

10th Int. Workshop in Math e-Learning (e-math 2018) Lisbon, October 15-16, 2018



# Teaching Computer Simulation and Optimization Online to Students with Different Backgrounds

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Trinity College Dublin Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath The University of Dublin



### **Overview**

- Part I: ICSO@IN3 Barcelona
- Part II: Math & Analytics for a Smarter World
- Part III: e-Math Courses become Global
- Part IV: New Challenges & Strategies
- Part V: Erasmus+ Network on Math e-Learning
- Part VI: Conclusions & More



# Part I:

# ICSO@IN3 - Barcelona (2017 SGR 111 Consolidated RG)

#### **Barcelona: City of Knowledge**

6+ inter-connected universities promoting interdisciplinary and international research







![](_page_3_Picture_5.jpeg)

UAB Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

![](_page_3_Picture_7.jpeg)

Universitat de Barcelona

![](_page_3_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_3_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_3_Picture_11.jpeg)

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

![](_page_3_Picture_13.jpeg)

### Introducing the IN3 @ Barcelona (1/2)

![](_page_4_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Introducing the IN3 @ Barcelona (2/2)

- Internet Interdisciplinary Institute
- Mediterranean Technology Park

![](_page_5_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_5.jpeg)

INFORMATION AND NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES

![](_page_5_Picture_7.jpeg)

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

![](_page_5_Picture_9.jpeg)

OSRT

eHEALTH

![](_page_5_Picture_11.jpeg)

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

![](_page_5_Picture_13.jpeg)

DIGITAL CULTURE

![](_page_5_Picture_15.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_16.jpeg)

# Introducing ICSO @ IN3 (1/3)

![](_page_6_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_14.jpeg)

# Introducing ICSO @ IN3 (2/3)

**BRAs, Simheuristics, Learnheursitics** 

![](_page_7_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Introducing ICSO @ IN3 (3/3)

![](_page_8_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_4.jpeg)

### ICSO@IN3 Training in MSc & PhD Programs

![](_page_9_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Picture_3.jpeg)

MSc Aeronautical Management

#### **Industrial Partners & Industrial Doctorates**

![](_page_10_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **International Academic Partners**

![](_page_11_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Part II:

# Math & Analytics for a Smarter World

![](_page_13_Picture_0.jpeg)

The world around us is becoming increasingly complex: globalization, freight and people mobility, IoT, e-commerce, sustainability issues, ...

![](_page_14_Picture_0.jpeg)

sustainable world? *(wiser world)* 

#### How can we support decision making in a complex world?

![](_page_15_Picture_1.jpeg)

```
Big Data
Analytics
```

![](_page_15_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_4.jpeg)

```
\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{if} \ i \geq maxval \ \mathbf{then} \\ i \leftarrow 0 \end{array}
```

#### else

if  $i + k \le maxval$  thenHow algo<br/>warehou $i \leftarrow i + k$ end ifend ifAlgorithmsend if(Solving & Searching Methods)

#### Analytics: describe, predict, and prescribe

![](_page_16_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Descriptive Analytics (DA) → processing historical data to describe the real context.
- Predictive Analytics (PdA) → forecast the future with time series analysis, regression models, and machine learning methods.
- Anything else? Can't we go smarter?
- Prescriptive Analytics (PsA) → complex decision-making (optimization-simulation algorithms)

![](_page_16_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_8.jpeg)

### **Different types of Optimization Algorithms**

![](_page_17_Picture_1.jpeg)

**Exact Methods (lab problems?)** 

(Meta-) heuristics (real-life problems?)

**Matheuristics (real-life problems?)** 

#### Yes, but... something is missing...

#### **Real life is plenty of uncertainty!**

What if we merge (Meta-) Heuristics with Simulation?

