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VISIONEN

visionen.vis.ethz.ch

November 2023

Fission

Magazin des Vereins der Informatik Studierenden an der ETH Zürich (VIS)

Editorial

Grüezi

Da ich bei der letzten Redaktionssitzung leider nicht dabei sein konnte, beschloss das Visionen-Team das Thema dieser Ausgabe ohne mich. **Das haben sie gut gemacht.** Ich finde Fischen sehr cool. Ich will das eigentlich schon lange mal ausprobieren, aber da ich Fisch nur ungern esse, vor allem aus geschmacklichen Gründen, ist es eher sinnbefreit, fischen zu gehen. Auch wilde Fischchen ins Aquarium zu sperren finde ich nicht so cool, ich bin eher Team Nachzüchten.

In dieser Ausgabe erzählen wir vom ESW, wo so weit ich weiss niemand fischen war, von der Olma, wo es mehr Fleisch als Fisch zu mampfen gab und wir präsentieren die Notenstatistiken. Was die Lieblingsfische unseres neuen Vorstandes sind? In dieser Ausgabe erfahrt ihr das nicht. Auch ob Fisch, Fischarten oder Fischgerichte in den Dialekten anders genannt werden, hat es nicht in diese Ausgabe geschafft. Tobi bekommt auf Instagram vermutlich keinen Fischen-Content und nicht mal ich habs geschafft eine Verbindung von der Baumnuss zum Fischen herzustellen.

Warum jetzt aber das Layout keinen coolen Fisch aufs Titelbild gepflatscht hat und auch unsere End-of-Article-Symbole keine Fischchen sind, verstehe ich nicht so ganz. Das hat man davon, wenn man sein Team sich selbst überlässt. Die nächste Ausgabe wird besser wieder von A bis Z gemicromanaged.

Fazit: Themenauswahl top, Umsetzung und Rechtschreibung eher so mäh. (Aber das seid ihr euch ja gewohnt hihi)

Ich wünsche viele schöne Stündchen beim Durchblättern.

Fiona Pichler

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'FSPichler' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Fission

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SENSIRION

Präsikolumne

EMI - A RECOVERING TREASURER, CURRENTLY FIGURING OUT HOW TO WRITE A PRÄSIKOLUMNE



Dear Readers,

As you have probably already seen, the title of this issue of VISIONEN is Fission, “a reaction in which the nucleus of an atom splits into two or more smaller nuclei“. Now, since we are neither a physics nor a chemistry student association, let us take a look at which things we are splitting in the Department of Computer Science.

1. An army of spokespeople

VIS held its Members Assembly at the start of the new autumn semester. Alongside some changes to the budget, the assembly also accepted the long-awaited new by-laws of our association and everything went smoothly and according to plan until the election of the Semester Spokespeople, where instead of the usual 8, there were more than 20 candidates. Fortunately, we were able to resolve the situation fairly quickly and end the assembly on the same day as we started it.

2. VIS and its old board

Not only did VIS elect new spokespeople at the assembly, but we also voted on a new board. This is at the same time fun and exciting as it is sad, as it means that we have to let go of some of our old board members. Last spring semester was the first time that VIS organized events such as the Bachelor’s graduation ceremony and the very well-received teaching awards. Arranging such events is especially difficult and time consuming, and it would surely not have been possible without the amazing people on last semester’s board!

3. VIS and Banana 9

The fission that will take a bit more effort than a quick election is that of our current accounting software. While we are sad to split with our lovely board of FS23, we do not regret parting with Banana 9. This will probably become our largest and most time consuming project for this semester, but we are very glad to finally have the (wo)manpower to realize it.

4. ETH and its infamous “Sommerlernphase“

Whilst we have enough motivated members to help with revisiting our accounting, we are always looking for students interested in making a change in university politics. Currently, VSETH is collecting input from all student associations about how to best change our academic calendar so as to reduce the time for studying in summer and make space for more holidays. If you like the idea and would like to be a part of the discussion which will result in lasting changes in the structure of our academic year, or you have other ideas on how to improve our studies, consider joining our HoPo committee or send us an email!

5. Mailboxes and an ungodly amount of spam

If this sounds unrealistic to you, then we are on the same page. Before my election, I thought I was going to have to answer a lot of mail, but unfortunately, most emails I receive are either spam or about WOKO Semester Cleanings. I have not yet decided which type I like better, but I would be very happy to receive an email from you. Whether you have ideas and feedback or would like to get involved and help out at your favorite student association, shoot us a message to vorstand@vis.ethz.ch.

