Årsrapport fra programsensor

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Programsensor ved

- fakultet: Det *samfunnsvitenskapelig fakultet, UiB*
- studieprogram: *Bachelorprogram i kognitiv vitenskap*

Oppnevnt for perioden: *2018 – 2021*

Denne rapporten gjelder perioden: *kalenderåret 2018*

SUMMARY

The Cognitive Science programme makes a number of observations during 2018, and consequent changes to come into effect during 2019, one being the shift of the KogVit course to the first semester. This defines the discipline at an earliest stage and sets directions for semesters to come. Another change is removing the apparent overload of unnecessarily detailed logic content that has appeared during the first semester. Logic and other specializations still appear, but indeed more as placed into specializations.

Students in the programme always perform well in courses, regardless of Cognitive Science students representing a minority or majority among students attending the courses. Students apparently have an unusual curiosity concerning Cognitive Science as an exciting present and future theory and application area, e.g., as compared to AI which now, despite its hype, develops and evolves along more predicable pathways still leaning in 'machine'. Cognitive Science being intentionally multidisciplinary and focusing more on human mind in connection with human action and interaction brings in technology in form of facilitation rather than being self-contained and purely engineering tools. Students are still expected traditionally to understand and learn formal structures and procedures, but additionally enforced to think and reason independently and innovatively as related to depth of problems and the range and complexity of solutions. Changes from 2018 to 2019 support programme execution that continues and improves to keep students engaged in and being perceptive concerning the programme, thereby strengthening and productifying excellence of human thinking and action.

The programme has, to some extent, been seen a potpourri of courses, and specialization in the previous programme was quite free. Specializations can be seen as leaning more either on theory or on practice, even if there is a mix of the two. The former more clearly invites to Masters and more academics, and the latter invests more time to prepare students to enter the job market.

The course description structure could be more harmonized, showing more detail rather than less. Each course description ideally contain its value proposition described as clearly as possible. The value proposition of the whole programme then builds upon all such descriptions, and the value proposition of the programme as a whole obviously is more than just the sum of propositions of its constituents. Interdependency between courses and blocks can also be described more in detail.

Content:

1. **Cognitive Science - What is it? What can I do with it?**
2. **The programme as a whole and in parts**
3. **Students – Let us continue to keep our focus on our First Task**

Programme for the meetings during January 15-16, 2019

Tuesday January 15

09:30 - 11:00	Presentation of the Bachelor's degree (Patrik, Csaba, Liv and Kine)
11:00 - 12:15	Administration and background information for the reporting
12:15	Lunch with members of the Kogvit committee
14:30 - 16:00	Meeting the students (Patrik)
19:00	Dinner

Wednesday January 16

09:30 – 11:00	Discussions with researchers and groups not directly connected with the programme
11:00	Brunch
12:15-14:00	KOGVIT101 Lecture

Links and background material provided for the reporting:

Hovedside Kogvit-program:
https://www.uib.no/studier/BASV-KOGNI

Oppbygning for studenter som starter høst 2019 og senere:
https://www.uib.no/studier/BASV-KOGNI#uib-tabs-oppbygging

Oppbygninger for studenter som startet høsten 2018 eller før
https://www.uib.no/infomedia/123437/tatt-opp-p%C3%A5-kogvit-f%C3%B8r-2019

Karakterfordeling våren og høsten 2018:
INFO102 v18, KOGVIT101 v18, LOG110 v18, LOG111 v18, INF227 v18, PSYK120 v18, FIL105 v18
INFO282 h18, INFO283 h18, INF100 h18, EXFAC00SK h18, DASPSTAT h18, LING122 h18

1. Cognitive Science - What is it? What can I do with it?

As part of this evaluation or overview of Cognitive Science, as established, yet in further development and change, at University of Bergen, there was opportunity to talk to a group of students studying in the first and second years at the Cognitive Science programme. It was interesting to hear how the students brought up those two questions as part of their decision to apply for entering the program and to stay within it throughout the programme.

What is it?

Is traditional Cognitive Science still too much focused on the brain, or stuck with the desire finally to explain the very nature and anatomy of human thinking. That is a bold take and indeed related to explaining what Cognitive Science is.

However, such explanations will only loosely and speculatively indicate what we can do with Cognitive Science. Scientists are often content with solving the equation, viewing the application of it as somebody else's problem. It's time the turn the cone the other way around, i.e., starting with WHY, allowing the HOW to affect the WHAT.

