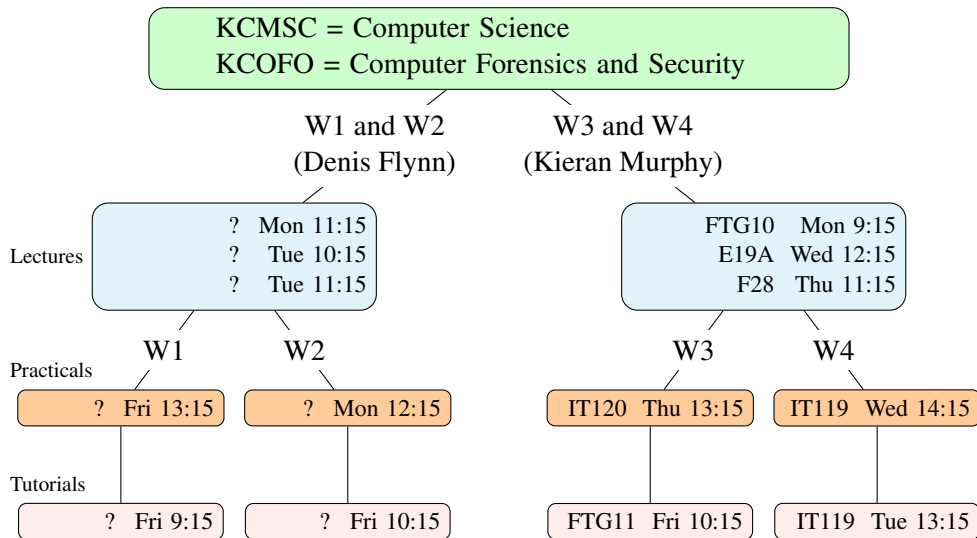
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When?

(Correct as of 11 Sep 2025)

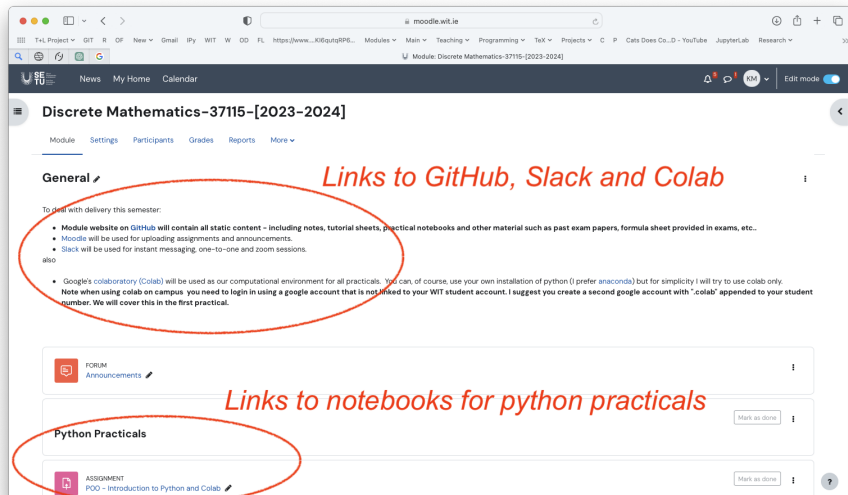


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Resources — Moodle

- URL: moodle.wit.ie/course/view.php?id=217956
- Used for all notices, assignment and practical work submissions.



The screenshot shows the Moodle course page for "Discrete Mathematics-37115-[2023-2024]". The page has a dark header with navigation links like "News", "My Home", and "Calendar". Below the header, the course title is displayed, followed by tabs for "Module", "Settings", "Participants", "Grades", "Reports", and "More".

The "General" section is highlighted with a red circle and labeled "Links to GitHub, Slack and Colab". It contains the following text:

To deal with delivery this semester:

- Module website on [GitHub](#) will contain all static content – including notes, tutorial sheets, practical notebooks and other material such as past exam papers, formula sheet provided in exams, etc..
- Moodle will be used for uploading assignments and announcements.
- Slack will be used for instant messaging, one-to-one and zoom sessions.

also

- Google's [collaboratory \(Colab\)](#) will be used as our computational environment for all practicals. You can, of course, use your own installation of python (I prefer [anaconda](#)) but for simplicity I will try to use colab only. Note when using colab on campus you need to login in using a google account that is not linked to your WIT student account. I suggest you create a second google account with ".colab" appended to your student number. We will cover this in the first practical.

