



# Course guide

## 34956 - DG - Discrete and Algorithmic Geometry

Last modified: 08/06/2023

**Unit in charge:** School of Mathematics and Statistics  
**Teaching unit:** 749 - MAT - Department of Mathematics.

**Degree:** MASTER'S DEGREE IN ADVANCED MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010).  
(Optional subject).

**Academic year:** 2023    **ECTS Credits:** 7.5    **Languages:** English

### LECTURER

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**Coordinating lecturer:** RODRIGO IGNACIO SILVEIRA ISOBA

**Others:** Primer quadrimestre:  
CLEMENS HUEMER - A  
JULIAN PFEIFLE - A  
RODRIGO IGNACIO SILVEIRA ISOBA - A

### PRIOR SKILLS

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- Elementary combinatorics.
- Elementary graph theory.
- Elementary algorithmics.
- Elementary data structures.

### DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

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**Specific:**

1. RESEARCH. Read and understand advanced mathematical papers. Use mathematical research techniques to produce and transmit new results.
2. MODELLING. Formulate, analyse and validate mathematical models of practical problems by using the appropriate mathematical tools.
3. CALCULUS. Obtain (exact or approximate) solutions for these models with the available resources, including computational means.
4. CRITICAL ASSESSMENT. Discuss the validity, scope and relevance of these solutions; present results and defend conclusions.

**Transversal:**

5. SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING. Detecting gaps in one's knowledge and overcoming them through critical self-appraisal. Choosing the best path for broadening one's knowledge.
6. EFFICIENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION. Communicating verbally and in writing about learning outcomes, thought-building and decision-making. Taking part in debates about issues related to the own field of specialization.
7. THIRD LANGUAGE. Learning a third language, preferably English, to a degree of oral and written fluency that fits in with the future needs of the graduates of each course.
8. TEAMWORK. Being able to work as a team player, either as a member or as a leader. Contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly, by reaching commitments in accordance to the resources that are available.
9. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES. Managing the acquisition, structure, analysis and display of information from the own field of specialization. Taking a critical stance with regard to the results obtained.

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Theory classes will be used to present and develop the contents of the course. Most of the topics will be presented by the instructors, but there can be some sessions devoted to students presentations.

There will be lists of problems, which will not contain solutions. Problems will be designed to help students deepen and mature their command of the concepts and techniques presented in class. Some problems will be solved in class, some will be left as homework. In the problem sessions, the goal will be to propose and analyze alternative strategies to solve each problem, and to show how the results presented in class are applied. Most of the problems solved in class will be presented by the students.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

Discrete, combinatorial and computational geometry are facets of a common body of knowledge that integrates fundamental elements from mathematics -mainly from algebra, topology and classical branches of geometry- with elements and problems from theoretical computer science and its applications.

The area focuses on the combinatorial and structural study of discrete geometric objects, as well as the design of algorithms to construct or analyze them. Among the objects studied, we can mention discrete sets of points, curves and manifolds, polytopes, convex bodies, packings, space decompositions, graphs, and geometric matroids.

By the end of the course, students should:

- Be able to recognize and formally express discrete geometric problems.
- Be able to discretize geometric problems, when possible.
- Be able to apply combinatorial techniques, as well as data structures and algorithms to discrete geometric problems.
- Be able to search the bibliography, and to understand the scientific literature on the subject.
- Be aware of the wide range of fields and problems to which discrete geometry results apply.
- Be aware of the most commonly used software in the field.

## STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Self study	127,5	68.00
Hours large group	60,0	32.00

**Total learning time:** 187.5 h

## CONTENTS

### Preliminaries

**Description:**

Computational complexity. Data structures. Representation of geometric objects.

**Full-or-part-time:** 12h 30m

Theory classes: 4h

Self study : 8h 30m

### Convexity

**Description:**

Convex hull computation. Linear programming in low dimensions.

**Full-or-part-time:** 19h

Theory classes: 6h

Self study : 13h



### Decompositions and arrangements

**Description:**

Subdivisions and triangulations of point sets and polygons. Visibility and motion planning. Duality. Special decompositions in dimension 2. The zone theorem. Incremental construction and randomized algorithms. Complexity. Levels and k-sets.

**Full-or-part-time:** 31h

Theory classes: 10h

Self study : 21h

### Proximity Structures

**Description:**

Proximity problems. Voronoi diagram, Delaunay triangulation. Shape reconstruction.

**Full-or-part-time:** 31h

Theory classes: 10h

Self study : 21h

### Polytopes and Subdivisions of Point Sets

**Description:**

Homogeneous coordinates. Polytopes: faces and boundary structure; examples; operations on polytopes (polarity, products, etc.). Point sets: subdivisions and triangulations (including Delaunay and Voronoi).

