

Welcome

ADFOCS is an international summer school held annually at the Max Planck Institute for Informatics (MPII). It is organized as part of the activities of the MPII, in particular the International Max-Planck Research School (IMPRS), MPII's graduate program. The purpose of this summer school is to introduce young researchers to topics which are the focus of current research in theoretical computer science. This year's focus is "Fixed-Parameter Tractability and Exact Algorithms".

Saarbrücken is the capital of the Saarland, the smallest German federal state. This region has moved back and forth between Germany and France in the lively joint history of the two countries. Saarland University was founded in November 1948 with the support of the French Government and the University of Nancy as a bilingual university combining French and German educational traditions while offering a unique European perspective.

Saarbrücken has approximately 190,000 inhabitants, a medium size for German cities. There are several tourist attractions nearby and a lively downtown area with a pedestrian-only street and many restaurants. Saarbrücken is located at the border to France, and halfway between Paris and Frankfurt on a high-speed railway connecting Saarbrücken and both cities in less than two hours.

For more information on the history of Saarbrücken, you can also visit

<http://www.saarbruecken.de/en/home>

or its Wikipedia entry at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saarbruecken>

In order to make ADFOCS as convenient as possible we provide some basic information on transportation, locations, and organization.

1 Public Transportation

The University Campus is very well connected to Saarbrücken downtown by the local bus system, Saarbahn. Wearing your badge entitles you for unlimited travel inside the entirety of Saarbrücken (by bus, tram or train) during ADFOCS (the badge is only valid from August 5 to August 9). Both the central station ("Hbf", which is short for "Hauptbahnhof") and the town hall ("Rathaus") provide frequent connections from/to campus. The "Hbf" and "Rathaus" stops are connected by a frequently running tram and only 2 stops from each other. The main bus lines that serve the University Campus are 101, 102, 109 and 124. All of them show the word "Uni" or "Universität". To arrive at the Max Planck Institute for Informatics, you should get off at "Uni Mensa" or "Uni Busterminal"; see the green-yellow H-signs in Figure 1. For further information on the bus schedule you can check the website

<http://www.saarfahrplan.de/>

2 Campus and Rooms

Registration and coffee breaks will be in Building E1 4, the MPII main building. All lectures will be in Building E1 3. All exercise sessions will be in Building E1 4. See Figure 1 for details.

3 Internet Access

There is a freely accessible WLAN available at MPII. The network ID is `wlan-mpii-public`. Saarland University campus network also supports educational roaming with `eduroam`.

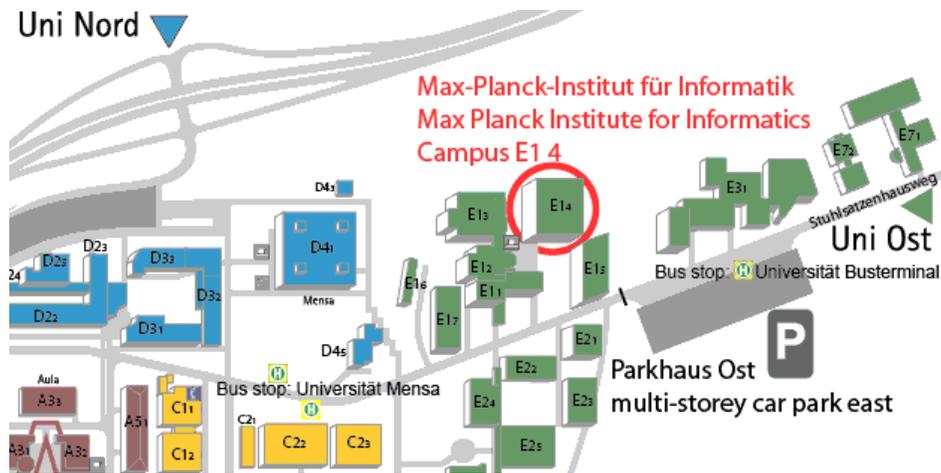


Figure 1: Map of the relevant part of the campus. Bus stops Universität Mensa and Universität Busterminal are close to MPII.

4 Catering

Coffee breaks are provided in the foyer of the Max Planck Institute for Informatics (Building E1 4). Lunch is always between 13:00 and 14:30. Every attendee of ADFOCS is given a bunch of vouchers for the University's "Mensa" in Building D4 1 (located the street and stairs up, follow the signs). Grab your food from the upper level after entering the building. Each voucher is valid for a main dish, a side dish, a dessert and a soft drink. Our Mensa offers a vegetarian menu in access B (sometimes one more in the free-flow area C). The vouchers are not valid for "Mensa Café" on the ground level of the building, or for "Canossa" in the basement. However, these places offer additional options (at your own expense) if the Mensa selection is not to your liking. On Wednesday, lunch boxes will be provided for the excursion.

5 Social Event

On Wednesday, you may join an excursion to the castle in Kirkel. It involves some medieval physical activities (crossbow, axe throwing, archery) to help you to relax your strained muscles from sitting and learning a lot in the talks. :) We will pass a list for you to indicate whether you want to join the excursion. The bus will leave at the street in front of MPII at around 13:30, and arrive back in Saarbrücken at roughly 18:30.