To conclude all of the splittings, I would like to say that I am happy to not have split from VIS. In fact, I am looking forward to working with our new board members, as well as all actives and members and I wish everyone, especially all of our new students, a great semester and hope to see you around the floors of CAB.

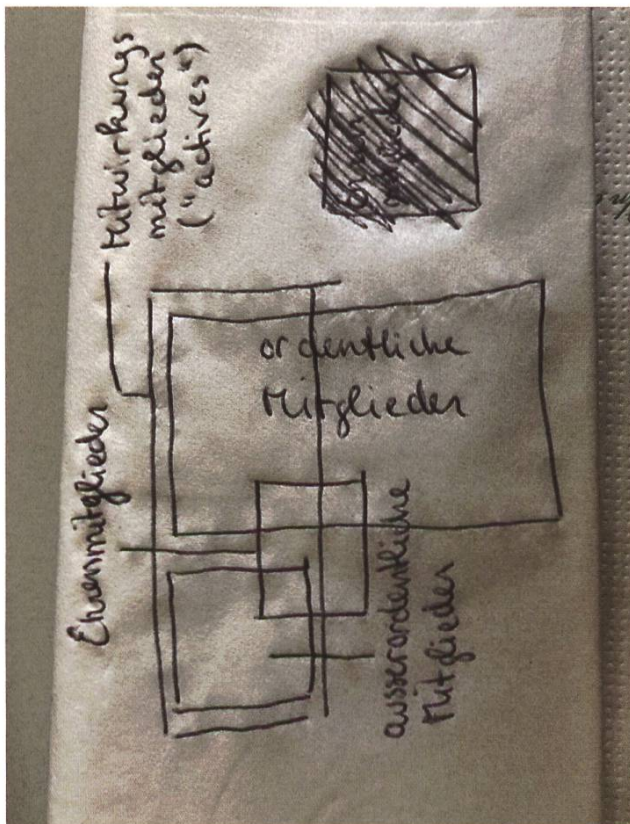


TLDR; MV¹

NORA DIESCHBOURG - NOT ACTUARY ANYMORE

The most significant event of this MV was the unanimous acceptance of our new bylaws. A few changes:

- The Verein der Informatik Studierenden is now finally the Verein der Informatikstudierenden,
- we can have temporary working groups called Taskforces,
- the election mode of board members is the same in the bylaws as in practice,
- membership categories better reflect reality,
- less contradictions and lint.



very important diagram

For (probably) the first time in VIStory there were two candidates for Actuary, Elina Jansone and Benjamin Gruzman. Both have been active in VIS before, Elina as president of the CCBB committee and Benjamin as a layouter of VISIONEN. After some tough questions, Elina ended up becoming our new Actuary. We then moved on to electing first semester spokespeople, which was more of a challenge than revising our whole bylaws. About 25 freshers wanted to represent their cohort. They selected 8 from among themselves who were subsequently elected. You hopefully hear more from them towards the end of the semester, as our hopes are high in those younglings who have prevailed against such high competition.

Thankfully, our financial statement was accepted and the board/committees were subsequently exonerated. The following changes to the 2023 Budget were approved:

- 3'320 CHF for Coffeemachine repairs,
- 800 CHF for the Animal Kingdom Party,
- 5'700 CHF for Sushi Night and Midweek Mexican Madness (with expected returns of 3'600 CHF),
- 5'000 CHF for Helper Merchandise,
- Samichlaus and Osterhase budgets have been combined and increased,
- Summerbar and Nik's Hütte budgets have been combined.

Then we presented the 2024 Budget with the above mentioned changes and

- we expect 5'000 CHF more income from membership fees,
- 5'000 CHF less revenue from VISIONEN,
- complete overhaul of MOEB committees budget/events,
- 2'502 CHF more support for external organizations (VELOVE, EESTEC, Irrational Coffee),
- VISKAS Budget decreased,
- VISTA Budget introduced,
- deletion of unused budgets.

This comes out to a loss of 45'483 CHF for 2024, as opposed to previous years where we kept ending up making an unwanted profit. Help us make this happen by showing up to events!

