

Minor Program in Computational Science

Introduction

Computational science describes the application of computing, especially high performance computing, to the solution of scientific and technical problems. Computational scientists use computers to create mathematical models that help them simulate and understand the operation of natural and mechanical processes, as well as to visualize the operation and results of these models.

Computational science (i.e., science in-silico) has become a third way of advancing knowledge along with the traditional methods of theory and experimentation. In-silico simulations and modeling afford the opportunity to "see" the unattainable – phenomena that are too small (atoms and molecules), too large (galaxies and the universe), too fast (photosynthesis), too slow (geological processes), too complex (automobile engines), or too dangerous (toxic materials). In recent years, computational studies have produced enormous advances in almost all fields of scientific and engineering inquiry, including DNA sequencing, behavioral modeling, global climatic predictions, drug design, financial systems, and medical visualization.

In recognition of the importance of computational science, the Ohio Board of Regents created the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science (RRSCS) in December 2005. RRSCS is a "virtual" school housed at the Ohio Supercomputer Center that will not offer degrees of its own but will serve to organize and coordinate statewide efforts to integrate computational science programs into the curricula at participating institutions. This effort recognizes that the field is an interdisciplinary field with expertise scattered among different departments and different institutions. The intention of the school is to sponsor shared, inter-institutional programs that take advantage of the existing expertise, make it widely available, and limit the duplication of effort and expense where possible.

The first such program is a minor program in computational science intended initially for majors in science and engineering programs at the participating institutions. The program is being initiated as a part of a National Science Foundation grant to nine Ohio higher education institutions, the Ohio Learning Network, and the Ohio Supercomputer Center that pledged to cooperate in the creation of the program. The participating institutions are shown in Table 1. **Each of these institutions is separately approving the minor program so that it is officially established as a part of their degree programs. This is the proposal to do so at OSU.**

A minor is the most appropriate approach to this area at the undergraduate level because domain expertise extending from a field of science, mathematics, or engineering is required to understand and implement computational modeling. The minor program also will require fewer resources to implement while helping to organize the required inter-institutional agreements and operating procedures for the program.

Table 1: Institutions Participating in the NSF CI-TEAM Grant for Computational Science
Capital University
Central State University
Columbus State Community College
Kent State University
Ohio Learning Network
Ohio Supercomputer Center
Sinclair Community College
The Ohio State University
University of Cincinnati
Wittenberg University
Wright State University

Overview of the Minor Curriculum

The minor curriculum was created through a collaborative effort of the faculty at the participating institutions. Because of its inter-institutional nature, the curriculum is competency-based, defining learning outcomes as the basis for courses to allow for easier evaluation and approval of proposed courses. The competencies were also reviewed by a business advisory committee including major, prospective employers of our graduates. They helped to revise the proposed structure to best suit the need for graduates in the current market. The full description of the competencies is provided in Appendix A.

The proposed minor curriculum consists of five required courses and at least one elective. These are shown in table 2. All students are required to take a year of calculus, which is part of the current requirements for the target major fields. Calculus could be taken concurrently with the introductory modeling and simulation course, but is a prerequisite for the other courses. The courses are described in the table of competencies shown in Appendix A.

In addition to the approval of the proposed minor program in Computational Science through the formal process at The Ohio State University, the courses proposed as a part of the curriculum will be reviewed by an inter-disciplinary, inter-institutional committee of computational science faculty from around the state to ensure that they meet the required competencies. The creation of course materials and conversion of existing courses to match the competencies and offer some courses at distance is being subsidized by the NSF grant and other funding at the RRSCS. The materials produced for those courses will be retained in a repository at school so that faculty can draw upon those shared materials to expand the number of courses offerings.

For the 2007-2008 academic year, each of the participating institutions will offer at least one course, allowing the program to get started. By the following academic year, we expect that all of the proposed courses will be offered. A list of the proposed courses for the 2007-2008 academic year and where they will offered is shown as Table 3.

Coursework Requirements

The Computational Science minor requires the completion of at least 20 credits of approved coursework, including five required courses and one elective, as summarized in Table 2.

Required Courses

Simulation and Modeling: An introductory course on the use of models (continuous and discrete) and simulation in science and engineering. Such an introductory course in simulation and modeling is currently not offered at OSU. But students may take this course remotely at any other institution (offerings for 2007-2008 are listed in Table 3), or use a more advanced domain-specific course that focuses on modeling and simulation (listed in Table 2).

Programming and Algorithms: A first course on computational thinking, use of a programming language for problem solving, and development of algorithms. In addition to several existing courses at OSU that would satisfy this requirement, a new course on Computational Thinking (CSE 294P) is being developed, with science/engineering students as the target audience.

Numerical Methods: An applied introduction to use of numerical methods in solving linear and nonlinear equations, interpolation, numerical solution of differential equations.

Optimization: Courses on the topic of optimization are being developed at some other institutions in support of a Computational Science minor. A course is also being considered for development by the IWSE department at OSU. Several departments have domain-specialized courses that focus on discrete and/or continuous optimization techniques, which may also be used to satisfy this requirement

Capstone Research/ Internship Experience: Each student must complete a guided research project or internship on a computational topic. The mechanism used to satisfy this requirement may differ across departments – e.g. computationally oriented senior design project or honors thesis, or a computationally oriented independent research study with a faculty member at Ohio State. The Ralph Regula School also plans to create a list of computationally oriented projects contributed from faculty across different departments in the participating universities; such a guided project can also be used to satisfy the capstone requirement.

Domain-Specific Course: Any approved computationally oriented course from the student's major discipline.

Elective Courses

One elective course must be completed, chosen from any of the following topics.

Differential Equations and Dynamical Systems: A course on numerical solution of differential equations, which are fundamental in modeling physical and biological systems;

Parallel Computing: An introduction to parallel programming, parallel algorithm development, implementation and optimization.

Scientific Visualization: An introduction to tools and techniques for visualization of large-scale data produced by computational simulations.