Students apparently desire to know what it can do before explaining what it is. Mind us, society and business expects nothing less.

Cognitive Science also relates itself e.g. to AI, the hype it presently is, with that new AI in fact mostly in form of the Emperor's New Clothes, fine as they are. But the Emperor's ability to deliver is the same. Cognitive Science is less bound to its historical burden, and therefore Cognitive Science is e.g. able to include logic and symbolic computing which AI has more or less decided to cut off from being one of the pillars of AI, as it was in particular at the birth of AI.

Cognitive Science is also intentionally multidisciplinary. And it's not just about the human mind, what it is, but what it can do when supported and surrounded by tools, technology, and, not least, other beings and things similarly or complementary minded. There are challenges out there, both in society as well as in business of all kind, where interdisciplination of mind and cognition in a broad sense can enter the scene and dramatically provide impact, sustainably make a difference and change.

Students know this, or at least, they sense it very strongly. They want to be part of it. They are even prepared to gamble, where the game is finding out *what I will do and where I will be in 10-15 years*. In presence of this *I'm prepared to gamble*, what is UiB's value proposition of Cognitive Science to the students? What is UiB's value proposition to itself, as Cognitive Science apparently is in the making to become extended to a Master Programme?

A desire to see more clear answers to all these question was part of the message students conveyed in that meeting on January 15, 2019.

What can I do with it?

Cognitive Science strengthens and productifies excellence of human thinking and action. AI is similar, but targeting machines, rather than humans. AI today has become robotization of menial services. Cognitive science is different in its aim to elevate human produced good practice.

From industry point of view this means enriching human capital rather than focus on savings related with human labour. Cognitive Science enriches human action, whereas AI aims to replace it with actions of bots.

There are still many industry sectors where platitudinousness must be the pleasure of machines only. However, there are more industry sector where production and business is enhanced only by providing labour with more skills and enhanced tools. In the public sector, the societal challenge is not to find ways of having machines overtaking human action. The challenge is providing humans with skills they didn't need before. This is where Cognitive Science is essentially different from Artificial Intelligence.

The private sector is strongly and largely represented in Hordaland and Norway, including the Norwegian petroleum industry with head offices in Bergen. However, Hordaland is also known for its active and diverse SMEs, providing a good portion of job opportunities in Bergen and Hordaland. This is a challenge. Big companies afford to have R&D departments, whereas SMEs often struggle to maintain turnover.

Growing SMEs need labour, and they will take almost whatever they will find. This hand-to-mouth approach to recruiting is not optimal in the long run. The SMEs know it, and the universities suffer from it, so SME networks and universities must engage in closer cooperation. This is yet another opportunity for Cognitive Science. UiB and student organizations already communicate with the job opportunities side, and that communication and dialogue could probably be even further systemized and monitored.

2. The programme as a whole and in parts

The programme is in its basic part conventionally presented semester by semester over two years (four semesters). For each course there is e.g. an overview description of content, and requirements. Course descriptions also mention overlap with other courses.

The programme has, to some extent, been seen a potpourri of courses, and indeed it still possesses the character of being such a potpourri. This, however, is inevitable as courses attended by students in the programme are not designed exclusively for Cognitive Science students, except for the KOGVIT101 course.

The conglomeration and configuration of existing courses provided within the multidisciplinarity of Cognitive Science, or, to be more precise, the multidisciplinarity that is available and represented at UiB is a very challenging task, and UiB is in a very position already as it is, even if the programme is seems as still in further development.

The programme can be seen as subdivided or as courses clustered under common themes. The programme description provides such description informally and loosely. For the purpose of this report, the basic part of the programme can be seen as consisting of four founding groups of courses:

- biology, psychology and philosophy of mind and cognition
- IT and AI, analytics, knowledge representation and computing
- language
- mathematics and logic

The biology and psychology of the inside of the mind is obviously different from the psychology and sociology of mingling minds, cognition thereby appearing in individual and group shapes, respectively. The courses in this area seems carefully selected.

The IT and analytics of Cognitive Science is a core content, as also reflected in the programme. It is closer to humans than machines, but not departing from engineering in any way. It is also clearly distinct from AI, without explicitly being all too distant from it. This part is broad yet deep, and it is like the best of computer science as needed in Cognitive Science. Even theoretical computer science is slightly represented by computational theory appearing in a specialization logic course.