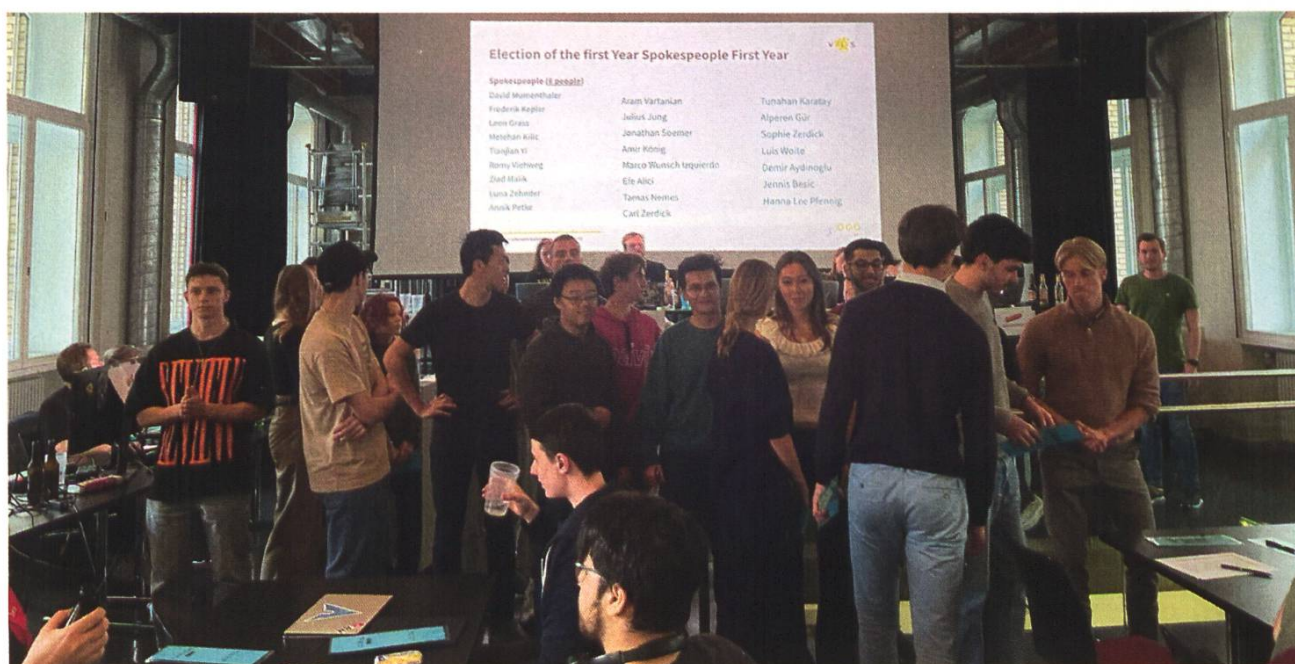
[short pizza break, half of the attendees disappear]

Post culinary intermission, we elected our new **President Emilia Pucher** and new **Quästorin Joël Vögtlin**. Afterwards, the rest of the board was elected — this VISIONEN also includes their official introductions. We then moved on to the representatives of VIS (UK, DK, MR, FR)², the auditors and all other actives.

The honor of the **Golden Leek**³ was bestowed upon **Jannis Piekarek**, who asked several leek-worthy questions over the course of the MV. An honorary golden leek (I am convinced they made this up on the spot) was given to Julia Bogdan and Manuel Hässig for taking so long to revise our bylaws.

After several years of electing no honorary members we have two new ones in one MV: **Andreas Brombach** and **Pascal Strebel**.

Special thanks to **Markus Niese** and **Leonard Knirsch** for moderating this GA. Thanks as well to all of you for turning up in such large numbers.



a long list of candidates



PS: The preliminary minutes of this MV (as well as the minutes of past MVs) can be found at <https://vis.ethz.ch/en/memberarea/protocols/mv/>



[1] Mitgliederversammlung (engl. general assembly)

[2] UK: Unterrichtskonferenz

DK: Departmentskonferenz

MR: Mitgliederrat des VSETH

FR: Fachvereinsrat des VSETH

(if these appeal to you, you should really join HoPoKo)

[3] A leek is someone of the highest competency



the End

Hopokolumne

It's Not Me, It's You: Splitting The Basisprüfung

LÉON OTHENIN-GIRARD NEW HOPO PRÄSI HS23

“Hochschulpolitik”, what a concept. What the hell does it even mean? Why should I care? You might be asking yourself these questions, or even more, perhaps less print-friendly ones, but I’m here to answer all of them for you. Most of them. Okay, maybe some of them, but no promises.

