Course guides
230486 - SIMCON - Computer Simulation of Condensed Matter

Last modified: 10/05/2021

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Telecommunications Engineering
Teaching unit: 748 - FIS - Department of Physics.

Degree: BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ENGINEERING PHYSICS (Syllabus 2011). (Optional subject),
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN DATA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2017). (Optional subject).

Academic year: 2021    ECTS Credits: 6.0    Languages: English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: ELVIRA GUARDIA MANUEL

Others: JORDI MARTÍ RABASSA

PRIOR SKILLS

Individual and team working procedures
Ability to work with graphical data (representation, visualization)
Ability to analyze data and interpreting results
Proficiency in programming in a high level language (C, FORTRAN, Java, etc.).

REQUIREMENTS

Specific previous topics: Statistical Physics, Thermodynamics, Quantum Physics, Numerical and Computational Methods (1 and 2)
Topics to be studied simultaneously: none

DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

Specific:
1. Knowledge of the structure of matter and its properties at molecular and atomic level. Ability to analyze the behavior of materials, electronics and biophysical systems, and the interaction between radiation and matter.
2. Understanding and mastery of computer programming, use of operative systems and computational tools (scientific software). Skills to implement numerical algorithms in languages of low (C, F90) and high (Matlab) level.
3. Knowledge of the scientific method and its applications in physics and engineering. Ability to formulate hypotheses and make critical analysis of scientific problems in the field of physics and engineering. Ability to relate the physical reality with their mathematical models and vice versa.

Generical:
4. ABILITY TO IDENTIFY, FORMULATE, AND SOLVE PHYSICAL ENGINEERING PROBLEMS. Planning and solving physical engineering problems with initiative, making decisions and with creativity. Developing methods of analysis and problem solving in a systematic and creative way.

Transversal:
6. 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.
5. SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING - Level 3. Applying the knowledge gained in completing a task according to its relevance and importance. Deciding how to carry out a task, the amount of time to be devoted to it and the most suitable information sources.
7. TEAMWORK - Level 3. Managing and making work groups effective. Resolving possible conflicts, valuing working with others, assessing the effectiveness of a team and presenting the final results.
TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures
Classes of problems and exercises
Practical computer exercises
Educational seminars

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

Topic: Computational modeling and simulation of physical systems at the microscopic level (solids, liquids, gases)
Understanding by students of the main theoretical aspects and most important computational simulation techniques
Students should be able to create their own simulation codes (Monte Carlo, Molecular Dynamics)
Students should be able to use powerful simulation packages and its application to modeling and simulation of systems with a high degree of realism.

STUDY LOAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self study</td>
<td>85,0</td>
<td>56.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours large group</td>
<td>65,0</td>
<td>43.33</td>
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Total learning time: 150 h

CONTENTS

Modeling and simulation. Introduction.

Description:
Introduction to simulation methods and modeling of physical systems at the microscopic scale
Topics:
1. Models and force fields
2. Simulation methodologies
3. Basics of FORTRAN programming language and of LINUX operating system

Specific objectives:
Give general ideas of the section. Introduction to the course

Related activities:
Lectures

Full-or-part-time: 8h
Theory classes: 3h
Self study: 5h
Molecular Dynamics

Description:
Molecular Dynamics technique is able to generate trajectories of Newtonian particles in a classical system and study the structure and temporal dynamics of the system.

Topics:
1. Solving the equations of motion numerically
   - Equations of motion
2. Simulating a system of $N$ particles
   - Energy and forces
   - Periodic boundary conditions
   - Short-range forces and minimum image method
   - Long-range interactions: Ewald and particle mesh Ewald methods, reaction field
   - Thermostats and barostats
3. Introduction to quantum methods
   - Basics of Density Functional Theory, "ab initio" methods and Car-Parrinello Molecular Dynamics.

Specific objectives:
Understanding the concept of molecular dynamics (MD).
Understanding the main tools needed to create a classical MD simulation.
Study the calculation of properties of the system.
See the main elements of the simulation of quantum systems.

Related activities:
Programming and use of codes of classical MD

Full-or-part-time: 43h
Theory classes: 12h
Laboratory classes: 8h
Self study : 23h

Monte Carlo method

Description:
The technique of Monte Carlo simulation is based on simulating reality through the study of a statistical sample that has been generated completely at random.

Topics:
1. Monte Carlo simulation of discrete systems: the Ising model
2. Monte Carlo simulation of continuous systems
   - Basics: Metropolis algorithm. Detailed balance
   - Monte Carlo statistical ensembles: canonical and beyond
   - Re-scaling and finite size phase transitions
   - Quantum Monte Carlo methods

Specific objectives:
Understanding the concept of Monte Carlo simulation (MC).
Understanding the main tools needed to generate random numbers and sampling of a classical system.
Study calculating system properties.

Related activities:
Programming and use of codes of classical MC

Full-or-part-time: 35h
Theory classes: 10h
Laboratory classes: 7h
Self study : 18h
Applications of simulation to realistic systems

Description:
See the techniques described in previous chapters applied to systems with a high degree of realism.

Topics:
1. Hard Condensed Matter:
   - Nanomaterials: carbon nanotubes, graphene
   - Defects in Solids
   - Interfaces and confined fluids: silica pores
2. Soft Condensed Matter:
   - Polymers
   - Biomembranes: lipids and cholesterol in aqueous ionic solution

Specific objectives:
Sophisticated simulations developed with specific tools.
Analyze results of microscopic properties: structure (distribution functions, orientation and molecular bonds) and dynamics (diffusion, spectra).
Visualizing the system and generating animations.

Related activities:
Practical exercises on computer simulation

Full-or-part-time: 64h
Theory classes: 6h
Laboratory classes: 15h
Guided activities: 3h
Self study : 40h

GRADING SYSTEM

Theoretical questions: 20% of final grade,
Practices with computer: 40% of final grade,
Presentation of personal work (MD or MC project code) in class: 40% of final grade.
Final grade = 0.2*questions + 0.4*practices + 0.4*project
Students who fail a grade greater than or equal to 3 (and a maximum of two subjects) are eligible for re-evaluation, which will consist of an examination on all contents of the topic. Practical exercises not re-evaluated.

EXAMINATION RULES.

Presentation of practical work in the classroom with computer equipment

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

RESOURCES

Computer material:
- Codis de simulació. Molecular Dynamics and Monte Carlo codes