Administration and Advising

The minor in Computational Science will be open to any undergraduate student at the Ohio State University. The Computer Science and Engineering department will serve as a primary agent for the proposed program, but a Computational Science Advisory Committee will be formed, with broader membership. The Committee will be chaired by a faculty member from CSE (appointed by the Department Chair), and it will include an additional faculty member from the College of Engineering (appointed by the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs), one faculty member from the College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (appointed by the Associate Dean), and the Director of the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science. The Committee will meet at least once every year to review the minor curriculum and course offerings, and make revisions as necessary.

The undergraduate counseling office of the Department of Computer Science will assist with student advising for the Computational Science minor. It will make available a form that students may use to declare the Computational Science minor. Any petitions for substitution of alternative courses (taken at Ohio State or another university) to satisfy the requirements of the minor must be approved by the Computational Science Advisory Committee.

Table 2: Requirements for Undergraduate Computational Science Minor		
Topic	Courses	Required/Elective
Prerequisites		
Calculus	Math 151, 152, 153 (or equivalent, e.g. Math 161, 162 or Math H190, H191)	Required
Core Courses		
Simulation and Modeling	One of: CBE 790, CEG 640, CSE 778, ISE 521, 704, ME 785, MSE 533	Required
Programming and Algorithms	One of: EG 167, CSE 202, CSE 294P, CSE 221	Required
Numerical Methods	One of: AAE 581, CEG 406, CSE 541, ECE 715, Math 606, Math 607, ME 250	Required
Optimization	CBE 781, CEG 776, ECE 759, ISE 522, ME 761, MSE 600	Required
Discipline Specific Courses		
Capstone Research/Internship Experience	CSE 699 or H783, MSE 695 or other approved individualized research credits	Required
Discipline-specific Computationally oriented Course	CSE 630, 655, 660, 670, 675, 680, Chem 644, MSE 756, Phys 780	Required
Electives: Choose one of the following		
Differential Equations and Discrete Dynamical Systems	Math 255, Math 415, Math 568, Math 571	Elective
Parallel Programming	CSE 621	Elective
Scientific Visualization	CSE 694L	Elective

**Table 3: Proposed Courses for 2007-2008 Academic Year
Ralph Regula School of Computational Science**

Course Title and Number	Institution/Instructor	Quarter or Semester*	Credit Hours
CS 399 Selected Topics in Computational Science Programming and Algorithms	Wright State Ronald Taylor, Computer Science	Fall quarter 2007	4
Special Topics Introduction to Modeling and Simulation Part 1	Sinclair Art Ross Physics	Fall quarter 2007	2
Special Topics Introduction to Modeling and Simulation Part 2	Sinclair Art Ross Physics	Winter quarter 2008	2
Computational physics	Art Ross Physics	Spring quarter 2006	4
CSAC 245 Introduction to Modeling and Simulation	Capital University John Philips and Pat Shields	Fall semester 2007	3
Bioinformatics	Kent State Helen Piontkivska	Fall semester 2007	3
Parallel and Distributed Computing	Univ. Cincinnati Fred Annexstein	Fall quarter 2007	3
Computational Physics PHYS410	Univ. Cincinnati Richard Gass	Spring 2008	3
Introduction to High-Performance Computing CSE 621	OSU, CSE P. Sadayappan	Fall quarter 2007 Classroom only	3
Computational Thinking in Context CSE294P**(Programming and Algorithms)	OSU, CSE P. Sadayapan	Spring, 2008 Classroom only	4
Chem 644 Computational Chemistry**	Chris Hadad OSU	Spring, 2008 Classroom only	3
Optimization	Wittenberg	Still pending	5
CPS3465 Parallel Programming	Robert Marcus Central State	Spring Semester 2008	3
Differential Equations Using Computation, MATH299	Columbus State	Summer quarter 2008	6

*All courses offered at distance unless otherwise indicated.

**Pending approval of new course proposals

Some of the courses will be given temporary course numbers for the first year as they go through the approval process for a permanent course number at the participating institutions.

The RRSCS will maintain a central website that students and faculty can use to see what courses and being offered. The site will also show how to register for courses being offered at other institutions. The proposed mechanisms for these procedures are currently being discussed and are discussed briefly below. The proposed inter-institutional agreements have been discussed at all of the participating institutions and we are working with the appropriate offices to implement

those agreements. The agreement is shown as Appendix B. The RRSCS will provide a cash subsidy for each course taught in the 2007-2008 academic year of \$3000 per course.

Inter-institutional Arrangements

As part of the NSF project, a subcommittee of representatives of academic affairs officers and registrars has been meeting to discuss the inter-institutional arrangements for the minor program. They have agreed in principle to several things:

- The registration process for students should be as easy as possible.
- RRSCS should maintain a list of approved courses by year so it is relatively easy to conduct degree audits.
- Transfer of credits from other institutions can be handled by the registrars at the institutions as those courses are completed.
- Tuition will be collected at the home institution of the student based on the total number of credit hours taken including hours taken from other institutions and charged at the home institution rate.
- There should be some compensation given to the institutions teaching courses to students at other institutions in lieu of tuition.
- Petitions for exceptions to the required curriculum and other individual advising will remain solely at the home institution.
- Mechanisms for changes and additions to the minor curriculum should be undertaken by the RRSCS and a statewide committee of faculty.

Appendix A

Computational Science Minor Program Detailed Program Description

**Ralph Regula School of Computational Science
Cyberinfrastructure Team Project
Summary of Undergraduate Minor Program Requirements
September 2006**

The minor in computational science will be offered by a number of higher education institutions in Ohio. Degrees will be offered by the students "home" institution but it will be possible for the student to take minor program materials from other, participating institutions. We have started with a minor because we believe that each student needs some domain expertise in a major field before being able to complete computationally-based projects in related areas.

There is a committee reviewing the various options for the sharing of materials, instruction, and revenues associated with cross-registered students. They will make some recommendations to the participating institutions in the coming months on the institutional procedures.

Because of the inter-institutional nature of the program, we have designed it to be competency-based. The instructional materials associated with each competency or subset of competencies can then be embedded either in existing courses on each campus, in new courses at one or more campuses, or as stand-alone modules that might be taken at distance and at the time that each student is ready for them. Competency will then be demonstrated through one or more assessments of the student's abilities on a combination of exams and projects. The competency-based approach is preferred because it gives curriculum flexibility to participating programs and gives employers some assurance of the working knowledge of each graduate.

