



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Course unit code
Artificial Intelligence: Classical Principles	20477

Summary
This course covers only elements of artificial intelligence (AI), not the full range of AI techniques. Emphasis is on the classical AI, a.k.a. Good Old-Fashioned Artificial Intelligence, GOF AI, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GOF AI . Hence, the course comprises the principles of AI, search methods, and logic-based representations. Machine learning and artificial neural networks are out of the scope of this one-semester course.

Lecturer(s)	Department
Coordinator: assoc. prof. Vytautas ČYRAS Other lecturers: -	Department of Software Engineering Institute of Computer Science Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics Vilnius University

Cycle	Type of the course unit
1 st (BA)	Non-compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when the course unit is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	5, 6, 7 semester	English

Prerequisites
Programming skills in a programming language, for example, C, C#, Java, Pascal, Perl, Python, etc.

Number of credits allocated	Student's workload	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	64	66

Purpose of the course unit: program competences to be developed
To develop competencies and skills in artificial intelligence: to understand the philosophy of AI and the question “Can machines think?” To gain programming skills in creating future intelligent systems, which extend the limits of machine intelligence of the past, and use the elements of human intelligence in problem solving. Generic competences: • Communication and collaboration (GC1). ◦ An ability to present information, ideas, problems, and suggested solutions convincingly in official and second (foreign) languages for specialists and non-specialists in written and verbal form (GC1.1). • Life-long learning (GC2). ◦ An ability to undertake literature searches and analysis, and to use databases and other sources of information (GC2.2). ◦ An ability to independently acquire new knowledge, methodologies, and tools and to apply them in practice (GC2.3). Specific competences: • Knowledge and skills of the underlying conceptual basis (SC4). ◦ Knowledge and understanding of the key aspects and concepts of software engineering, including some at the forefront of the discipline, insight into possible application fields, and an awareness of the wider spectrum of the discipline (SC4.1). ◦ An ability to apply mathematical foundations, knowledge of science and engineering, computer science theory, and algorithmic principles in software systems development (SC4.2). • Software development knowledge and skills (SC5).

◦ An ability to become familiar with new software engineering applications, to appreciate the extent of domain knowledge, to evaluate the complexity of the problems and the feasibility of their solution (SC5.1). ◦ An ability to design, implement, and evaluate a computer-based system, process, component, or service to meet desired needs (SC5.3). • Technological and methodological knowledge and skills, professional competence (SC6). ◦ An ability to combine theory and practice to complete software engineering tasks from different application areas while considering the existing technical, economic, and social context (SC6.1). ◦ An ability to select and use appropriate current techniques, models, solution patterns, skills, and tools necessary for software engineering practice involving emerging application areas (SC6.2). ◦ Awareness of project management, quality assurance, and process improvement practices and abilities to apply them (SC6.3). ◦ An ability to formulate acceptable, cost-effective, and time-efficient problem solutions using essential knowledge and methods of estimating and measuring cost and productivity (SC6.5).		
Learning outcomes of the course unit: students will be able	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
To understand the fundamental concepts of AI: problem solving by search, backtracking, solver, planner, software agent, the Turing test, etc.	Problem-based teaching, individual reading, and writing programs.	Written examination and assignments. Criteria: the quality of programming; accomplishing the assignments in due time, without delay, and understanding the subject matter of AI.
To program basic techniques of inference: backtrack (depth-first), breadth-first search, forward chaining, and backward chaining.		
To understand the essence of AI: differentiating between human intelligence and machine intelligence, extra-logical choice in decision making, e.g., in legal reasoning.		

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Practice	Laboratory work (LW)	Praktika	Contact hours	Individual work	Assignments
1. Artificial intelligence (AI): a history, a philosophy, and the hype. Examples of intelligent tasks. AI as a discipline within a classification of computing. The Turing test and interpreting the question “Can machines think?”	2			2			4	4	The Tower of Hanoi puzzle. <i>Literature</i> : the course-book (text-book) (Čyras 2021), (Nilsson 2010), (Luger 2009), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turing_test
2. A system of artificial intelligence: 1) a global data base, 2) a set of production rules, and 3) a control system. Procedure PRODUCTION. Examples: the Tower of Hanoi problem, etc.	2			2			4	4	The Knight’s tour program. <i>Literature</i> : textbook, (Nilsson 1982; 1998)
3. Procedure BACKTRACK. A problem-solving example: the Knight’s tour problem.	2			2			4	4	<i>Literature</i> : textbook, (Nilsson 1982; 1998)
4. Avoiding loops in labyrinth depth-first search (DFS) with BACKTRACK1, a modified procedure.	2			2			4	4	Programming DFS in a labyrinth. <i>Literature</i> : textbook, (Nilsson 1982)
5. The concept of heuristic. Examples in the N-queens problem.	2			2			4	4	<i>Literature</i> : textbook, (Nilsson 1982; 1989)
6. Breadth-first search (BFS). The lists OPEN and CLOSED and the shortest path. The types of intelligent agents: reflexive and rational agents.	2			2			4	4	Programming BFS in a labyrinth. <i>Literature</i> : textbook, (Russell &