The name itself translates to “University Politics” or university policies as it’s often called, and you’d be surprised just how much you can do with it. It sounds dry, boring even, but if you have a closer look, you’ll see just how much of what you take for granted in your studies was brought to you by Hopo.

The biggest example is the Basisprüfungssplit. Now, you’re probably thinking, “What do you mean, the Basisprüfung was split, what kind of university would put all their exams in one block?” The answer is simple. ETH would.



Eight exams in one go. But wait, there’s more. Let me paint you the picture of just how bad it used to be until 2015:

- DiskMath
- EProg
- Physics
- LinAlg
- A&D
- Design of Digital Circuits
- Analysis I and II together
- PProg



That's right. NINE whole subjects, with Analysis I and II combined into one subject on top of that. And all those exams at the end of a long summer, in one go. I have many ways I could describe that, and I don't think any of them would get past the editors. So, let's just put it this way: It was bad.

But there were students in VIS Hopo who had the VISion and that it didn't have to be that way. They asked around, they talked to people — one VIS member had the idea to cut Physics entirely because it was only about mechanics which was irrelevant for later courses — and sent our elected representatives to the Studies Committee (UK), where they would discuss these changes. Vote on them, even. And after all that tireless effort, they made a change that we still profit from today.

Of course, we don't always have such lofty goals, but what we do still takes time, and motivated people (maybe even you?). We want to make sure that everyone who has an issue with the way things are done at ETH gets a chance to voice it.

For example, we're still hot on the trail of the issues in how Linear Algebra pays their TAs, and will be working on getting repetition exams in more subjects outside the semesters they're offered in (especially for the Grundlagenfächer). So if any of this sounds interesting to you, or if you're sick and tired of how a certain lecture is reusing old videos instead of teaching, get in touch with us! Get to know your representatives:

The VIS Hopo Board Member, who organizes the Hopo-Committee of VIS

- The VIS Delegates for the Studies Committee (UK), the people you send to discuss these topics
- The semester speakers, who gather feedback for the courses in the first two years and discuss it with the professors
- The VIS President, doing Hopo at VSETH/ETH level, not just D-INFK

Our old topics are always discussed in the VISIONEN (check them out online!), and for anything you want to tell us, including questions and how deeply you wish to join the Hopo, email us. We're happy to help. [hopo@vis.ethz.ch]



VIS Board HS23

Who are you?

Emi

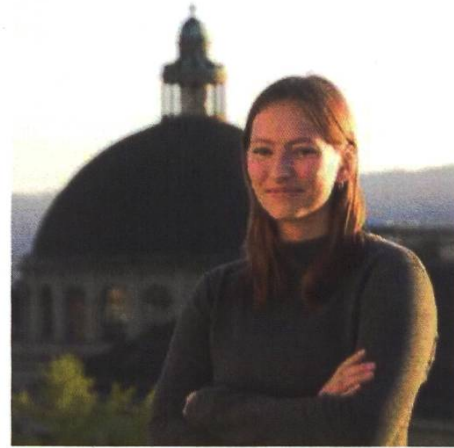
What's your job at VIS?

Right now I'm mainly lost and unsure, but I think I'll figure that out soon.

If your job has anything to do with HoPo:

What's your justification for being here?

Why I'm here? Not sure. HoPo is great though!



Emilia Pucher
President

How do you manage to split your time between being on the board, studying (and having fun , if applicable)?

Having done this for a year made me realize that you do not split your time, the time splits you.

Who/What would you currently like to split from:

- (being a) Sugar mommy
- Stockholm Syndrome that keeps me at ETH

Describe a time when a split-second decision changed everything for you.

That one time I spontaneously decided that I wanted to move into a 60-person shared flat. No regrets though.

Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of pizza or savor it all for yourself?