The draft competencies created by the participating faculty has been reviewed by a business advisory committee. They confirmed the majority of the recommended competencies at a meeting on May 31, 2006 and offered some advice on topic emphasis and breadth. This document reflects their comments and is the basis on which faculty are currently proposing instructional modules that meet the competencies.

The computational science minor will enable science and engineering majors to apply computational tools to the problems in their discipline. As such, the minor breaks into three broad categories: Prerequisites, the Computational Science Core Competencies and the Discipline Specific Competencies. At this stage, we are focused on the competencies that comprise the Computational Science Core. The goal of the Core competencies is to establish a foundation that can be leveraged in the Discipline Specific Competencies that are directly applicable to the practice of the student's chosen profession. The competencies are shown in Table 1.

Our remaining decisions involve deciding what competencies are associated with each broad area, how many elective competencies are required for the minor, and the specific competencies for each discipline-oriented course. Those will be addressed in Autumn 2006 as we begin to pre-test the materials in classrooms around Ohio.

Table 1: Competencies and Requirements for Undergraduate Computational Science Minor		
Topic	Subtopics	Required/Optional
Prerequisites		
Calculus 1 and 2		Required
Computational Science Courses		
Simulation and Modeling	Should use one of the major symbolic programs Maple, MATLAB, Mathematica; need to local, hands-on support at outset of course	Required
Programming and Algorithms	Logic of programming whether a traditional computer science or programming with a symbolic language like Maple, MATLAB, Mathematica	Required
Differential Equations and Discrete Dynamical Systems	Depending upon major; linear algebra may also be needed by some	Elective
Numerical Methods	Need for a project-based course which touches the most important topics rather than a standard math course	Required
Optimization	An important topic; could be part of a modeling course or integrated with numerical methods	Required
Parallel Programming		Elective
Scientific Visualization		Elective
Discipline Specific Courses		
Capstone Research/Internship Experience		Required
Discipline Oriented Courses		One required; probably only one per field for awhile

**Minor Program in Computational Science
Competency/Topic Overview
Area 1: Simulation and Modeling**

Competency/Descriptors
<p>Explain the role of modeling in science and engineering</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>Discuss the importance of modeling to science and engineering</p> <p>Discuss the history and need for modeling</p> <p>Discuss the cost effectiveness of modeling</p> <p>Discuss the time-effect of modeling (e.g. the ability to predict the weather)</p> <p>Define the terms associated with modeling to science and engineering</p> <p>List questions that would check/validate model results</p> <p>Describe future trends and issues in science and engineering</p> <p>Identify specific industry related examples of modeling in engineering (e.g., Battelle; P&G, material science, manufacturing, bioscience, etc.)</p> <p>Discuss application across various industries (e.g., economics, health, etc.)</p>
<p>Analyze modeling and simulation in computational science</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>Identify different types of models and simulations</p> <p>Describe a model in terms of iterative process, linking physical and virtual worlds and the science of prediction</p> <p>Explain the use of models and simulation in hypothesis testing (e.g. scientific method)</p>
<p>Create a conceptual model</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>Illustrate a conceptual modeling process through examples</p> <p>Identify the key parameters of the model</p> <p>Estimate model outcomes</p> <p>Utilize modeling software and/or spreadsheets to implement model algebraic equations (e.g. Vensim, Excel, MATLAB, Mathematica)</p> <p>Construct a simple computer visualization of the model results (e.g. infectious disease model, traffic flow, etc.)</p> <p>Validate the model with data</p> <p>Discuss model quality and the sources of errors</p>
<p>Examine various mathematical representations of functions</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>Describe linear functions</p> <p>Define non-linear functions (e.g., polynomials, exponential, periodic, parameterized, etc.)</p> <p>Visualize functions utilizing software (e.g. Excel, Function flyer, etc.)</p> <p>Determine appropriate functional form to fit the data</p> <p>Demonstrate essential mathematical concepts related to modeling and simulation</p>
<p>Analyze issues in accuracy and precision</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>Describe various types of numerical and experimental errors</p> <p>Explain the concept of systematic errors</p>

<p>Explain the concept of data dependent errors Illustrate calculation and measurement accuracy Identify sources of errors in modeling and approaches to checking whether model results are reasonable</p>
<p>Understand discrete and difference-based computer models Descriptors: Explain the transition of a continuous function to its discrete computer representation Represent “rate of change” using finite differences Cite examples of finite differences Explain derivatives and how they relate to model implementation on a computer Write pseudo-code for finite difference modeling</p>
<p>Demonstrate computational programming utilizing a higher level language or modeling tool (e.g. Maple, MATLABTM, Mathematica, other) Descriptors: Describe the system syntax (e.g., menus, toolbars, etc.) Define elementary representations, functions, matrices – arrays, script files, etc. Explain programming and scripting processes (e.g., relational operations, logical operations, condition statements, loops, debugging programs, etc.) Create tabular and visual outputs (e.g., 2-D and 3-D subplots) Translate the conceptual models to run with this system and assess the model results (e.g. traffic flow and/or “spread of infectious disease”) Illustrate other people’s models utilizing the modeling program</p>
<p>Assess computational models Descriptors: Assess problems with algorithms and computer accuracy Discuss techniques and standards for reviewing models Verify and validate the model Discuss the differences between the predicted outcomes of the model and the computed outcomes and relevance to the problem Discuss the suitability and limits of the model to address the problem for which the model was designed</p>
<p>Build event-based models Descriptors: Describe event-based modeling (e.g. SIMULINKTM; Extend, ARENA) Run existing models Translate conceptual models (e.g., traffic flow utilizing SIMULINKTM)</p>
<p>Complete a team-based, real-world model project Descriptors: Identify a problem, create mathematical model and translate to computational modeling Organize and present project proposal Document model development and implementation Collaborate with team members to complete the project</p>
<p>Demonstrate technical communication Descriptors: Demonstrate technical writing skills in the comprehensive report</p>

Demonstrate verbal communication skills in an oral presentation
Create and present visual representation of model and results
Address all components of a comprehensive technical report
Respond to peer review