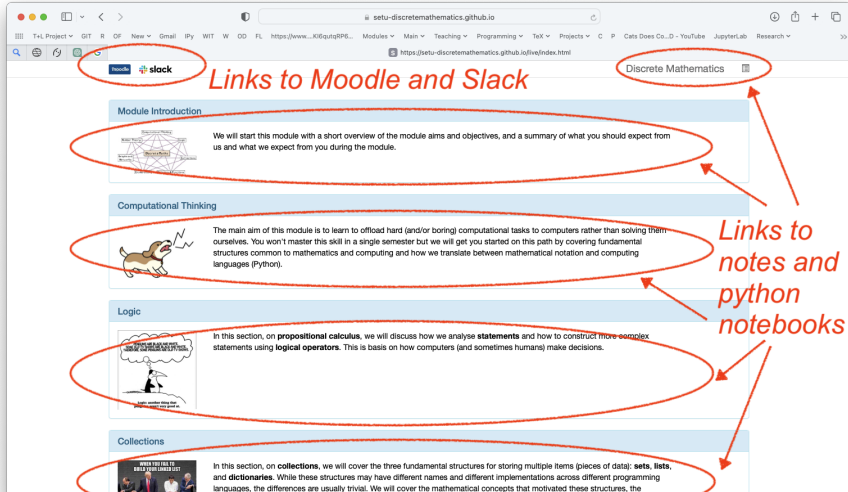
The "Python Practicals" section is also highlighted with a red circle and labeled "Links to notebooks for python practicals". It contains the following text:

Python Practicals

ASSIGNMENT
POO – Introduction to Python and Colab

Resources — Github

- URL: [SETU-DiscreteMathematics.github.io/live](https://setu-discretemathematics.github.io/live)
- Used for all content (slides, notebooks, tutorial sheets).



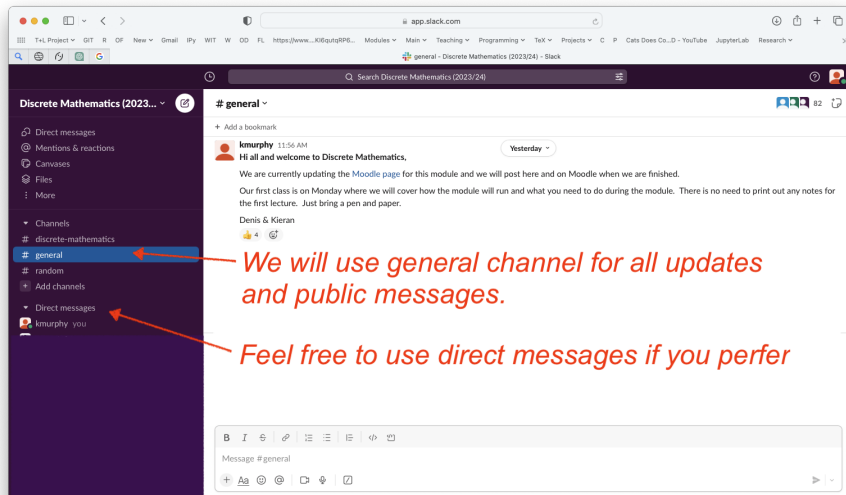
The screenshot shows the website [setu-discretemathematics.github.io](https://setu-discretemathematics.github.io/live) in a browser. The address bar shows the URL. The page has a navigation bar with links like 'Modules', 'Main', 'Teaching', 'Programming', 'TeX', 'Projects', 'G', 'P', 'Cats Does Co..D - YouTube', 'JupyterLab', and 'Research'. The main content area is divided into sections: 'Module Introduction', 'Computational Thinking', 'Logic', and 'Collections'. Each section has a title, an image, and a paragraph of text. Red circles and arrows highlight specific elements: a 'slack' link in the navigation bar, a 'Discrete Mathematics' link in the top right, and the text descriptions in the 'Module Introduction', 'Computational Thinking', 'Logic', and 'Collections' sections. Red text annotations are also present: 'Links to Moodle and Slack' points to the 'slack' link, 'Links to notes and python notebooks' points to the text in the 'Logic' and 'Collections' sections, and 'Links to Moodle and Slack' points to the 'Discrete Mathematics' link.