#### METAHEURISTICS

#### SIMULATION

if  $i \ge maxval$  then  $i \leftarrow 0$ else if  $i + k \le maxval$  then  $i \leftarrow i + k$ end if end if

![](_page_19_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### Simheuristics: a smart tool for a complex world

#### We are also working on a new concept...

![](_page_20_Picture_1.jpeg)

Learnheurisitcs for dynamic problem settings

#### What if we merge (Meta-) Heuristics with Machine Learning?

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Learnheuristics: a smart tool for a complex and dynamic world

### **OR/Analytics solve Complex Problems for Business**

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **Main applications areas**

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### **Social Responsible Crew Rostering**

															Augu	st																	
	1	2	3	4	5	. 6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Total Hours	Avg Hours
Crew Member 1	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	MI	MI	F	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	Ml	MI	TI	TI	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	F	80h 6m	2h 35m
Corw Member 2	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	M2	M	TI	TI	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	M2	TI	TI	TI	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	M4	M2	M2	MI	MI	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	TI	TI	78h 58m	2h 33m
Crew Member 3	OFF	OFF	MI	MI	SBY	TI	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	F	SBY	T2	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	М	M3	M3	M	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	F	M4	T2	80h 37m	2h 36m
Crew Member 4	OFF	MI	M2	M3	F	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	MI	M2	TI	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	TI	Tl	Tİ	TI	OFF	OFF	OFF	TI	T1	F	F	F	74h 42m	2h 24m
Crew Member 5	OFF	OFF	OFF	M4	MB	SBY	T3	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	M2	MZ	T2	Tl	OFF	OFF	OFF	M3	M4	SBY	T2	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	MI	79h 3m	2h 33m
Crew Member 6	OFF	OFF	TI	TI	71	T3	T4	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	MB	MB	SBY.	73	OFF	OFF	OFF	M2	M2	SBY	72	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	M2	73	75h 1m	2h 33m
Crew Member 7	OFF	M2	MB	SBY	T2	T4	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	F	T2	T4	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	M4	M4	SBY	F	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	M2	MB	M3	77h 2m	2h 29m
Crew Member 8	MI	MB	SBY	T2	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	M2	MI	MB	M4	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	F	SBY	T2	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	M2	MB	F	F	74h 46m	2h 24m
Crew Member 9	F	T1	F	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	MB	M3	5BY	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	M2	MI	M2	MB	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	T2	T2	TI	T2	OFF	75h 27m	2h 26m
Crew Member 10	M2	SBY	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MI	M2	\$8Y	TI	Tl	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	T2	TI	TI	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	M2	MI	M2	T4	Tż	OFF	OFF	78h 15m	2h 31m
Crew Member 11	TI	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	T4	T4	T3	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	T3	Ţ4	T2	TI	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	342	61h 16m	2h 21m
Crew Member 12	MB	F	T4	T4	T4	OFF	OFF	OFF	MB	F	M4	M4	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	M2	MB	F	F	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	M2	SBY	T3	T2	T3	OFF	77h 54m	2h 30m
Crew Member 13	M4	M4	M4	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	TI	T2	T2	T2	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	MB	M3	MI	F	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBT	F	T4	F	F	OFF	OFF	74h 23m	2h 24m
Crew Member 14	T2	T2	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	M2	MD	T2	33	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	VAC	OFF	41h 30m	2h 35m														
Crew Member 15	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	M4	M3	SBY	T3	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	344	M3	M2	M4	M4	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	M4	MB	TI	TJ	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	80h 46m	2h 36m
Crew Member 16	SBY	T3	T2	F	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	M4	M4	SBY	T3	T4	OFF	OFF	VAC	OFF	39h 54m	2h.29m														
Crew Member 17	<b>T</b> 4	T4	F	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	T4	T4	TI	F	<b>T</b> 4	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	T3	72	T3	T3	OFF	OFF	OFF	MB	M3	MB	M3	M4	OFF	OFF	82h 14m	2h 39m
Crew Member 18	F	F	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	M3	MB	SBY	<b>T</b> 4	T4	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	M3	F	SBY	T3	74	OFF	OFF	OFF	M4	M4	M4	M4	M4	OFF	OFF	OFF	77h 25m	2h 30m
Crew Member 19	Ŧ	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	M4	3.64	M4	F	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	M4	M4	T4	T4	OFF	OFF	OFF	F	F	SBY	T4	T4	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	3.44	74h 58m	2h 25m
Crew Member 20	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	VAC	OFF	OFF	OFF	T4	F	T4	T4	T4	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	SBY	T4	T4	T4	43h 52m	2h.44m
																																1432h 12m	