**Minor Program in Computational Science
Competency/Topic Overview
Area 2: Programming and Algorithms**

Competency/Descriptors
<p>Describe the fundamentals of problem solving</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>Understand Top-Down thinking and program design Discuss breaking up a problem into its component tasks Understand how tasks acquire data Describe how tasks should be ordered Represent tasks in a flow-chart style format Understand the difference between high-level languages (for example Mathematica, Maple or MATLAB), medium level languages (for example FORTRAN or C) and low-level languages (assembler) and when each should be used.</p>
<p>Understand and write Pseudo code</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>List the basic programming elements of Pseudo code Explain the logic behind an if/then/else statement Understand the iterative behavior of loops Describe the difference between several looping constructs Write Pseudo code to solve basic problems Understand how to represent data flow in and out of subprograms.</p>
<p>Use subprograms in program design</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>Describe how logical tasks can be implemented as subprograms Understand the logical distinction between functions and subroutines Explain the control flow when a function is called Define dummy and actual arguments Discuss the different relationships dummy and actual arguments Explain how function output is used Understand how languages handle passed data into functions and subprograms, especially one and two dimensional arrays.</p>
<p>Write code in a Programming language</p> <p>Descriptors:</p> <p>Understand the concept of syntax in a programming language Describe the syntax of the programming language constructs List the type of subprograms available in the language Explain the concepts of argument pass-by-value and pass-by-reference Understand what a compiler and linker do Understand the difference between a compiled and interpreted language Understand the difference between a typed and an un-typed language Understand the difference between a source file and an executable file Write and run basic programs in the language of choice Understand how to de-bug code and how to "sanity check" code. Understand the importance of user-interfaces: clear input instructions including physical</p>

units if needed and clearly formatted and labeled output
Understand the numerical limits of various data types and the implications for numerical accuracy of results.

Use different approaches to data I/O in a program

Descriptors:

Explain the advantages and disadvantages of file I/O
Describe the syntax for file I/O in your programming language
Compare binary and ASCII file I/O
Write code using file I/O and keyboard/monitor I/O

Understanding and use of fundamental programming Algorithms

Descriptors:

Explain an algorithm as an ordered series of solution steps
Describe an algorithm for a simple programming problem
Learn and use “classic” programming algorithms from a field of interest to the student.
If possible, these should be algorithms used in the student’s discipline.
Describe what a software library is
Understand how library functions implement algorithms
Write code to implement your own version of “classic” algorithm
Compare with code using a library function
Understand data flow into library functions and implications of selecting any “tuning parameters” or options that may be required.

Explain various approaches to Program Design

Descriptors:

Describe Functional decomposition (Top-down Problem Solving)
Be familiar with different programming styles (e.g. function, procedural, rule based)
Understand how to modularize code
Understand the benefits of code re-use
Explain the operation of a Boss-Worker design
Compare designs based on Global Variables vs. self-contained functions
Define Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)
Contrast OOP with functional decomposition
Explain the power of Inheritance in OOP
Understand how to document code
Understand how to write and when to use stubs and drivers.

**Minor Program in Computational Science
Competency/Topic Overview
Area 3: Differential Equations and Discrete Dynamical Systems**

Competency/Descriptors
<p>Describe the solution methodology for first order linear differential and difference equations</p> <p>Descriptors: Analyze modeling problems with first order differential equations and present their solution methodology (e.g. liner, homogeneous, exact) Analyze modeling problems with first order difference equations and present their solution methodology (e.g. homogeneous, non-homogeneous). Analyze long term behavior</p>
<p>Describe the solution methodology for systems of linear first order differential and difference equations</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe modeling problems with systems of first order differential equations and present their solution methodology (e.g., homogeneous with constant coefficients, variation of parameters) Describe modeling problems with systems of first order difference equations and their solution methodology (e.g., homogeneous with constant coefficients)</p>
<p>Describe the solution methodology for higher order differential and difference equations</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe modeling problems with higher order differential equations analyze their solution methodology (e.g., homogeneous, non-homogeneous, undetermined coefficients, variation of parameters) Describe modeling problems with higher order difference equations analyze their solution methodology (e.g., homogeneous, non-homogeneous). Analyze the long-term behavior.</p>
<p>Describe the solution methodology for differential equations using the Laplace Transforms</p> <p>Descriptors: Discuss the Laplace transformation of (e.g., continuous , discontinuous, delta and convolution) functions Describe modeling problems with differential equations and present their solution methodology using Laplace transformations (use of CAS, Maple, Mathematica)</p>
<p>Describe the solution methodology for non-linear differential equations</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe the concept of an equilibrium point Model with non-linear differential equations and present the phase –portrait analysis Understand and demonstrate how chaos is generated in the solution process of non-</p>

linear differential equations.

Describe the solution methodology for non-linear difference equations

Descriptors:

Describe the method of linearization

Describe the concepts of Logistic and Henon Maps

Model with non-linear difference equations and demonstrate understanding of fundamental concepts from Bifurcation theory (e.g., fixed, periodic points, chaos)

Describe techniques for controlling chaos

Understand concepts of numerical accuracy applied to each solution approach

**Minor Program in Computational Science
Competency/Topic Overview
Area 4: Numerical Methods**

Competency/Descriptors
<p>Understand number representation and computer errors</p> <p>Descriptors: Understand the pros and cons of floating point and integer arithmetic Describe various kinds of computing errors (e.g., round-off, chopping) Describe absolute, relative error and percent error Discuss error propagation Describe loss of significance – methods to avoid loss of significance</p>
<p>Analyze methods for solving non-linear equations</p> <p>Descriptors: Discuss and contrast fixed point methods (e.g., bisection, secant, Newton’s) for a single equation Describe a fixed point method for a system of equations (e.g., Newton’s)</p>
<p>Describe techniques for solving systems of linear equations</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe the naïve Gauss elimination and the partial pivoting method Understand the concepts of condition number and ill-conditioning problems Discuss and contrast factorization methods (e.g., LU, QR, Cholesky, SVD) Discuss and contrast iterative methods (e.g., Jacobi, Gauss Siedel) Describe convergence and stopping criteria of iterative methods</p>
<p>Analyze techniques for computing eigenvalues—eigenvectors (Optional)</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe and give examples of eigenvalue –eigenvector problems using specific, applied examples and their significance Describe canonical forms of matrices Describe and contrast direct methods for computing eigenvalues (e.g., power method, inverse power method) Describe and contrast transformation methods (e.g., QR algorithm)</p>
<p>Describe interpolation and approximation methods</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe and contrast interpolation methods (e.g., Lagrange, Chebyshev, FFT) Describe interpolation with spline functions (e.g., piecewise linear, quadratic, natural cubic) Discuss approximation using the method of least squares (linear .vs. non-linear)</p>
<p>Describe numerical methods for Ordinary Differential Equations</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe and compare basic methods for IVPs (e.g., Euler, Taylor, Runge-Kutta) Describe and compare predictor-corrector methods Describe and compare multistep methods Discuss and contrast numerical methods for BVPs (e.g., shooting method, finite difference method) Compare the accuracy, memory requirements, and precision of each of the approaches</p>

