TIMETABLE: 34978 MWF 9:00–9:50 in 321 Lincoln Hall from 08/25/2014 to 12/05/2014.

PREREQUISITES: The graduate catalog lists “Grade of B or better in MCS 360 or the equivalent or consent of instructor.” Examples of courses which could serve as “the equivalent” are MCS 320 (introduction to symbolic computation) and MCS 471 (numerical analysis).

COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE: MCS 507 fits in an interdisciplinary computational science and engineering (CSE) curriculum. MCS 507 is one of the courses in the Computational Science Prelim and prepares for MCS 572 (Introduction to Supercomputing).

INSTRUCTOR: Jan Verschelde, Office: 1210 SEO, Phone: 312 996 4609. E-mail: jan@math.uic.edu. URL: http://www.math.uic.edu/~jan

OFFICE HOURS: On Mon 11AM, Wed 1PM, Fri 2PM, I am sure to be in my office; but feel free to stop by if you have any questions. We can also make an appointment.


HOMEWORK: At every lecture, several exercises are listed. Some exercises provide inspiration for an interesting project. At every lecture, interesting homework problems will be recommended. The collection of homework will be announced at least one week before the deadline.

PROJECTS: Three projects will be assigned during the semester. To experiment with the concepts and algorithms, we use open source software, mainly Python and Sage. Topics of the first two projects will be prescribed. The topic of the third project will depend on your own research interests and could be developed into a final project (instead of a final exam).

EXAMS: During the semester, there is one midterm on the first half of the course. As a take-home exam, the midterm functions as an important homework collection. Instead of a classical review week and a final exam, the last week of classes could be spent on project presentations, so the final grade is determined mainly by computer projects.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. While the slides of the lectures are posted, we may discuss other examples or topics.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312/413-2183 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY).

SOME IMPORTANT DATES:
Monday 1 September: Labor Day holiday. No classes.
Friday 5 September: last day to add or drop the class.
Thursday 27, Friday 28 November: Thanksgiving holiday. No classes.
8-12 December: Final examination, date, time, and room to be announced.