Language and linguistics has a starting point in the psychology and cognition of natural language, and apparently not including cognition of professional and programming language. Understanding and using professional and computer languages are very different. Professional languages e.g. in health and social care are packed with terminologies, at least potentially, even if not systematically used. It seems as linguistics in the programme is less concerned with doing the professions and professional languages, but they could be inspired to do so, at least in examples and homework.

The mathematical pillar seemingly invites the programme to speak of «discrete mathematics», which is widely seen at other universities as well when mathematical departments are populated by experts in analysis and the «mathematics involving real numbers». Anything beyond that is often called «discrete», with algebra and logic being lumped together as something «discrete» as opposed to «continuous». This seems to be the situation now at UiB, which means that a dimension of mathematics e.g. involving algebra and topology is less represented in the programme. Interestingly enough, Category Theory is included as a course under the Informatics specialization. Type theory and functional programming, within a realm of universal algebra and co-algebra, easily comes into play, and is a useful ingredient to understand the logical dimension of Cognitive Science.

Logic is traditionally presented but leans more on the mathematical/philosophical view of mathematical and logical foundations as compared to what we expect in a mathematical/computational approach. For example, in a computational approach, type theoretic aspects, and from there on ontology in logical sense, would appear more clearly, and programmatically becomes well connected e.g. with functional languages (INF122).

The programme in the past

For comparison with the present program, the basic courses in the past programme, and their dependencies, are shown in Fig. 1.

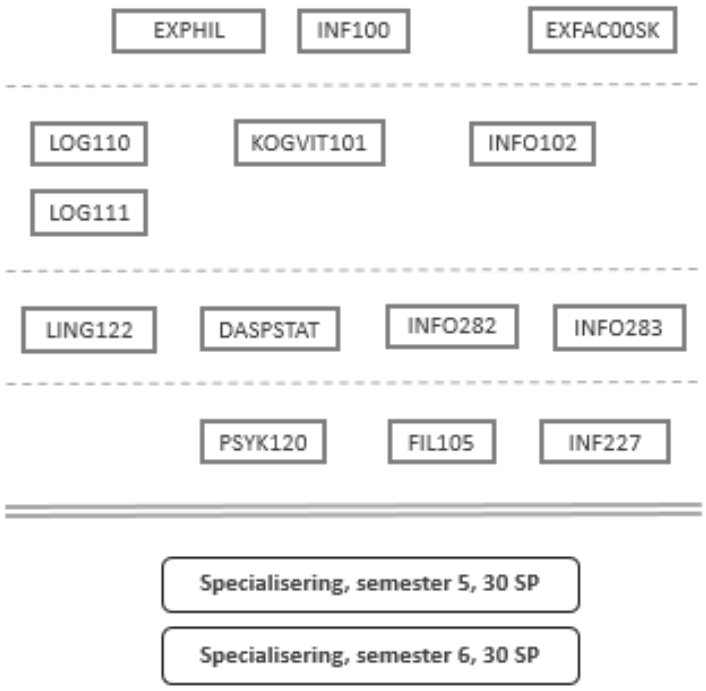

Fig. 1. Basic courses in the past programme during semesters 1-4, and their dependencies.

The present programme

If a course is prerequisite (forkunnskap) to another, then it is given as required (krav) or recommended (tilrådd).

The basic courses in the present programme, and their dependencies, are shown in Fig. 2.