Describe numerical methods for Partial Differential Equations

Descriptors:

Describe and compare numerical methods for parabolic PDEs (e.g., finite difference, Crank-Nicolson)

Describe numerical methods for hyperbolic PDEs

Describe numerical methods for elliptic PDEs (e.g. finite difference, Gauss-Seidel)

Discuss the finite element method for solving PDEs

Describe Monte Carlo Methods

Describe applications of Monte Carlo models with examples

Discuss algorithms for Monte Carlo methods

**Minor Program in Computational Science
Competency/Topic Overview
Area 5: Optimization**

Describe and use Optimization techniques

Descriptors:

Describe and contrast unconstrained optimization methods (e.g., Golden section search, Steepest descent, Newton’s method, conjugate gradient, simulated annealing, genetic algorithms)

Describe and contrast constrained optimization methods (e.g., Lagrange multiplier, quasi-Newton, penalty function method)

Implement linear and non-linear programs

Analyze linear programming methods (e.g., simplex method)

Describe non-linear programming methods (e.g., interior, exterior, mixed methods)

Demonstrate ability to correctly use software systems (e.g., Matlab, IMSL, NAG) to solve practical optimization problems

Minor Program in Computational Science
Competency/Topic Overview
Area 6: Parallel Programming

Competency/Descriptors
<p>Describe the fundamental concepts of parallel programming and related architectures</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe the differences between distributed and shared memory architectures Describe the difference between domain and functional decomposition in parallel Describe a parallel programming approach to an introductory problem Compare parallel, distributed, and grid computing concepts</p>
<p>Demonstrate parallel programming concepts using MPI</p> <p>Descriptors: Describe the MPI programming model Create, compile, and run an MPI parallel program Create MPI programs that utilize point-to-point communications Create an MPI program that uses point-to-point blocking communications Create an MPI program that uses point-to-point non-blocking communications Create an MPI program that uses collective communications Create an MPI programs that use parallel I/O Create MPI programs that use derived data types Create MPI programs that use vector derived data type Create MPI programs that use structure derived data type</p>
<p>Demonstrate knowledge of parallel scalability</p> <p>Descriptors: Use mathematical formulas to determine speed-up and efficiency metrics for a parallel algorithm. Demonstrate the use of graphical systems such as MATLAB to display speed-up and efficiency graphs</p>
<p>Demonstrate knowledge of parallel programming libraries and tools</p> <p>Descriptors: Demonstrate the use of performance tools for profiling programs (e.g., GNU GPROF or MATLAB profiler) Create parallel programs with calls to parallel libraries (e.g. BLAS, BLACS, ScaLAPACK or FFTW) Demonstrate the use of MPI tracing tools (e.g., VAMPIR) to determine parallel performance bottlenecks</p>

**Minor Program in Computational Science
Competency/Topic Overview
Area 7: Scientific Visualization**

<p>Competency/Descriptors</p> <p>Define SciVis needs; relationships to human visualization; basic techniques Define Scientific Visualization (Sci Vis) Discuss needs of SciVis (in the framework of a large variety of possible application areas) Survey different platforms for Visualization (e.g. AVS, VTK, OpenGL, VRLM) Discuss the different techniques and visualization methods used in SciVis Explain the human visualization system – capabilities and perceptions Explain the different steps in the visualization pipeline Discuss different sources of data for SciVis and explain the terms applied to data types (i.e. scalar, vector, normal, tensor) Discuss different types of grids (e.g., regular vs. irregular grids) Discuss the different methods used to gather data Describe and explore the use of different file formats for sharing data (netCDF, XML, TIFF, GIF, JPEG, Wavefront OBJ) Discuss limitations of different methods Discuss future applications in emerging fields Metadata needs for graphics libraries</p>
<p>Overview of computer graphic concepts Descriptors: Overview of SciVis concepts (pixels, rgb colors, 3D coordinate system, mapping 3D data to a 2Dscreen, continuous vs. discrete) Discuss polygonal representation Discuss lighting/shading Overview of classification/segmentation and transfer functions Discuss concept of rendering pipeline (no details about matrices) Discuss hardware rendering (mainly for polygonal models, few specialized volumetric hardware cards) Identify terms used in virtual space and in graphics elements Navigate in virtual space and manipulate primitive objects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transform: scale, rotate, translate) ▪ Manipulate surface ▪ Manipulate lighting and camera <p>Explore colormaps and examine conceptual definitions for different color maps (pertaining to color spaces HSV, RGB, etc.) as related to representing data and relationships to perception</p>
<p>Describe approaches to visualization for different scientific problems Descriptors: Examine different computational solutions to scientific problems Explain the different techniques used in visualization (i.e. glyphs, iso-contours, streamlines, image processing, volume-data) Examine the application of problems to visualization techniques</p>

Utilize software tools to implement visual image of a solution
Discuss the use of time in animation

Utilize software to implement grid representations of data

Descriptors:

Identify the various cell representations (i.e. points, polygons, 3d geometries)

Discuss the application to different grid types (i.e. structured, unstructured, random)

Discuss raycasting methods and texture mapping

Examine the details of raycasting sampling (FAT(low resolution sampling), interpolation techniques).

Examine algorithms: Direct Composite, SFP, use of transparency.