								Norvig 2020), (Nilsson 1998)	
7. Procedure GRAPHSEARCH. The solver and the planner. A* search algorithm.	2			2			4	4	Literature: textbook, (Nilsson 1982; 1998)
8. Forward chaining (FC): from the facts to the goal, non-recursive. Backward chaining (BC): from the goal to the facts, recursive. Rule format: $A_1, \dots, A_n \rightarrow B$.	2			4			6	4	Programming FC. Literature: textbook, (Negnevitsky 2011)
9. Hill climbing strategy.	2			0			2	4	Literature: textbook, (Nilsson 1982; 1998)
10. Knowledge-based reasoning, the resolution rule, deduction. Inference forwards and backwards. Logic-based knowledge representation.	2			2			4	6	Programming BC. Literature: textbook, (Nilsson 1998), (Russell & Norvig 2020)
11. Elements of expert systems architecture: a knowledge base (facts and rules), an inference engine and user interface.	2			2			4	4	Literature: textbook, (Nilsson 1998)
12. Extra-logical choice in decision making, e.g., “low-quality but cheap” versus “good-quality but expensive”. Transforming the problem of impossibility of achieving several goals into a weighing problem. Deduction and abduction rules. Defeating argumentation trees.	2			2			4	4	Literature: textbook, (Bench-Capon & Prakken 2006)
13. The Internet shopping world (see Russell & Norvig 2003, p. 344–348): specifying a search engine. A category tree as an ontology.	2			2			4	4	Literature: textbook, (Russell & Norvig 2003; 2020)
14. Knowledge representation methods: structural representation, frames, semantic networks.	2			2			4	4	Literature: textbook, (Nilsson 1998)
15. Extensional relational structure, intensional relational structure (conceptualization), intended models, and ontology.	2			2			4	4	Literature: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/226279556_What_Is_an_Ontology
16. Summing up the principles of artificial intelligence. Discussing the examination.	2			2			4	4	Preparing to the exam
Total	32			32			64	66	

Assessment strategy	Weight	Deadline	Assessment criteria
1. Simple programs. For instance, the Tower of Hanoi puzzle, the Knight’s tour, labyrinth path search (DFS, BFS), A*.	10%	Week 7	Each assignment shall be finished in due time, with no delay. Forward- and backward-chaining programs shall be completed within four weeks. Week 1: your program reads initial data and prints it. Week 2: simple tests. Week 3: complex testing. Week 4: – acceptance.
2. Forward and backward chaining programs (FC and BC).	20%	Week 10 FC, Week 13 BC	Assignments’ assessment criteria: the quality of programming, testing, and documenting. The output of a test comprises 1) input data from a file, 2) execution trace (log), and 3) the results. The code shall contain comments, step numbering, and explanations of data structures. For examination, it is obligatory to pass all assignments. Assignments rate 30% of the exam’s score. It is strongly recommended to attend $\geq 75\%$ of lectures and practice.
3. Examination.	70%	Examination date	The examination comprises a theory question and an exercise. The exercise: for a given graph, draw search trees from a node s to t according to procedures BACKTRACK1 and GRAPHSEARCH “depth-first”; indicate distinctions. The assignment’s score counts if each question is answered in the affirmative. In other words, the exam grade is assigned a positive value only if each exam question is answered affirmatively (≥ 5 out of 10).

Author	Publishing year	Title	Number or volume	Publisher or URL
Required reading				
1. Vytautas ČYRAS	2026	Artificial intelligence (a textbook)		https://klevas.mif.vu.lt/~cyras/AI/ai-cyras.pdf
2. Nils NILSSON	1997	Artificial intelligence: a new synthesis		Elsevier Science & Technology. VU MIF, 004.8 Ni-133. https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1179844
3. Stuart RUSSELL, Peter NORVIG	2020	Artificial intelligence: a modern approach (4th edition)		Prentice Hall, 1115 p. VU MIF, 2nd edn (2003), Ru122. https://aima.cs.berkeley.edu . https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5495854
4. Michael NEGNEVITSKY	2011	Artificial intelligence: a guide to intelligent systems (3rd edition)		Pearson Education. VU MIF, 2nd edn. (2005), 004.8/Ne-44. https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5186211
Recommended reading				
1. Nils NILSSON	2009	The quest for artificial intelligence: a history of ideas and achievements		Cambridge University Press. VU MIF, 004.8 Ni-133. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511819346
2. Nils NILSSON	1982	Principles of artificial intelligence		Springer-Verlag
3. George LUGER	2009	Artificial intelligence: structures and strategies for complex problem solving (6th ed.)		Addison-Wesley, 928 p. https://www.cs.unm.edu/~luger/ . VU MIF, 004.8/Lu-59

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