

Essential Course Information	
Course title	LABORATORY OF DATA ACQUISITION TECHNOLOGIES
Degree Course title	PHYSICS
ECTS	6
Compulsory attendance	YES
Course teaching language	ENGLISH

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ECTS Details	Disciplinary area	SSD	ECTS
		FIS/01	6

Time management and teaching activity type	Period	Year	Lesson type
	1st semester	2nd	Lessons (24h) Laboratory (45h)

Time management	Total hours	In-class/in-lab study hours	Out-of-class study hours
	150	69	81

Course calendar	Starting date	Ending date

Syllabus	
Prerequisites	Basic knowledge of electronics. Basic knowledge of computer programming.
Expected learning outcomes (according to Dublin Descriptors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and understanding: Understanding of basic concepts of modern digital data-acquisition systems. Knowledge of hardware and software tools for computer-based data acquisition. Knowledge of software frameworks for data representation and analysis. Applying knowledge and understanding: Ability to use data acquisition boards of different complexity. Ability to develop high-level software programs for data-acquisition using computer-controlled electronic devices. Ability to use software frameworks for data representation and analysis. Making judgements: Ability to consult technical specifications (datasheets). Ability to identify adequate hardware and software solutions for specific problems/applications. Transferable communication skills: Ability to use technical language. Ability to work in a team.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lifelong learning skills:</i> Problem-solving skills. Ability to access and classify information from different sources. Ability to synthesize acquired knowledge making connections, comparing, contrasting, generalizing.
Course contents summary	<p>The course is intended to introduce the student to the basic concepts of data-acquisition systems used in modern physics experiments: sensors, signal digitization, data quality monitoring, slow control, communication protocols, data representation and analysis.</p> <p>The course comprises lectures and extensive laboratory activities focussing on the development of high-level software programs for real-time data acquisition using electronic devices interfaced to the PC, data representation and analysis.</p>
Detailed syllabus	<p>Introduction to modern data acquisition systems and applications.</p> <p>Computer architecture: processor, cache memory and main memory, mother board, bus, I/O systems. Instruction fetching and execution.</p> <p>I/O modules. I/O techniques: programmed I/O, interrupt-driven I/O; Direct Memory Access.</p> <p>Interfacing external devices to the PC with I/O modules: PCI and PCI-X, USB, PCI Express.</p> <p>Sampling of analog signals: aliasing and quantization; Sample and Hold; Analog to Digital Conversion (ADC): counter type ADC, successive approximation ADC, flash ADC; Digital to Analog Conversion (DAC): binary-weighted resistor DAC.</p> <p>Sensors. Readout electronics for signal detection: signal conditioning (amplification, shaping), pedestal subtraction; FPGA-based signal processing: data timestamping, zero-suppression. Trigger.</p> <p>Ethernet-based data acquisition: transmission protocols; client – server architecture; Ethernet-based distributed data acquisition systems.</p> <p>Introduction to the <i>Internet of Things</i> (IoT): data acquisition and IoT, from smart sensors to big data processing.</p> <p>Laboratory exercises:</p> <p>Part 1. Introduction to programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fundamentals of C language. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling binary data and binary files, bitwise operators. ➤ Introduction to the ROOT framework for data representation and analysis. <p>Part 2. Use of data acquisition boards with PCI interface (National Instruments PCI-6503, PCI-62212).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Programmed I/O: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature monitoring using a sensor connected to an 8-bit ADC. ➤ DMA-controlled I/O: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling and reconstruction of a sinusoidal signal. • Triggered acquisition of pulsed signals. <p>Part 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ethernet-based data acquisition, client – server architecture. ➤ Detector calibration using FPGA-based readout electronics.
Books	<p>W. Stalling, <i>Computer organization and architecture</i>, Pearson Edition (Ch. 3 – 7, Ch. 4 – 5 - 6);</p> <p>S. Derenzo, <i>Practical Interfacing in the Laboratory</i>, Cambridge Edition (Ch. 1, Ch. 3, Par. 5.8.1);</p> <p>W. Kernighan and D. Ritchie, <i>The C programming language</i>, Prentice-Hall Edition;</p> <p>http://root.cern.ch/ ;</p> <p>Lecture slides. Additional material on specific topics provided during the course.</p>
Notes	
Teaching methods	Lectures with slides. Laboratory exercises in small groups (typically 2 students per group).
Assessment of final mark	Laboratory reports (10%). Practical exam to assess laboratory skills (40%). Oral exam (50%).
Evaluation criteria	<p>The student</p> <p>knows the basic concepts of modern digital data-acquisition systems;</p> <p>knows the most commonly used I/O techniques for computer-controlled data acquisition;</p> <p>knows how to apply I/O techniques and implement high-level software applications for data acquisition from sensors/external devices;</p> <p>knows how to write laboratory reports;</p> <p>is able to communicate effectively using adequate technical language.</p>
Other	