![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

JDe Armas, J.; Cadarso, L.; Juan, A.; Faulin, J. (2016): "A multi-start randomized heuristic for real-life crew rostering problems in airlines with work-balancing goals". Annals of Operations Research, 258(2), 825-848

# Part III:

# e-Math Courses become Global

#### Math Higher Education in the Internet Age

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

### **Main Online Universities in Europe**

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_2.jpeg)

EADTU - European Association of Distance Teaching Universities

# **Traditional Universities Go Online and Global!**

![](_page_29_Picture_1.jpeg)

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

![](_page_29_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_4.jpeg)

UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA BARCELONATECH

![](_page_29_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_12.jpeg)

Trinity College Dublin The University of Dublin

![](_page_29_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_15.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_16.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_17.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_18.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_19.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_20.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_21.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_22.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_23.jpeg)

#### **Examples of Math-related Online MSc Programs**

![](_page_30_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Part IV:

# **New Challenges & Strategies**

#### **Global Math e-Learning: Educational Challenges**

- In the past → Students of 'traditional' MSc and PhD degrees are relatively homogeneous (similar backgrounds, training, and skills)
- European Higher Education Area → Many new MSc and PhD degrees are offered instead of the 'traditional' ones. New MSc and PhD students come from different backgrounds.
- E-Learning Globalization → MSc, and PhD students from different universities, nationalities, age groups, degrees, countries, etc. Students show heterogeneous levels of mathematical / analytical / programming training and skills.
- Challenges → While some students show high mathematical / analytical capabilities and skills, they also show lack of other skills (e.g., programming languages, writng scientific documents in English, etc.), and vice-versa.

![](_page_32_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### **Example 1: Student with a Math degree**

 Strong points: typically, good mathematical background and analytical capacity.

![](_page_33_Picture_2.jpeg)

 Weak points: typically, lack of programming skills, lack of 'social' background (e.g., Management perspective), lack of ability to write scientific documents in English, sometimes lack of teamwork habits.

 Challenge: to integrate the student in the course and provide him / her with the missing skills in a timely manner.

![](_page_33_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### **Example 2: Student with a Computer Sci. degree**

 Strong points: typically, good programming skills and algorithmic knowledge, ability to learn how to use new software.

 Weak points: typically, lack of mathematical background and analytical skills, lack of ability to write scientific documents in English.

 Challenge: to integrate the student in the course and provide him / her with the missing skills in a timely manner.

![](_page_34_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_6.jpeg)

#### **Example 3: Student with a Management Sci. degree**

 Strong points: typically, good writing skills, management perspective, and analytical skills; solid teamwork capacities.

 Weak points: typically, lack of mathematical background and programming skills.

 Challenge: to integrate the student in the course and provide him / her with the missing skills in a timely manner.

![](_page_35_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_6.jpeg)

# Strategy 1: Use ETL Sci. Programming Languages

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_2.jpeg)

### **Strategy 2: Use ETL Simulation Software**

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

## **Strategy 3: Use ETL Optimization Software**

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Strategy 4: Use ETL Stats / Analysis Environments

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

### **Strategy 5: Use ETL Math Environments**

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Strategy 6: Use ETL Latex Environments

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

[2] T. Mayer, H. Jenkac, and J. Hagenauer. Turbo base-station cooperation for intercell interference cancellation. IEEE Int. Conf. Commun. (ICC)

### **Strategy 7: Promote Scientific Reading & Writing**

# **Anatomy of a Scientific Paper**

#### Are All Apples Red? by Ida Cortland

#### Abstract:

We examined several apples' color. Although most are red, some are not.