Identify the grid representation and data(color reps.) (regular grids, 1, 8, 24 and 32 bit color information)

Discuss algorithms for manipulating images, distortion, fft's, enhancement, restoration, frequency domains

Utilize software to implement different grid types

Discuss limitations of grids

<p>Use visualization software to display an isosurface</p> <p>Descriptors: Discuss different data types used: scalar vs. vector data Discuss the different grid types Discuss the different algorithms (Marching Cubes etc) Introduce details of the system being used in a course (e.g., VTK, AVS, etc.) Apply the system to extract and display an isosurface of some data set (could be tailored towards the teacher's and student's interests/application areas) Discuss limitations of these methods</p>
<p>Use visualization software to complete a volumetric rendering</p> <p>Descriptors: Discuss direct volumetric rendering (raycasting and texture mapping) and its advantages/disadvantages vs. surface rendering Discuss segmentation/classification and transfer functions Discuss and illustrate how to use a system (VTK, AVS, etc.) to do volumetric rendering) Using the system, visualize a data set using raycasting Using the system, visualize a data set using texture mapping Discuss limitations of this method</p>
<p>Utilize visualization software to visualize a vector dataset</p> <p>Descriptors: Discuss vector data Discuss different methods for vector visualizing (particles, stream ribbons, vector glyphs, etc.) Discuss the use of structured grid types: (ir)regular, cylindrical, spherical Discuss application areas for vector visualization (air flow, etc.) Using a system (VTK, AVS, etc.), visualize a vector data set Discuss limitations of this method</p>
<p>Explore examples of image processing</p> <p>Descriptors: Discuss basic steps and goals in image processing Discuss variety of data sources of images and how they can be represented Discuss algorithms used for image processing Explore examples of image processing (e.g., noise reduction, image enhancement, feature extraction etc) Discuss challenges and limitations in image processing</p>
<p>Use advanced techniques applied to a real problem</p> <p>Descriptors: To be chosen by instructor based on instructor/student interest. Among suggested topics are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - visualizing an irregular grid; - visualizing a data set specific to the area of interest (see 3.2 and 3.3 for specific examples) - writing a segmentation tool - implementing a visualization algorithm from scratch (such as marching cubes or raycasting)
<p>Examine SciVis problems for Biological Sciences – "OMICS" applications</p>

Descriptors:

Examine different problems existing in 'OMICS sciences that require visualization solution (overview)

Discuss challenges of representing biomedical/biological data (i.e., representing protein structure or genomic sequence with all their attributes as a visual metaphor)

Discuss challenges associated with visualization of scattered data such as text information and bioinformatics data (e.g., phylogenetic information)

Gene finding in genomic sequences

- Examine different components of a gene structure
- Visualize genomic structure of an individual gene
- Build a comparison between genomic features from several genomes
 - o Visualize (and examine) similarities and differences
 - o Discuss goal-dependent options of parsing the results to be explored elsewhere (e.g., as plain text, XML-marked)

Protein folding and protein structure prediction

- o Discuss the differences between protein folding and protein structure prediction
- o Explore different methods used in protein folding and structure prediction
- o Apply different methods of protein structure prediction and compare the results
- o Construct, visualize and examine structure-based protein alignment

Biological networks (e.g., protein-protein or protein-DNA interaction networks)

Visualization of various types of expression data

- o Discuss and contrast different types of expression data – e.g., microarray gene expression data, protein expression data
- o Discuss different visualization (and analyses) techniques used for expression data
- o Apply (and compare outcomes) hierarchical clustering and k-means clustering to the same gene microarray expression data
- o Discuss pros and cons of different clustering methods, their shortcomings, and ways to access the quality of clusters

Discuss potential applications of SciVis techniques in biomedical and drug design fields

Utilize MATLAB to implement/solve the above problems

Explore SciVis techniques in BioMedical applications**Descriptors:**

Explore a variety of biomedical applications of SciVis to explore large datasets such as MRI and confocal microscopy data

Overview of volume visualization techniques in biomedical problems

Examine and different ways MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) data can be visualized (e.g., 2-D image versus isocontour slices).

Discuss potential applications (interpretation) of each of the techniques.

Utilize software tools (MATLAB, VTK) to apply the techniques above



RALPH REGULA SCHOOL OF COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE CONSORTIAL AGREEMENT

REGULA SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Institutions participating in the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science will offer a multi-institutional, interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in computational science with courses starting in the fall of 2007. The effective date of this agreement will be August 15, 2007. Standardized certificate programs to create workforce knowledge and skills valued by industry also are under development. Graduate courses will be added by 2009. The undergraduate minor curriculum offering for 2007-2008 is as follows:

Course Title and Number	Institution/Instructor	Quarter or Semester*	Credit Hours
CS 399 Selected Topics in Computational Science Programming and Algorithms	Wright State Ronald Taylor, Computer Science	Fall quarter 2007	4
Special Topics Introduction to Modeling and Simulation Part 1	Sinclair Art Ross Physics	Fall quarter 2007	2
Special Topics Introduction to Modeling and Simulation Part 2	Sinclair Art Ross Physics	Winter quarter 2008	2
Computational physics	Art Ross Physics	Spring quarter 2006	4
CSAC 245 Introduction to Modeling and Simulation	Capital University John Philips and Pat Shields	Fall semester 2007	3
Bioinformatics	Kent State Helen Piontkivska	Fall semester 2007	3
Parallel and Distributed Computing	Univ. Cincinnati Fred Annexstein	Fall quarter 2007	3
Computational Physics 15PHYS410	Univ. Cincinnati Richard Gass	Spring 2008	3
Computational Thinking in Context CSE294 (Programming and Algorithms)	OSU, CSE P. Sadayyapan	Spring, 2008 Classroom only	4
Chem 644 Computational Chemistry	Chris Hadad OSU	Spring, 2008 Classroom only	3
Optimization	Wittenberg	Still pending	5
CPS3465 Parallel Programming	Robert Marcus Central State	Spring Semester 2008	3
Differential Equations Using Computation, MATH299	Columbus State	Summer quarter 2008	6

*All courses offered at distance unless otherwise indicated.