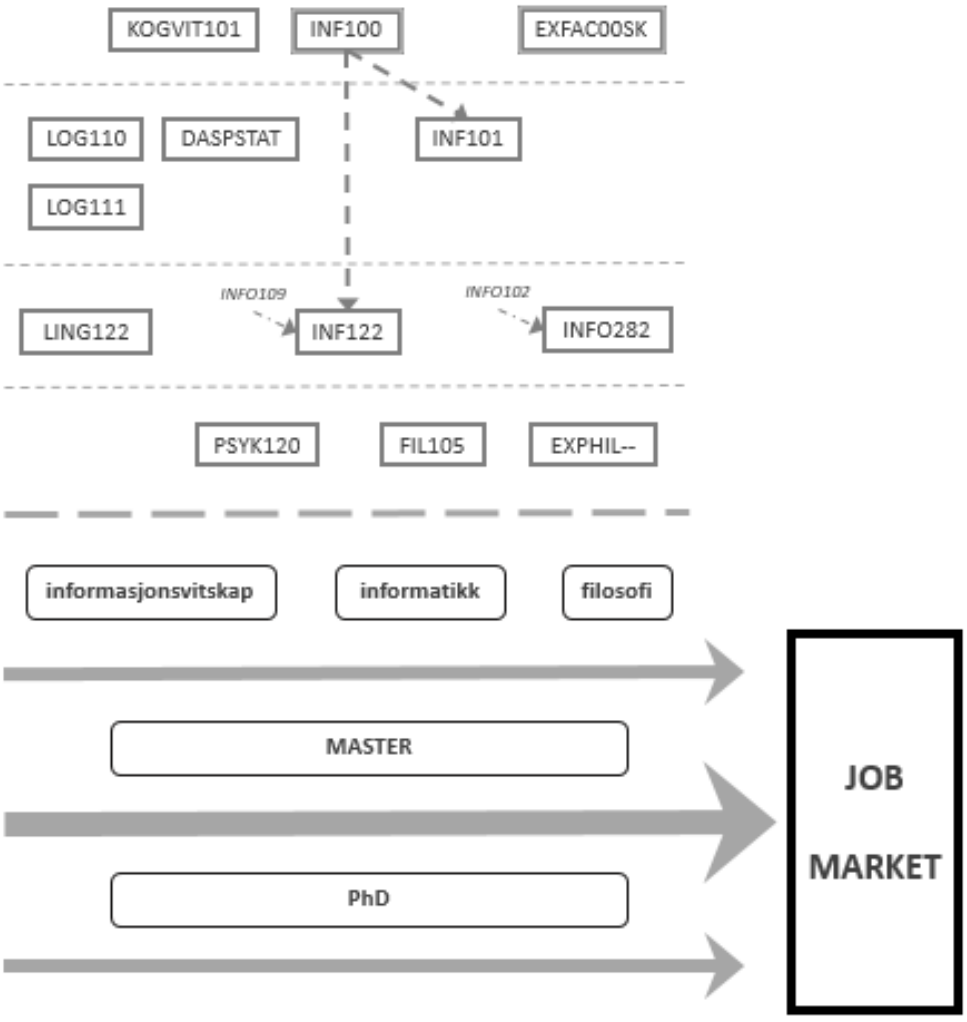

Fig. 2. Basic courses in the present programme during semesters 1-4 and their dependencies.

Specialization ‘informasjonsvitskap’ (60 SP) has one mandatory 10 SP course, Introduction to AI (INFO180), 40 SPs to be chosen within ‘informasjonsvitskap’ and one 10 SP to be chosen freely. There are many courses to choose from, representing a wide range of content. This specialization is a good extension within Cognitive Science.

Specialization ‘informatikk’ (60 SP) has five mandatory courses 10 SP each, and one 10 SP to be chosen freely. Algorithms and data structures 10 SP is among the mandatory courses, and the other four mandatory courses are pure math courses. This specialization mostly adds math courses not directly connected with Cognitive Science. It simply strengthens a general mathematical background, unless some courses specifically deal with deep examples selected from Cognitive Science problem areas. The statistics course (DASPSTAT) and the logic courses (LOG110, LOG111) are closer to Cognitive Science than the math courses in the specialization. The reason for this is unclear.

In specialization ‘filosofi’ (60 SP) all courses are mandatory, and adds philosophy courses not directly connected with core Cognitive Science. It is unclear if these courses even provide something in direction of the Philosophy of Cognitive Science, or if the courses actually are just philosophy add-ons to a basic Cognitive Science programme. The course on the philosophy of mind (FIL105) in the basic part of the programme is more related to Cognitive Science than the specialization courses. The reason for this is unclear.

Where is the programme going?

Specialization in the previous programme was quite free. It was not pointing at job opportunities nor explicitly advertising a pathway to Masters and PhD. The programme starting Fall 2019 also does not underline job opportunities but advertises ‘informasjonsvitskap’ in scientific directions and, in the case of ‘informatikk’ and ‘filosofi’, enforces students to follow a quite specific and predefined methodological pathway.

Specializations could also simply be either ‘theory’ or ‘practice’, where the former more clearly invites to Masters and more academics, and the latter kind of recommends Masters and from there on be perfectly fit for entering the job market.

2.1. The Value Proposition

A student goes in to and out of a course. The student is graded. Courses appear in programmes, so if a student go through all courses in the programme, the student passes all through the programme.

