



TU Dresden, 01062 Dresden
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Dresden, March 24, 2023

Dear Maschinenwesen,

seven weeks have passed since the last evening mail, the exam period is behind us and most of the lecture-free period is already over, which means we have to take a look at the upcoming summer semester.

- A lot has already been done in preparation: The new **Opal Lists** for the summer semester are available in our central course "Teaching in Mechanical Engineering" (<https://tud.link/4ozj>) - so you can already start planning.
- Of course, the **timetables** are also part of the planning; they are also ready and can be found at <https://stundenplan.mw.tu-dresden.de/>.
- Also important for the start of the semester: the **catalogs for the catalog modules** are at <https://tud.link/g29f>. Please check whether the courses you want to take in the corresponding modules are really in the catalog. If not, you still have **until 06.04.23 to apply for inclusion in the corresponding catalog**. Please keep to this deadline - if a course is not in the catalog, it cannot be credited to you for the corresponding module! In the study committee meeting on 12.04.23 the decisions will be made and shortly after that the final catalogs for the summer semester will be published.
- As always at the beginning of the semester, there are some changes in the modules. In the coming week, the **updated schedules** will be available for orientation at <https://tud.link/tg3h> even before the decisions in the Study Commission and the Faculty Council. They will only be legally binding after the decision in the Faculty Council on 19.04.23.
- Then a note on the event "**Fascination Technology of Mechanical Engineering**" (<https://tud.link/j4g7>), which will usually take place on Thursdays: The introductory event will - in order to facilitate the trips home at Easter - already take place **on Wednesday, 05.04.2023 in the 4th DS in HSZ/03!!!**

With this, the study-related topics for the start of the semester are already through. But I still have one important topic, a topic that has been on the minds of the press and all of us since about Christmas, a topic that has been making waves at all universities in

Postal address (letters)

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Visitor address

Helmholtzstrasse 5
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Access

Side entrance
George-Bähr-Str. 3c,
signposted. Parking
spaces in the courtyard

Internet

<http://tu-dresden.de/mw>
No access for
*electronically signed and
encrypted documents.*



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Germany, raising questions about examination law and causing an unusually large amount of controversial discussion: **ChatGPT**. In all discussions about it, the focus is on the one hand on the questions of examination law and on the other hand on the general question of how to deal with AI in engineering.

Let's start with the examination law aspects (as of today - discussions on this are definitely ongoing):

- **When using ChatGPT, the first thing to keep in mind is that there are places where it is simply forbidden:** written exams, oral (online) exams, etc. If you use the program in such a situation, it is simply an attempt to cheat and you are done...
- The second important point - lecturers can also prohibit the use of ChatGPT for other performances - e.g. if special creative performances are required. If this happens, the use is also clearly not allowed.
- It becomes exciting with written work, in which e.g. basics for a engineering problem are to be discussed. Here one can - if it was not explicitly forbidden by the supervisor - consider ChatGPT as an extended internet-based information search. If this is used, **ChatGPT has to be clearly mentioned as a citation in the bibliography. The question or the questions that have been asked to get the information have to be mentioned in the bibliography.** And the corresponding texts are to be put in quotation marks so that here is quoted correctly!
- Very important is the **question of the correctness of the information** that you take from the system: **You are responsible for this correctness.** I.e. if ChatGPT provides you with incorrect information, you include it in your work and it is then judged to be incorrect during the evaluation, you cannot talk your way out of it by saying that ChatGPT told you so. You are obliged to clarify the correctness, i.e. to critically evaluate the information you receive and, if necessary, to verify it with other sources!

And this last point opens up the other aspect of the discussion when dealing with ChatGPT: the question of competence in using AI to solve engineering problems. Anyone who has played with the system will have seen that we are dealing with a very powerful tool here, and sometimes you feel as if you had just checked in to Star Trek on the Enterprise and asked the question "Data, could you just explain to me...". Fascinating ;-). And because it is fascinating, because it will become part of your future working world and because we want to educate you as up-to-date as possible, there will be an **event** in the summer term focused on the use of ChatGPT **under the title "ChatGPT - "Data, solve me my problem..."**" (officially, of course, more serious: "ChatGPT - Use of AI to solve engineering tasks"), in which we will deal with the possibilities and also the problems of using ChatGPT in detail. The event is in the catalogs for MW-MB-15 and MW-VNT-18, is limited in number of people, and can be found in Opal at <https://tud.link/p97z>.

That's it for today - the corresponding podcast will be online later at <https://spoti.fi/3rM07Tf> on Spotify and on Castbox via https://bit.ly/Studiendekan-On-AIR_castbox.

And now to all - despite the upcoming rain and the expected travel problems - a nice weekend

Yours

Stefan Odenbach