The full curriculum description can be found at:

<http://www.rrscs.org/docs/competencyfinal.pdf>

Regula School Initial Participating Institutions

Capital University
Central State University
Columbus State Community College
Kent State University
Ohio State University
Sinclair Community College
University of Cincinnati
Wittenberg University
Wright State University

Terms

- **Home Institution:** The institution where the student is admitted as a student. Home students “visit” other institutions through Regula School courses
- **Host Institution:** The institution where the Faculty of Record (primary course instructor) is employed. Host institutions “teach” the Regula course.
- **Participating Institutions:** Colleges and universities that elected to participate in sharing courses through the Regula School.
- **Faculty Coordinators:** At least one faculty member at each participating institution responsible for assisting students to register for courses, shepherding courses for approval by deans, department heads and curriculum committees, arranging course technical support, as needed, and communicating with their Home Registrar and the Regula School.
- **Registrar Contacts:** The staff in the Office of the Registrar of participating institutions who are responsible for sending and/or receiving Regula -related information to the Faculty Coordinators, the Host or Home Registrars Contacts, and the Regula School
- **Technical Contacts:** The staff at participating institutions responsible for providing various related technical support (video conferencing, student support services, etc.)
- **Visiting Students:** Students from institutions other than the Host Institution, who participate in Regula School courses.

REGULA SCHOOL START UP SUPPORT

To ensure that students have continual access to Regula School courses, the School will assist institutions with start-up costs. Each institution will provide the agreed upon course with the faculty-approved competencies for \$3000 one time for an offering of the course. The courses and contracted institutions are listed above.

REGISTRATION PROCESSES

Regula School course information and schedule is made available through the Regula School website and the websites and print catalogs of all participating institutions (<http://www.rrscs.org>).

Once a course has been approved through its local curriculum review process and/or designated for a Regula course, that information will be posted at the host institution on their website, on-line catalog, and course management system (if available) and shared with the Regula School. If faculty approval is required by a student interested in registering for the Regula course, the Faculty Coordinator at each institution will secure approval for the student.

Supplementary Regula School course information will be available for student viewing on the Regula School web site (<http://www.rrscs.org/minorcourses/index.shtml>)

The Regula School will maintain an informational web site for students to gain knowledge about the course and curriculum, internships, and job possibilities. The Regula School will link to each participating institution's policies related to class calendars and dates for adds, drops, withdrawals, grade translations. This web site will stress that students register for courses through their Home Institution and not through this web site. Faculty Coordinators will provide Regula course information to the Regula School for publication on the RRSCS web site.

Students register and pay tuition for Regula course(s) at their Home Institution. To provide the information required by the registrars to track cross-registering students, students will be asked to fill out a common form for each course enrollment as a visiting student. The procedure used will be:

1. When a student fills out the special common form (Application for Host Institution Class Enrollment attached to this agreement) registrars at each participating home institution will add a specially tagged course number or a placeholder class on their schedule to enroll them in the class. A long-term goal of the consortium will be to cross-list all Regula School courses in the regular catalogs to facilitate registration and grade transfer procedures. The RRSCS website will have information about the course calendar for each such course and students will need to comply with the calendar at the host institution. The home institution will inform the student that, in cases where the home and host institutions differ in academic calendar systems (i.e., semester vs. quarter), the term associated with the home institution's placeholder course may not correspond to the actual term associated with the course taught at the host institution.
2. Students will register for the course at their home institution using regular registration procedures.
3. In addition, students will fill out the Application for Host Institution Class Enrollment, sign it, and turn it in at their home institution registrar's office. When faculty approval is required for registration, Faculty Coordinators will obtain approval for registration. Based on the local enrollment systems, each Regula School course will reserve one half of the enrollments in each class for the visiting students up to 30 days prior to the start of the class and after that time, class enrollment should become open to all students. To assist this process, registrars and Faculty Coordinators will meet online once per term.
4. Once the Application for Host Institution Class Enrollment has been received, the home registrars will fax the completed form to the host registrar who will, in turn, add the student to their local database and register the student for the hosted course, and notify the home institution of

completion of the registration process. This process will be facilitated electronically when those capabilities are in place through the Ohio Board of Regents.

5. The host institution will then notify the student that they are registered and transmit the procedures for them to obtain access to course materials and other host institution systems. Students will be given the same privileges as local students. **As required, network IDs and Passwords are mailed to Regula students by the appropriate administrative office at the host university.**
6. Host/Teaching and Home Registrar Contacts will distribute course rosters. The Host/Teaching Registrar Contact will send the complete course roster (including visiting students and regular students) to the Faculty/Instructor of Record per usual systems. The Home Registrar Contact will send a course roster of only the visiting students from that institution to their local Faculty Coordinator. All participating Registrars will send an email to the Regula School that summarizes the institution's final student enrollment numbers (undergraduate and graduate) in the shared course. This email to the Regula School should NOT include specific student information, only numbers of undergraduate and graduate students enrolled and their home institutions
7. **Drops/adds/withdrawals will be managed and communicated by Host/Teaching and Home Registrar Contacts.** Students will agree to abide by the calendar of the teaching institution in term of dates for withdrawal, penalties, and final grades. This information will be posted on the RRSCS website and the teaching institution site. Home Institution procedures and policies are followed regarding any administrative fees that are charged for add/drop activity, late enrollment processing, etc. Withdrawals should be made through both the home and host institutions. As a secondary measure, the home institution also will communicate the student's withdrawal to the host institution's registrar. Mechanisms to track drops will need to put into place to allow this information exchange.

GRADES AND TRANSCRIPTS

Grading Policies

Grade conversions will happen at the Home Institution. The Faculty of Record will submit all student grades (visiting and regular) to the Host/Teaching Registrar Contact using the grading scale of the Host/Teaching Institution.

Upon completion of the academic term, the host institution will notify the home institution of the final grade in the course and number of credit hours completed. The home institution will be responsible for all grade conversions and course grading scale adjustments. As these are completed, the home institution will provide a list of students and the courses they completed.

Grade changes will follow Home Institution policies and procedures

Local policies and procedures of the student's Home Institution regarding late, missing, incorrect grades, and their impact on graduation will apply. In cases where graduations at Home Institutions are earlier than the Host/Teaching Institution, students will work with Faculty Coordinators to resolve any issues that might impact graduation.