There is a Value Proposition of a course, «you will learn this and this and this ...», and this value proposition is delivered BY the course TO the student. There is also a value proposition of the programme, delivered by the programme to the student. What is that value proposition more than a mere abstraction of the conglomerate of value propositions delivered by each and every course?

> *Kognitiv vitskap er eit fagfelt som studerer intelligente system, korleis dei er bygde opp, korleis dei ulike delane av slike system fungerer, og korleis delane samspeler for å frambringe det vi normalt kallar tenking. Typiske tema ein ser på er kunnskapsrepresentasjon, resonnering, minne, språk, sansing og emosjonar. Psykologi er sjølvsagt ein viktig del av dette, men viktig er og kunstig intelligente system på datamaskiner. Datamaskina gjev oss høve til forme modellar av dei ulike sidene ved intelligens og simulere desse for på den måten å få ei betre forståing av kva intelligens er for noko.*

It describes WHAT Cognitive Science **is as a discipline** (*er eit fagfelt*), and it presents themes close to course names (like *kunnskapsrepresentasjon*) or more in general terms (like *emosjonar*). This value proposition is more detailed about **what it is** (*få ei betre forståing av kva intelligens er for noko*) than **what you can do with it** (*kan bidra som ikt-systemutviklar i ulike typar roller, i eit spenn som omfattar alt frå kommunikasjon med brukar til avansert teknisk utvikling*).

A more clear Value Proposition of the Programme might be useful. Value propositions for courses exists, and are of form

> ***Attend the COURSE and you will learn ...***

but a

> ***Go through the PROGRAMME and you will ...***

could perhaps be made more clear.

Clearly, this is not a challenge for Cognitive Science only. It is a challenge for all programmes in any university. It is nevertheless even more important for programmes.

The programme as a 'success story' is already a 'success' as it is, but maybe still not the 'story' it can be told.

2.2. The programme as a whole

The programme is not just a CONGLOMERATE of courses. It's a STRUCTURE of courses. What is the structure of it? Is it a poor and shallow structure? Is it a rich and deep structure?

The most simple structure of all is the relational structure. Courses are related. Courses are dependent on each other. Some course are prerequisites to other. Some courses overlap, others don't.

Courses are also clustered, so that courses within clusters are more intertwined and complementary and may or may not be ordered and sequentialized. Clusters are not ordered, but

one cluster of courses might be expected to increase maturity to learn the content of courses in other clusters. Math is often seen as maturity increasing for IT and computing, but such a relation is less clear e.g. between language and psychology. And needless to say, psycholinguistics is different from computational linguistics. There is no such thing as psychomathematics but mathematical psychology is a subdiscipline within psychology.

Now, even if **courses appear in several programmes**, WHY-WHERE-WHEN-HOW do teachers in courses communicate with programme coordinators and WHY-WHERE-WHEN-HOW do programme coordinators communicate, and WHAT do they talk about? In UiB faculties and UiB as a whole, how does this communication work? How is it organized? Do you have something like Programme Coordinators Days?

2.3. The programme in parts

In Table 1, presenting a summary of examination results from last year (2018), it can be seen how Cognitive Science students are always above average in percentage of students having passed examinations, and mostly averagely graded equal, sometimes above, the average of all students.

	Cognitive Science students			**ALL students in the course**		
Course	Eks. meldt	Best.	Snitt kar.	Eks. meldt	Best.	Snitt kar.
h18						
INFO282	28	20	C	52	34	C
INFO283	28	22	C	53	37	C
INF100	26	22	C	447	366	C
EXFAC00SK	26	23	C	264	176	C
DASPSTAT	28	26	B	31	28	B
LING122	29	25	B	63	46	B
v18						
INFO102	32	30	B	134	94	C
KOGVIT101	33	24	B	66	44	C
LOG110	34	31	B	98	69	C
LOG111	33	30	C	42	35	C
INF227	16	10	C	25	15	C
PSYK120	16	10	C	17	11	C
FIL105	17	15	B	42	31	C

Table 1. Courses, throughput and grades.

Course evaluations are available for almost all courses but for v18 and h18 less. The evaluations are not rigid in format and structure, and need not be. Some evaluations include students comments as they were given. Other evaluations summarize them.

Table 2 includes selected comments appearing in selected course evaluations. The courses are INFO282, DASPSTAT and INF227. This review obviously does not aim at exhaustively include course evaluations but rather to observe how typical comments in these evaluations corrrelate with observations done in this review.