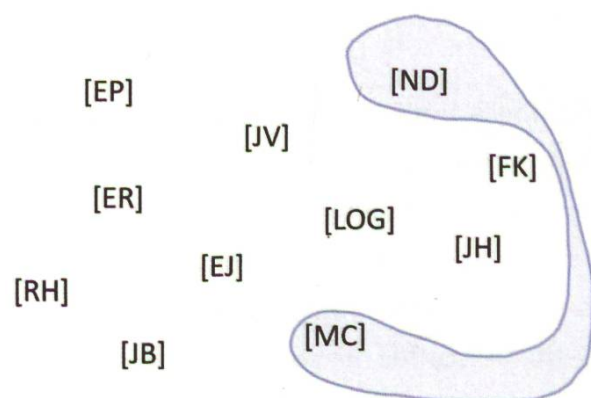
This problem can be avoided entirely by just cutting the pizza right in the first place.

In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a classic look or a bold style that splits opinions? And why does Nora choose the latter?

Nora has great taste and Pascal is just jealous because he does not :)

Based on what criteria would you split the VIS-Board?

I like all of them, but some enjoy Superkondi a bit too much...



Who are you?

I'm Nora, warden of the coffee machines.

What's your job at VIS?

Infrastructure, so my job is managing the inventory of VIS, I replenish supplies (mostly milk) for the coffee machines. I'm also Vice President.

**If your job has anything to do with HoPo:
What's your justification for being here?**

As a HoPoKo member and Vice: Representing students is one of the main reasons VIS exists and without HoPoKo there would be no mentoring program, Bachelor Graduation or even BP split.

**How do you manage to split your time between
being on the board, studying (and having fun ,
if applicable)?**

I will sleep when I'm dead (but honestly: I use my time intentionally, cutting down on cooking time, or transit time for example)

**Who/What would you currently like to split
from:**

- ETH (depends on the day)
- Approx. 1/2 of accumulated VIS possessions

**Describe a time when a split-second decision
changed everything for you.**

I changed my major right before I started my first semester at ETH. I also became a VIS active on a whim after a board member showed me how to use the free coffee machines.



Nora Dieschbourg
Vice and liinfraaa!

**Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of
pizza or savor it all for yourself?**

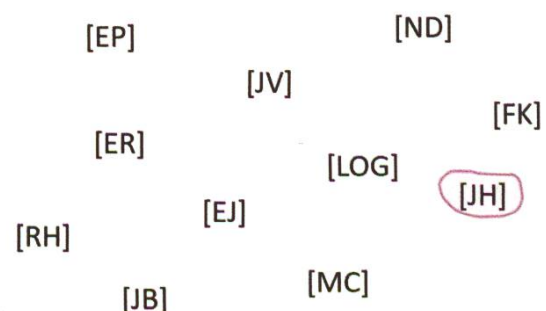
Split evenly, unless the other person is too polite.

**In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a
classic look or a bold style that splits opinions?
And why does Nora choose the latter?**

I choose joy.

**Based on what criteria would you split the
VIS-Board?**

Abbreviation spelled correctly (Schacques Hoffmann?)



Who are you?

Flo the Partyperson

What's your job at VIS?

My committee and I provide the students with a much needed alternative to the harsh ETH environment.

If your job has anything to do with HoPo:

What's your justification for being here?

It does not but committee dinner would be the correct one.

How do you manage to split your time between being on the board, studying (and having fun , if applicable)?

Taking breaks is optional.

Who/What would you currently like to split from:

- My mortal flesh prison and/or ISL

Describe a time when a split-second decision changed everything for you.

Saying yes to becoming a VIS board member. It went all downhill from there. Jk, I do love doing this.

Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of pizza or savor it all for yourself?

The solution is to buy more pizza and circumvent the problem from the start.



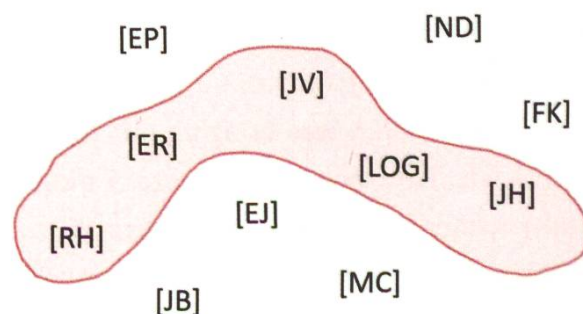
Florence Kissling
Partyperson

In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a classic look or a bold style that splits opinions? And why does Nora choose the latter?

Obviously the second. Also Pascal, Nora's style really isn't that out there. Basically thrifted vintage.

Based on what criteria would you split the VIS-Board?