STATE SHARE OF INSTRUCTION

State Share of Instruction will remain with the home institution.

Public colleges and universities offering Regula courses will report student enrollments through regular HEI reporting mechanisms. State Share of Instruction (SSI) will flow to the home institution by agreement. Independent non-for-profit institutions will not receive state support in the form of State Share of Instruction (SSI).

FUNDING MODELS

There are several aspects to the funding model under this collaborative agreement. To assist in the implementation of the program, the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science will offer a one-time subsidy of \$3000 per course for each of the courses taught in the 2007-2008 academic year.

Each institution will collect tuition from the students taking courses taken through the Regula School. There will be no differences in course funding with native students. The home institution will collect the tuition and fees and state subsidy for those students.

Revenue will be shared with the Regula School and the institutions hosting visiting students. Tuition will be collected at the home institution for those students using their current tuition and fee structure. Payment will be made to the Regula School at a rate of \$250 per quarter credit hour for each student hosted by other institutions. Public institutions will continue to collect the State Share of Instruction for those students.

The Regula School will use 25% of the collected fees for additional course development, marketing, and administration. The balance of the fees collected for hosted students will be passed to the hosting institution.

CURRICULUM APPROVAL AND INSTITUTIONAL INVOLVEMENT

All institutions participating in this consortium are expected to play an active role in on-going curriculum development, review, and delivery.

- A) Each participating institution will offer at least one Regula School class at the institution in each academic year.
- B) Each institution will appoint one faculty representative to the statewide curriculum review committee. That committee will meet quarterly (if needed) but at least twice per year to review and approve new courses for existing consortium members or proposals for courses by new member institutions. The committee also will review the competencies required in the minor program and revise them as necessary in response to changes in the science and engineering fields.
- C) Member institutions can propose changes to the curriculum or to the consortium agreement. The changes will be considered by the statewide committee and a recommendation made to the consortium for their approval.

CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Curriculum and course reviews are the hallmarks of quality processes in higher education. Due to the nature of the content, courses in the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science have a shorter 'shelf life' than some other academic disciplines. A continuous improvement process is necessary for the strongest curriculum and the best trained students. The process shall be as follows:

A) The curriculum for the minor in computational science will be reviewed at the end of the first full year of all courses taught. A review team of faculty, students, and industry representatives will evaluate the relevance of the total curriculum and make recommendations for additions, deletions or revisions at the course level.

B) At the course level, courses and modules funded by RRSCS will be evaluated by a faculty and student peer review team on an annual basis after the first offering and then reviewed every other year. The Ohio Learning Network's rubrics for online courses will be used as part of the evaluation process.

C) Courses taught by RRSCS faculty, but not funded by the School, will be examined as part of the overall curriculum review, and will be evaluated every other year by a faculty and student peer review team. This team shall contain some members from the review teams created in paragraph B above.

STUDENT SERVICES EVALUATION

An annual assessment will be made of student services related to the Ralph Regula School. The School will coordinate this effort with participating campuses to field regular surveys of students and campus administrative staff to ensure that students advising, registration, and other procedures are working satisfactorily from the student's viewpoint.

SIGNATORIES

The undersigned academic officers agree to the terms of this consortial agreement for the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science.

Ronald L. St. Pierre
Acting Provost
Capital University

Joseph A. Alutto
Interim Provost
The Ohio State University

Toy Caldwell-Colbert
Provost
Central State University

Anthony J. Perzigian
Provost
University of Cincinnati

Kay Adkins
Provost
Columbus State Community College

Kenneth W. Bladh
Provost
Wittenberg University

Robert G. Frank
Provost
Kent State University

Steven R. Angle
Provost
Wright State University

Helen Grove
Provost
Sinclair Community College

Ralph Regula School of Computational Science

Application for Host Institution Class Enrollment

Complete all items below. Sign and return the form to the registrar's office of your **home** institution. You will be registered for the class(es) at the host institution you have indicated below. You are responsible for observing all host institution registration, drop/add and withdrawal deadlines. **If enrolling in classes at more than one host institution, you must complete and submit a separate form for each.**

Name: _____ **Social Security Number:** ____/____/____
Last First Middle

Other name(s) used previously: _____ **Date of Birth:** ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Permanent Mailing Address: _____
(Number and street. If P.O. Box, number and street also required)

City State/Country Zip

Telephone: _____ **E-mail Address:** _____
(include area code)

Gender: Female Male **Country of Citizenship:** _____

Check if this applies:: I am a Permanent resident alien of the U.S. **or** Refugee **or** Asylee

Alien/File # A _____ Date approved: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

My most recent Visa type is: _____ Date issued: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Residency: Students enrolled in a public institution will retain their residency status as determined by their home institution. Students enrolled in a private institution will be reviewed for a residency determination.

Most recent high school attended: _____ **Graduation date:** _____
Name of High school City State

Prior College Degree & Institution (if applicable): _____

Current Home Institution: _____
Institution for your primary registration and degree program

Class(es) in which you are enrolling:

1) _____	_____	_____	_____
Home Course Number and Class Section	Host Course Number and Class Section	Host Institution Term & Year	Host Institution Credit hours
2) _____	_____	_____	_____
Home Course Number and Class Section	Host Course Number and Class Section	Host Institution Term & Year	Host Institution Credit hours

I affirm that the information I have provided on this application is complete and accurate. Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (FERPA), I hereby authorize both my home institution and the host institution from which I am taking this course to exchange registration and required financial aid information regarding my enrollment in the class(es) noted on this form. I also authorize the host institution to release an official copy of my host institution transcript at the end of the term to my home institution. I understand my home institution will add the course(s) to my transcript and charge me the appropriate tuition and fees for the additional credit hours. I also agree to abide by the class schedule and course drop and/or withdrawal dates associated with the host institution from which I am taking this course.

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date**

To Be Completed by the Home Institution

Home institution residency status: In-state Out-of-state

I hereby certify that student named above is in academic good standing with this institution and is authorized to enroll in the host institution class(es) as indicated. Institution: _____

Certifying Official: _____ **Title:** _____
Please Print

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____