	Extracted from course evaluations
Course	
h18	
INFO282	❖ *Det foreslås blant annet at INFO102 burde være et obligatorisk forkrav for faget.* ❖ *Mange sliter også med å se relevansen til temaene og skulle ønske at temaene ble satt mer i kontekst. Altså, at det blir vist til eksempler på hvordan konseptene anvendes i praksis, noe de mener ville virket mer motiverende.* ❖ *Prolog blir generelt beskrevet som en svært utfordrende del av pensum, og noen etterspør derfor flere labber eller at labbene er mer spredt utover semesteret.*
DASPSTAT	❖ *The practical approach of using R a lot in class makes me understand the course material better and also remember it more clearly.* ❖ *It's short and sweet. Not overly technical, but focuses more on practical work and simple programming, which is really useful for future work.* ❖ *The theoretical nature of the course as well as its practical applications*
v17	
INF227	❖ *Det er alt for mye.* ❖ *Arbeidsmengden uoverkommelig høy.* ❖ *Dette faget er ett tungt realfag hvor dersom man står fast vil man ikke få mer ut av å sitte å stirre ned i samme bok.* ❖ *Vi fra kogvit kommer inn i dette faget med null matematisk kunnskap, og kun innføringskurs i java, R og prolog.* ❖ *Det kan fjernes fra den obligatiooriske delen av kogvit, pensum kan kuttes 25%, eller vi kan få grunnlegende kunnskap nok til å takle faget før vi begynner.* ❖ *Jeg har brukt tre år på en kogvit utdannelse, jeg kommer til å bruke fire, men det virker urettferdig strengt at det som skal holde meg igjen er ett umulig fag jeg allerede har lave forutsetninger for å klare.*

Table 2. Extractions from a selection of course evaluations.

Needless to say, course evaluation important and integral parts of programme execution and further development. Whenever possible, student comments, unedited, could appear in all evaluations as much as possible.

They comments are different in style and attitude, but they all reflect something, and its up to the programme to utilize them. The programme might even treat them as ‘findings’, some less surprising, some general, some apparently representing a smaller number of students, some immediately suggestive.

2.3.1. Psychology and philosophy

Psychology is angled towards biology and cognition, whereas philosophy embraces mind and cognition.

PSYK120 announces that students will learn to understand human behaviour (menneskeleg åtferd). Kalat's book seems bit more into anatomy and neurology of the brain, rather than including endocrinological aspects of mood and thinking. Later chapters go into learning and memory, and the cognitive functions of the brain. From Chandler's book, Chapter 13 on stress and anxiety is included. On those 11 pages there is maybe not enough room for all subtleties on the effect of hormones via nerves and blood streams, but is perhaps seen as a complement to the Gilhooly et al book, which apparently connects cognition, neurology and behaviour.

Psychology on the one hand is explanation of how things may go wrong and how to recover from it, some of that even being pathogenesis involving biology and molecules. Empowering the mind with tools to do good things even better is maybe more the task of behavioural and social psychology.

From Cognitive Science point of view, and in particular as related to *What can I do with it?*, the balance between aiming at explaining bad and good is not an easy one, the reviewer can imagine, not at all being an expert in this particular area. Notably, almost all of the students attending the PSYK120 v18 course were Cognitive Science Students. Is there something similar like «*The theoretical nature of the course as well as its practical application*», as seen in the evaluation of DASPSTAT, that one could expect in the case of PSYK120?

For FIL105, Mandik's book is packed with everything from substance and property dualism, through localism and holism in neuroscience, all the way to mental causation, perception and emotion, and doing so bravely spiced even with theological views on willpower. This is for sure an equally fascinating story of cognition for Cognitive Science students, and the practicality of it is equally expected. Does the course respond to such expectations?

2.3.2. IT and AI, analytics, knowledge representation and computing

Information management and analytics ... *INF100, INF101 and DASPSTAT*

INF100 is the programming course of the programme, and Python is used as the programming language of the course from h18 (was decided after the evaluation of INF100 h17). It is also announced that the course will teach how to «make use of available program libraries». Cognitive Science students in the course could be encouraged e.g. to use packages for AI and learning techniques[1].

[1] https://wiki.python.org/moin/PythonForArtificialIntelligence

Later on in semester 3 students attend the DASPSTAT course, where it is announced «bruke statistisk programvare, til dømes R». The R language is less of a programming language and more of a tool to use statistic and other computing libraries. Python and R complements each other very well, and among analysts, some prefer R, some Python. The h18 course evaluation clearly shows how DASPSTAT has been successful, e.g., as it «*focuses more on practical work and simple programming, which is really useful for future work*», as one student wrote.

