

# Datastructures and Algorithms Lab

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# Course assistants

- ▶ Course assistants
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- ▶ Contact via e-mail or the course telegram channel
- ▶ Telegram channel <https://t.me/tkttiralabra/> (will contain discourse in Finnish)
- ▶ Course page [https://tiralabra.github.io/2020\\_p1/en](https://tiralabra.github.io/2020_p1/en)

# What?

- ▶ On the course you will implement some program that utilizes “difficult” algorithm(s)/data structure(s) including all of the required data structure and algorithms

# Prerequisite knowledge

- ▶ Prerequisite knowledge:
  - ▶ **Data Structures and Algorithms**
    - ▶ Mandatory
  - ▶ **Programming technique** (only in Finnish)
    - ▶ Very beneficial but the course materials cover the required knowledge in testing and project structures
- ▶ Ask if:
  - ▶ You have done Data Structure and Algorithms but do not have the credit (missing the exam for example)
  - ▶ You are unsure about the prerequisite knowledge requirements

# Course content

- ▶ The programming language to be used has to be accepted by a course assistant. At least Java will be accepted
  - ▶ Ask a course assistant if you prefer some other languages
  - ▶ Note that testing and test coverage reporting is required no matter the language
- ▶ **Git** version control and **GitHub** is used
- ▶ The lab consists of **individual work**
- ▶ Generally the product will be some sort of **running program**
  - ▶ Not a library or a bunch of code that can not be executed
- ▶ Typically programs need to have some sort of **user interface**

# Course content

- ▶ Project examples:
  - ▶ Comparison of path finding algorithms
  - ▶ Data compression algorithms
  - ▶ Cryptography
  - ▶ Game solvers (minesweepers, nonograms, solitaire. . . )
    - ▶ There is a minesweeper template project on git!
  - ▶ AI (Chess, Go. . . )
    - ▶ There is a chess template project on git!
- ▶ **Try to chose a topic you are personally interested in!**

# Coding style

- ▶ The code written for this course should be of high quality and easy to read. You should use some kind of style checking (e.g. Java Checkstyle)
- ▶ The project name should be indicative of the contents. Course assistants will not appreciate it if all the project names are along the lines of “Lab-2020”
- ▶ Project structure along the lines of the programming techniques course
  - ▶ I.e. not all of the project code should be in the same file/folder
- ▶ Good coding conventions like DRY ja Single responsibility should be applied

# Conduct of the course

- ▶ **Deadlines** according to the course material
  - ▶ Each deadline gives 0-3 points based on the deadline requirements
    - ▶ The first week deadline only gives up to 1 point
  - ▶ Submissions are done by *pushing* the project state to GitHub
    - ▶ No submissions by e-mail
  - ▶ A large part of the points – and the grade – are based on deadlines
  - ▶ After each deadline, a course assistant will give some sort of feedback – more thorough feedback is available through paja, e-mail or Telegram
  - ▶ Extra time for deadlines may be available with **good reasons** if asked for **in advance**.



# Conduct of the course

- ▶ Weekly workshop (paja) is available on Mondays and Tuesdays on class Zoom according to the timetable
  - ▶ Mondays 16-18 and 15-16 at least for the English students
  - ▶ Personal guidance can be provided on campus or Zoom if requested
  - ▶ Not mandatory
  - ▶ **Best way to get help from a course assistant**
  - ▶ Telegram is not an official source of information but can be useful
  - ▶ Other TAs in paja may also be able to help even if the lab is not explicitly on the agenda at the time

# Conduct of the course

- ▶ A **code review** is done in conjunction with Deadlines 4 and 5
  - ▶ Every student will get another student project to review
  - ▶ Students write and receive feedback on each others' projects
  - ▶ The intention is to get familiar with reading code written by others
  - ▶ Maximum points for each review is **2**

# Conduct of the course

- ▶ At the end of the course there will be a mandatory **demo session**
  - ▶ Each student presents their project for 3 to 5 minutes
  - ▶ Every student is present for the entire session
  - ▶ The project does not have to be completely done at the demo session
- ▶ There is **no course exam**

# Motivation

- ▶ This can be one of the most fun courses during Bachelors' studies - you can implement whatever you want!
- ▶ If you get stuck, ask a course assitant for help
  - ▶ I'm here for you!
- ▶ Normally there are no real penalties for dropping courses – labs are an exception to this
  - ▶ It may be harder to enroll to the course after dropping the course

- ▶ During fall of 2019 a group of students created 2 new project templates for the lab
  - ▶ Chess and
  - ▶ Minesweeper
- ▶ If either of these subjects are of interest, you may want to check them out. Links can be found on the course page

# Thank you!

- ▶ **Welcome to the course!**
- ▶ Most information about the course can be found at:  
[https://tiralabra.github.io/2020\\_p1/en](https://tiralabra.github.io/2020_p1/en)
  - ▶ It's a good idea to read through the entire site!
- ▶ I will stay for a while to answer any questions you may have!