**Full-or-part-time:** 37h

Theory classes: 10h

Laboratory classes: 2h

Self study : 25h

### Selected theorems from Discrete Geometry

**Description:**

Helly theorem, Minkowski theorem, Erdős-Szekeres theorem, Tverberg theorem, and related theory.

**Full-or-part-time:** 57h

Theory classes: 18h

Self study : 39h

## GRADING SYSTEM

The course consists in two parts, each contributes with 50 % to the final grade.

For each part: students will obtain marks by turning in their solutions to problems from the problem sets, by presenting solutions to problems or summarizing relevant research paper, or, optionally, by an exam.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### Basic:

- Boissonnat, J. D.; Yvinec, M. Algorithmic geometry. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997. ISBN 0521565294.
- Edelsbrunner, Herbert. Algorithms in combinatorial geometry. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1987. ISBN 354013722X.
- Matousek, Jirí. Lectures on discrete geometry. New York: Springer, 2002. ISBN 0387953736.
- Pach, János; Agarwal, Pankaj K. Combinatorial geometry. New York: John Wiley & Sons, cop. 1995. ISBN 0471588903.
- Ziegler, Günter M. Lectures on polytopes. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1995. ISBN 038794365X.
- Berg, Mark de; Cheong, Otfried; Kreveld, Marc van; Overmars, Mark. Computational geometry : algorithms and applications [on line]. 3rd ed. revised. Berlin: Springer, 2008 [Consultation: 10/07/2023]. Available on: <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.recursos.biblioteca.upc.edu/lib/upcatalunya-ebooks/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=6311912>. ISBN 9783642096815.

### Complementary:

- Bokowski, Jürgen. Computational oriented matroids : equivalence classes of matrices within a natural framework. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. ISBN 9780521849302.
- Conway, John Horton; Sloane, N. J. A. Sphere packings, lattices and groups. 3rd ed. Berlin: Springer, 1999. ISBN 0387985859.
- Schurmann, Achill. Computational geometry of positive definite quadratic forms : polyhedral reduction theories, algorithms, and applications. Providence: American Mathematical Society, 2009. ISBN 9780821847350.
- Weeks, Jeffrey R. The Shape of space. 2nd. ed. New York: M. Dekker, 2002. ISBN 0824707095.
- Richter-Gebert, Jürgen. Perspectives on projective geometry : a guided tour through real and complex geometry [on line]. Berlin: Springer, 2011 [Consultation: 10/07/2023]. Available on: <https://link-springer-com.recursos.biblioteca.upc.edu/book/10.1007/978-3-642-17286-1>. ISBN 9783642172854.
- Beck, Matthias; Robins, Sinai. Computing the continuous discretely : integer-point enumeration in polyhedra [on line]. New York: Springer, cop. 2007 [Consultation: 10/07/2023]. Available on: <https://link-springer-com.recursos.biblioteca.upc.edu/book/10.1007/978-0-387-46112-0>. ISBN 9780387291390.
- Rabadán, Raúl; Blumberg, Andrew J. Topological data analysis for genomics and evolution. Cambridge University Press, 2020. ISBN 9781107159549.
- Edelsbrunner, Herbert; Harer, John. Computational Topology : an introduction. American Mathematical Society, cop. 2010. ISBN 9780821849255.

## RESOURCES

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### Audiovisual material:

- Flatland [Enregistrement vidéo] : a journey of many dimensions / written by Seth Caplan, Dano Johnson, Jeffrey Travis ; directed by Jeffrey Travis, Dano Johnson. [S.l.] : Flat World Productions, cop. 2007. [https://discovery.upc.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991003683649706711&context=L&vid=34CSUC\\_UPC:VU1&lang=ca](https://discovery.upc.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991003683649706711&context=L&vid=34CSUC_UPC:VU1&lang=ca)
- Mathfilm festival 2008 [Enregistrement vidéo]: a collection of mathematical videos. Berlin : Springer, 2008. [https://discovery.upc.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991003546329706711&context=L&vid=34CSUC\\_UPC:VU1&lang=ca](https://discovery.upc.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991003546329706711&context=L&vid=34CSUC_UPC:VU1&lang=ca)
- Videomath Festival at International Congress of Mathematicians, Berlin, Germany 1998 [Enregistrement vidéo] / edited and produced Hans Christian Hege, Konrad Polthier. [Berlin] : Springer, 1998. [https://discovery.upc.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991001865709706711&context=L&vid=34CSUC\\_UPC:VU1&lang=ca](https://discovery.upc.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991001865709706711&context=L&vid=34CSUC_UPC:VU1&lang=ca)
- Not knot [Enregistrement vidéo] / directed by Charlie Gunn and Delle Maxwell ; [written by David Epstein ... [et al.]]. Minnesota : Geometry Center, University of Minnesota, 1991. [https://discovery.upc.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991001445799706711&context=L&vid=34CSUC\\_UPC:VU1&lang=ca](https://discovery.upc.edu/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991001445799706711&context=L&vid=34CSUC_UPC:VU1&lang=ca)