INF101 adds Java as a language and Eclipse as the programming environment. In this course students are really «programming the programs» rather than only «managing algorithms» like with Python in INF100. They are obviously not «programming the systems», like e.g. building web applications with HTML5/Javascript or ASP.NET, but such skills and developments are not far away.

This combination of INF100, DASPSTAT and INF101 is a really good foundation for **information management and analytics** of all kind for specialists having an education grounded in Cognitive Science.

From R, the step to SPSS (IBM) is not far, and having knowledge from INF100, DASPSTAT and INF101 enables students to understand what is under the hood in tools like IBM's Watson, announced and used within KOGVIT101. Watson is more like a 'big data' crunching tool where knowledge of underlying algorithms used is not all that important. However, Watson in hands of those who have passed INF100, DASPSTAT and INF101 leads to much more creative analytics as compared to those using Watson 'blindly'. IBM now established in Bergen makes it interesting to see how UiB will develop relations with IBM. However, IBM in Bergen is a sales organization, not a R&D unit. The IBM Research lab close to Watson content is situated in Dublin[2]. There is no IBM Research lab in any of the Nordic countries, which is a bit surprising. On IBM, it is perhaps interesting also to note how IBM no longer sells hardware to an extent they did decades ago, so they simply have to move towards providing services and solutions more on the software side. Watson is one effect of this inevitable shift of business.

2.3.3. Language

Warren's book was used in LING122 h18, leaning a bit on production and comprehension of spoken language. Content is psycholinguistics and based structure of language systems. It covers gesture and perception, spoken and visual word, syntactic processing, etc.

It's a bit of the engineering counterpart of natural language to programming language.

[2] https://www.research.ibm.com/labs/ireland/

2.3.4. Mathematics and logic

LOG110 and LOG111 are more basic courses well suited in the programme. INF227 is a course in mathematical logic. It's not an advanced course if given for mathematicians, but even for mathematicians, it is not a basic and easy course. It is also unclear how the content of the course is intended to support the goal of the Cognitive Science programme. Moving it to a specialized course in Informatics was a good move. The course book[3] contains one part on Turing machines as related to computation and decidability. It contains one section related to logic programming under the part on first-order logic. These are parts that are closer to relevance in computer science, but even in these cases, the utility in the basic curriculum of Cognitive Science has been seen as unclear. The course is indeed no longer part of the basic curriculum, which correlates apparently well with remarks from students reported in the INF227 v17 course evaluation.

2.4. Out-of-the-Box

Cognitive Science, similar to AI, is widely concerned with *information*, both in form of big data as well as in complex structures. Less attention is given to *process*. Processes and pathways appear everywhere. Some may prefer to focus on value chains, other look at business processes. Information without processes where it belongs is torsoed. A processes simply drawn without annotation of information in it is equally *something-is-missing*.

Similarly as there a standardization related to information structures, processes are also structures. Take OMG standards (www.omg.org) as an example. UML, as part of OMG, embraces both information in its Class Diagram, but, less known, also process in its Behavior Diagram. OMG's SysML (System Modeling Language) is suitable for technical processes, plants, production, and system-of-systems in general, whereas BPMN (Business Process Modelling Notation) is suitable for business processes. UML tools are many, and frequently used e.g. in database management. BPMN tools are available at least from Microsoft (Visio), IBM (BlueWorks), Camunda and Sparx Systems (Enterprise Architect). SysML is part of Enterprise Architect. IBM also has SysML like products.

These process modelling tools mix well e.g. with case management and decision modelling tools. They are also quite logical or at least syntactical, so they are appealing in scenarios where theory meets practice. And they are useful in many areas in the public and private sectors. Integration of care requires process modelling. An oil platform including all logistics and maintenance is very much a process both from system as well as business point of view, presented in one and the same framework. These are areas where Cognitive Science probably can achieve much more than AI, which prefers to focus almost exclusively on technology and automation. Cognitive Science aims to enrich the human mind, not to replace it.