If they would rather fight one horse-sized duck or 10 duck-sized horses.



Who are you?

Léon Othenin-Girard

What's your job at VIS?

HoPo President!

If your job has anything to do with HoPo:

What's your justification for being here?

What do you mean what's my justification for being here? I'd like to speak to your manager.

How do you manage to split your time between being on the board, studying (and having fun , if applicable)?

There's a little bit of multitasking involved, but also just setting hard boundaries helps. Isn't always easy, but you do have to stop working. Sometimes.

Who/What would you currently like to split from:

- Sugar daddy
- Some old pair of jeans
- My dice curse

Describe a time when a split-second decision changed everything for you.

When I was a kid, I was bringing out the trash when I felt like I needed to freeze. I did, and a bike rushed full speed past where I'd been standing! That guy would've squashed me.

Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of pizza or savor it all for yourself?

I'll split the slice of pizza for sure! But I'm only gonna ask once about it.



Léon Othenin-Girard
HoPo-President

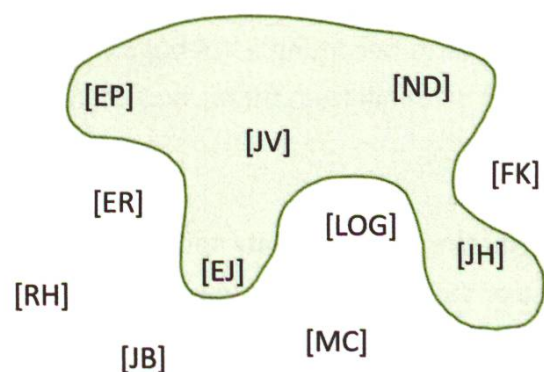
In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a classic look or a bold style that splits opinions?

And why does Nora choose the latter?

I think going bold is fun even if I rarely have the energy for it myself--and Nora clearly gets that sometimes you should take a change on something new!

Based on what criteria would you split the VIS-Board?

I'm sorry, that's confidential.

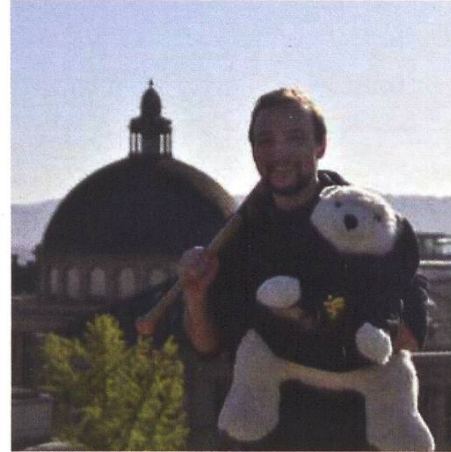


Who are you?

Mark, the CAT person

What's your job at VIS?

I'm the person that makes sure new bugs are added to VIS applications at a steady flow. Without those bugs there wouldn't be anything to do for the computer application team. I'm also the person that brings snacks to Tuesday Hacks.



Mark Csurgay
CAT-President

If your job has anything to do with HoPo:
What's your justification for being here?

I don't touch HoPo even with a 10 meter long pole. Find it cool what they do, but I don't wanna be dealing with ETH in my freetime. I partially consider VIS as freetime duties.

How do you manage to split your time between being on the board and having fun?

I just mix all my hobbies and board responsibilities into one pot to do them at the same time which results into drunk programming. Seems I forgot some part of the question. But if I forgot, it's not important.

Who/What would you currently like to split from:

- Some old pair of jeans

Describe a time when a split-second decision changed everything for you.

Accidentally said "maybe" when I was asked to join the board at a party. Has completely changed my semesters at ETH.

Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of pizza or savor it all for yourself?

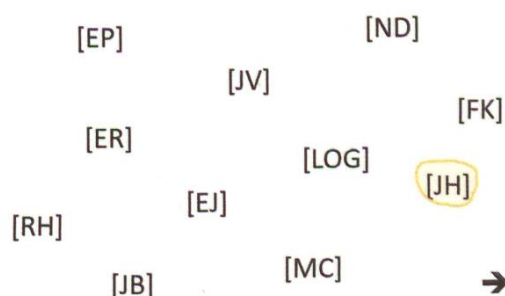
If there's pizza, I'll eat it. I can deal with the consequences later.

In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a classic look or a bold style that splits opinions? And why does Nora choose the latter?