Links to Moodle and Slack

Links to notes and python notebooks

Resources — Slack

- URL: discretemathe-7co3349.slack.com
- Used for instant messaging, one-on-one sessions, etc.



Resources — Colab

- We will use the online Google Colab[¶] environment to code in python for all of our practical work.
- You can open a notebook from these slides by clicking the "OPEN in COLAB" icon or clicking/scanning the QR code



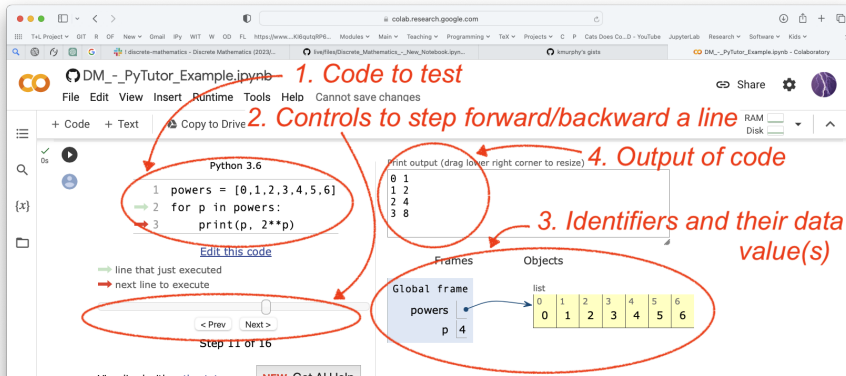
Since using Colab is such a large part of our module we have a separate set of slides covering using Colab in more detail.



[¶]Alternatively, if you want to install python on your laptop you could use the anaconda distribution from www.anaconda.com (just install the latest 64-bit, version 3.+).

Resources — PyTutor

- PyTutor (pythontutor.com) is a website that helps programmers to learn Python, Javascript, C/C++, and Java by visualising code execution (shows what happens to data as code runs, line by line).
- We will run PyTutor from within Colab so will demo PyTutor when we cover Colab (or click/scan the QR code).

The screenshot shows the PyTutor interface within a Google Colab notebook. The interface includes a code editor, a runtime panel, and a variable state panel. Red annotations highlight key features:

- 1. Code to test:** Points to the code in the editor:

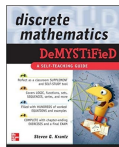
```
1 powers = [0,1,2,3,4,5,6]
2 for p in powers:
3     print(p, 2**p)
```
- 2. Controls to step forward/backward a line:** Points to the navigation buttons at the bottom: "< Prev" and "Next >".
- 3. Identifiers and their data value(s):** Points to the "Frames" and "Objects" panels. The "Global frame" shows variables `powers` and `p`. The "Objects" panel shows a list object with values `0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6`.
- 4. Output of code:** Points to the "Print output" panel, which displays the results of the code execution:

```
0 1
1 2
2 4
3 8
```

Additional details visible in the interface include the file name "DM_-_PyTutor_Example.ipynb", the Python version "Python 3.6", and the step indicator "Step 11 of 16".

Text Books

I like the following textbooks on discrete mathematics and expect that my notes will overlap significantly with these books. I do encourage you to read* them[†], however, be aware they may use different notation or cover different topics.



Discrete Mathematics Demystified

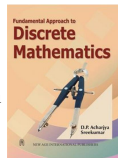
by Steven Krantz

Touches on nearly all of the topics that we hope to cover. We will probably go into greater depth in places, but a very nice and short read.

Fundamental Approach to Discrete Mathematics

by D. P. Acharjya Sreekumar

I also liked this book, however, due to time constraints, this module only focuses on material in chapter 1–4, 8, and 10.



*or skim them over a coffee or two.

[†]I also like *Applied Discrete Structures* by Alan Doerr and Kenneth Levasseur — it is a good source of exercises. (and is free (legally))

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Final Comments on Module

- Discrete Mathematics concepts appear either directly or indirectly in approximately 22 of the 30 modules on your degree.
 - \implies *Knowing Discrete Mathematics concepts greatly simplifies rest of the course.*
- The module is intended to be an introduction to a large number of topics, so treatment is broad rather than deep.
 - ✓ Most of material is at an introductory level.
 - ⚠ Keeping in sync with material, practicals and tutorials is important.
- The continuous assessment (the practicals) is intended to reinforce the connections between programming and discrete mathematics.

The CA is a “carrot not a stick” — we want you to enjoy the module and keep up to date with the material.