[3] https://www.ii.uib.no/~michal/und/i227/book/inf227.pdf

3. Students – Let us continue to keep our focus on our First Task

We indeed have three tasks: Education, research and cooperation with our surrounding society. All three connect, in one way or another. All three connecting at the same time and together is very rare. Connecting education to research is more nobel than just polytechnically connecting education to jobs or at least job opportunities. However, fuelling in particular later stage education with practicable research, in synergy with the surrounding society, is gratefully acknowledged by each and every one. The reviewer is idealistic enough to believe that Cognitive Science is such a programme, where that trinity as one (non-theologically speaking) can prove to be very powerful.

A smaller number of students from the 1st and 2nd year of the programme participated in the discussion on January 15, 2019. The discussion started of not really spontaneously, so the reviewer had to encourage response with some leading questions. That lead was not systematic but rather enforced, so below is a brief summary of the main points coming out from those responses.

«*Too much logic during the first semesters, and for reasons not all that well explained or motivated.*»

Positive expectations at the beginning of the programme apparently did run the risk of turning to partial confusion about the Programme as a whole. One reason for this may have been that KOGVIT101 didn't appear until during 2nd semester. This will change by Fall 2019, when KOGVIT101 appears at start. Doing so in parallel with basic programming is then a good complement supporting the development of concepts and skills to be used by the time logic and statistics turn up in the 2nd semester. Subsections 2.3.2 and 2.3.4 imply that logic and computation could be coordinated in various ways to further support this bridging from first step Cognitive Science concepts and programming to later stage even more elaborate programme content aiming at supporting Cognitive Science.

There was also a view that *forkunnskapar*, neither 'krav' nor 'tilrådd', are mostly not indicated. This is understandable when we look at the relationship e.g. between psychology and philosophy, but logic and programming are significantly related. They may not be so now given the present content of the courses, but from programme point of view they are desirably connected.

«What can I do with it?»

This question came up as a general remark where students obviously wonder about the answer. This indeed inspired the reviewer to write a few lines about it in Section 1. We then went round the table so that each student was to picture where they might active in some 10-15 years.

«Human resourcing», one said, and as related to being in dialogue with people, jointly developing various things.

Another student said «cyber», with security and big data, the reviewer added, and we developed that discussion for a while. In which types of companies or societal areas is this most relevant? What are the main technical challenges where the programme has given tools and techniques to solve these things?

«IT consulting» was another theme, and a quite general one, where optimization or various kind come into play.

«Development» and systems engineering was mentioned as a theme closely connected with programming. Cognitive Science and AI oriented systems and solutions very often also call for platforms and software/hardware issues, not be left exclusively as a burden for those engineers and programmers that have no clue of Cognitive Science, but may be somewhat versed in AI technology.

«Helicopter», was the reviewer's wording for the job all-round job opportunity in this domain of knowledge. In that respect we noted the distinction between knowing only a little, but of a broad range of issues as compared to knowing quite a lot but in a smaller domain.

The basic part of the programme support generality, and thereafter expectedly specializes. This was seen as a good approach, and is challenging for the programme. As indicated in Section 2, specialization 'informasjonsvitskap' reaches out and bridges to jobs and job content seemingly better as compared to specializations 'informatikk' (a good portion pure mathematics) and 'filosofi' (a good portion pure philosophy).

Review of review

This review contains facts (Table 1, and in Figures 1 and 2), selections (Table 2), viewpoints (subsections 2.3.1-4) and overviews (Section 1).

Viewpoints aim to be in form of observations hopefully accepted by many, rather than in form of provocative less agreeable contention. The overview of the scope of Cognitive Science as a discipline, and as involving its related historical pathway, aims to view the discipline in context to other nearby disciplines and methodological approaches. It also aims to view what is believed to generally known and what most would agree upon, indeed rather than being provocative so as to raise debate in the belief that debate as such will help the programme.

Facts are not interesting in themselves, but rather as supporting formulation of viewpoints. Viewpoints as such are not interesting unless they truly support a further development and enrichment of the Cognitive Science programme. The overview is not interesting unless it reflects what already is in the minds of teachers and researchers involved in the programme.

Has the review been successful in trying to do so? *If so, where and to which points has it been successful, and where is the review nice and correct to the point but the observation is nevertheless mostly irrelevant litany?*

The reviewer is happily humble to receive any reviews of this review, affirmative as well as confutative. More than saying Thank You in advance of possible affirmations I would like to present a defence in advance as related to obviously not being aware of all circumstances necessary to understand the whole picture related to your programme and its development. However, whatever the situation, it is a pleasure working with you all, and I look forward to follow your next steps.