#### Introduction:

An age-old question is: are all apples red? MacIntosh (1993) thought so. G. Smith (1999) begs to differ. We hope to resolve this issue once and for all.

#### Methods:

We went to the local grocery store and bought one of every apple they had. We took them home and looked at them.

#### **Results:**

We found four red apples, one green apple, and two yellow apples.

![](_page_42_Figure_11.jpeg)

#### Figure 1

#### Discussion:

Since we found one yellow apple and two green apples, it must be true that all apples are not red. We concur with G. Smith's findings.

#### References:

MacIntosh (1993) Journal of Fruit Science. 4(3): 121-135. Smith, G. (1999) Apple Technology Today. 7(3):4-8.

Pomes and You, Volume 3, Issue 4 (2003) p. 8

### **Strategy 8: Teamwork for Complex Problem Solving**

# Complex Problem Solvers

![](_page_43_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_3.jpeg)

Analytical thinking and problem solving

![](_page_43_Picture_5.jpeg)

### Strategy 9: Some Videos can Make a Difference

![](_page_44_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Part V:

# **Erasmus+ Network on Math e-Learning**

#### **Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions**

![](_page_46_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Erasmus+ - Jean Monnet - Networks

Length: 3 years

Share

Maximum grant award:

EUR 300,000

Application deadline: 22nd February 2018 at 12:00 midday Brussels time for projects starting on 1st September of the same year. Jean Monnet Networks foster the creation and development of consortia of international players (Higher Education Institutions, Centres of Excellence, departments, teams, individual experts, etc.) in the area of European Union studies in order to gather information, exchange practices, build knowledge and promote the European integration process across the world.

The action can also support existing networks, specifically those encouraging the participation of young researchers in EU-related themes.

For further information on Jean Monnet Networks please refer to the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

### **Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions**

What does it support	Who can apply:						
Who can benefit from it	A higher education institution (HEI) or other organisation active in the European integration area, established in any country of the world.						
Timetable	HEIs established in Programme Countries must hold a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). An ECHE is not required for participating HEIs in						
What support is available	Partner Countries.						
Who can apply	These projects focus on activities that cannot be achieved successfully at a national level and require the involvement of a minimum of three partner						
How to apply	institutions (including the applicant institution) from three different countries.						

What does it support	Timetable:										
Who can benefit from it	Step	Date									
Timetable	Publication of the call for proposals	25 October 2017									
What support is available	Deadline for submission	22 February 2018 (CET - Midday -									
Who can apply	Evaluation period	Brussels ume)									
How to apply	Information to applicants	5 months									
now to apply		July 2018									
How are applications selected	Start date of action	1 September 2018									

### Erasmus+ JM Network on Math E-Learning @ EU

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

3+ partners in 3+ EU countries; traditional universities are also welcome!

# Part VI:

# **Conclusions & More**

### **Conclusions...**

- Math e-Learning is growing in importance every year.
- More and more traditional institutions in Europe and USA are offering online MSc and PhD degrees.
- Heterogeneity of online global students impose new challenges on how to teach maths online.
- Some personal best-practices have been discussed. These 'strategies' might help to reduce the gap among different students in a global math education.
- Cooperation among existing online institutions is more necessary than ever if they want to keep their competitive adavantage in such a global market.

![](_page_50_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_9.jpeg)

### .... & More

# Call for applications for postdoctoral research stays at the UOC

![](_page_51_Picture_2.jpeg)

01/02/2018

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#### UOC - Doctoral School grants programme

![](_page_51_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_0.jpeg)

10th Int. Workshop in Math e-Learning (e-math 2018) Lisbon, October 15-16, 2018

![](_page_52_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Teaching Computer Simulation and Optimization Online to Students with Different Backgrounds

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![](_page_52_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_7.jpeg)

Trinity College Dublin Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath The University of Dublin

![](_page_52_Picture_9.jpeg)

thanks!