UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO

DEPARTMENT	Matematica e Informatica
ACADEMIC YEAR	2016/2017
BACHELOR'S DEGREE (BSC)	MATHEMATICS
SUBJECT	THEORETICAL COMPUTER SCIENCE
TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY	C
AMBIT	10709-Attività formative affini o integrative
CODE	03946
SCIENTIFIC SECTOR(S)	INF/01
HEAD PROFESSOR(S)	CASTIGLIONE GIUSEPPA Ricercatore Univ. di PALERMO
OTHER PROFESSOR(S)	
CREDITS	6
INDIVIDUAL STUDY (Hrs)	102
COURSE ACTIVITY (Hrs)	48
PROPAEDEUTICAL SUBJECTS	
MUTUALIZATION	THEORETICAL COMPUTER SCIENCE - Corso: COMPUTER SCIENCE THEORETICAL COMPUTER SCIENCE - Corso: INFORMATICA
YEAR	3
TERM (SEMESTER)	1° semester
ATTENDANCE	Not mandatory
EVALUATION	Out of 30
TEACHER OFFICE HOURS	**CASTIGLIONE GIUSEPPA** Tuesday 14:00 15:00 Dipartimento di Matematica e Informatica. Stanza 209 secondo piano. Thursday 14:00 15:00 Dipartimento di Matematica e Informatica. Stanza 209 secondo piano.

DOCENTE: Prof.ssa GIUSEPPA CASTIGLIONE

PREREQUISITES	Basic notions of Logic and Discrete Mathematic
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Knowledge and understanding To learn the main concepts of the Theory of Automata, Formal Languages and Theory of computability with particular attention to their mathematical models: finite state automata, regular expressions and grammars. Ability of formalization, abstraction, systems modeling and analysis of complex problems. To know the existence of problems not solvable or "difficult" solvable problems, in terms of computational resources, and therefore their classification into classes of complexity. To be able to read and understand the basic aspects of the specialist literature. To use the technical language of the discipline. Ability to apply knowledge and understanding Ability to apply the acquired knowledge to the construction of automata and grammars in specific application fields, with particular reference to the processing of texts and to algorithm description. To understand the clear distinction between syntactic and semantic aspects. Making judgments To be able to assess the relevance of the topics of the discipline, and to contextualize the theoretical aspects of the theory of automata, formal languages and theory of computability in various application areas. Communication abilities clear and mathematically rigorous exposition of the issues of the automata theory, formal languages and theory of computability even to a non-expert audience, showing how mathematical methods and results relate to specific application environments. Learning ability Ability to upgrade with the consultation of its scientific literature. To be able to follow, using the knowledge acquired in the course, second level master and specialized seminars.
ASSESSMENT METHODS	A written text and an oral exam. The written test lasts three hours and consists of four / five exercise. It is aimed at testing the acquired skills, ability. The exercises, in fact, require the application of algorithms studied during the course, the verification of some properties and the construction of some automata and context-free grammars. During the oral exam the student must answer at least three questions posed orally, on topics of the course with reference to the recommended book and materials provided during the lectures (slides, handouts, exercises done). The test has the aim to evaluate the acquired knowledge, understanding of the topics, and the acquisition of specific language. The minimum rating will be achieved if the student will know the basic concepts and will be able to expose them. Below this threshold, the examination will be insufficient. The valuation rates are proportional to language skills, correct and detailed exposition of the topics and the ability to apply and connect the concepts. The assessment is carried out of thirty.
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES	Knowing the computational power of finite state automata and the generative power of context-free grammars. Relations between deterministic and nondeterministic models. Ability to convert a formalism in another equivalent: for example, grammars and automata, automata and regular expressions, automata deterministic and non-deterministic. To be able to design automata that recognize fixed languages. To know how to design grammars that generate fixed languages. To know how to use automata and grammars in designing algorithms. Learn the use of automata and grammars as a model in several important applications: for example, compilers, software design, digital circuits, software for large collections of texts.
TEACHING METHODS	Lectures, exercises in the classroom and laboratory
SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	J. E. Hopcroft, R. Motwani, J. D. Ullman, Automi, Linguaggi e Calcolabilita, Addison-wesley (PearsonEducation Italia) III edizione 2009. R. McNaughton, Elementary Computability, Formal Languages and Automata, Prentice-Hall, 1082 D. Perrin, Finite Automata, Capitolo 1 del Vol.2 del Handbook of Theoretical Computer Science, Elsevir, 1990.

SYLLABUS

Hrs	Frontal teaching
8	Finite State Automata Motivations, applications and informal description. The central concepts of theory of automata. Definition of deterministic finite state automaton (DFA). Automata recognizers. Representation of a DFA graph of states and transitions table. Non-deterministic finite state automata (NFA). Equivalence of DFA and NFA. The "subset construction". Discussion on "state complexity" of DFA and NFA. Applications to text searches. Automata with epsilon-transitions. Elimination of epsilon-transitions.

SYLLABUS

Hrs	Frontal teaching
6	Regular expressions of regular languages. Equivalence between regular languages and languages recognized by DFA (Kleene's Theorem). Algorithm of elimination of states to convert an automaton in a regular expression. Berry and Sethi algorithm to convert an expression to an automaton.
4	Closure of regular languages with respect to reverse, and Boolean operations. The "pumping lemma" for regular languages. Applications of the pumping lemma. Decision problems for regular languages: equivalence, emptyness and inclusion.
8	Equivalence of automata. Decision problem of the equivalence of two DFA. Minimization of deterministic automata using classical minimization algorithms. The relation of indistinguishability of states. Reduced automaton. Equivalence between reduced automaton and minimal automaton. Myhil-Nerode Theorem. Uniqueness of the minimal deterministic automaton.
8	Grammars and context-free languages (CF) Motivations and informal description. Definition of grammar. Derivations of grammars. Language generated by a grammar. The Chomsky hierarchy. Grammars and CF-languages. Parse trees. Ambiguity in grammars and languages in CF: ambiguous grammars, elimination of ambiguity, inherent ambiguity. Some applications of context-free grammars.
6	Normal forms. Chomsky normal form. Pumping lemma for CF. Applications of the pumping lemma. Closure properties of the CF -languages. Decision problems for the CF languages.
8	Brief introduction to the theory of computability. The Turing machine. Functions computed by a Turing machine. Languages recognized by a Turing machine. The Church-Turing thesis. The universal Turing machine. Existence of non-computable functions. The problem of "stop" of a Turing machine. Decidable and undecidable problems. Intractable problems. Special models of Turing machines. Chomsky hierarchy and decidability.