A bold style requires you to make decisions of what clothes fits with what. That's some extra brain power I just don't feel like investing in the morning. I rather just throw on the first clothes I find, hope I don't look completely like a clown and use my morning brain power to figure out if today is a Kondi or gym day. Nora has that extra brain power to spare in the morning.

Based on what criteria would you split the VIS-Board?

People who broke a cluster and people who didn't.



Who are you?

Hi, I am Roman. People who have known me for a longer time call me Hoffmann.

What's your job at VIS?

I help students pass their exams.

If your job has anything to do with HoPo:**What's your justification for being here?**

My job has not much to do with HoPo.

How do you manage to split your time between being on the board, studying (and having fun , if applicable)?

I split my time using a strict schedule and daily routine.

Who/What would you currently like to split from:

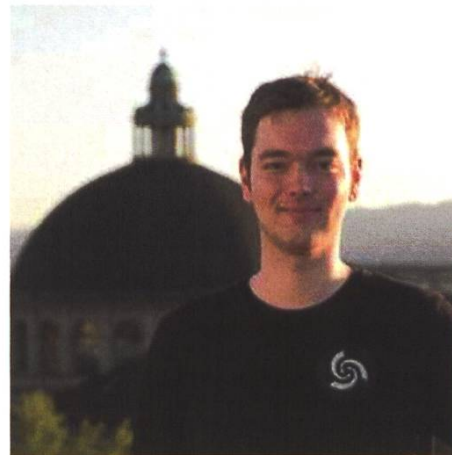
- Some old pair of jeans

Describe a time when a split-second decision changed everything for you.

An event that happened on the 24th of February 2020 at 04:11 pm.

Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of pizza or savor it all for yourself?

It depends on the pizza. If it is a Pizza Hawaii, then you can have it.



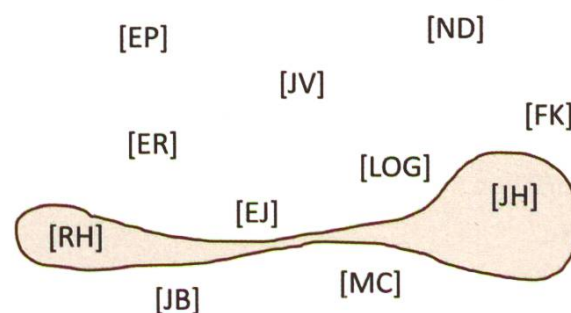
Roman Hoffmann
LUK - President

In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a classic look or a bold style that splits opinions?**And why does Nora choose the latter?**

A classic look is better, as one could make many mistakes with a bold style. There is an easy solution to the second question: ask Nora.

Based on what criteria would you split the VIS-Board?

I split the board by their family names.



Who are you?

Melina without M, VeBiS Vorstand 2 letters removed. A spy. oh wait fu...

What's your job at VIS?

Reading and typing, fast. And sharing with people that they can earn money. But mostly it all boils down to helping other people out.

If your job has anything to do with HoPo:**What's your justification for being here?**

With utmost delight I announce that I don't have anything to do with this question.

How do you manage to split your time between being on the board, studying (and having fun , if applicable)?

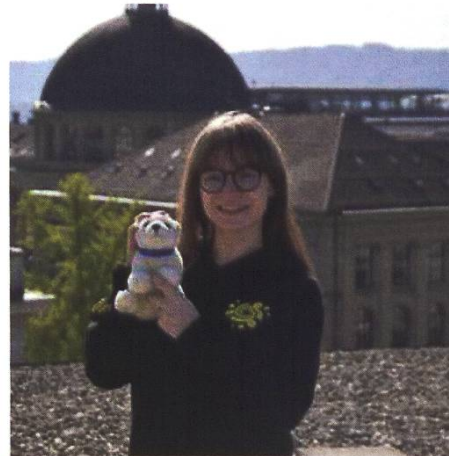
Through tears, pain and deeply rooted masochism... and realizing that everyone around me is, to some degree, the same. Honestly, studying has been a very low-down priority to me for a couple semesters now and I still haven't failed any exams, so I'm doing fine! I love filling up my time to the brim with stuff to do, so that I don't have to listen to the voices in my head.

Who/What would you currently like to split from:

- iGEM

Describe a time when a split-second decision changed everything for you.

I'd give it away because I probably already devoured a half of that pizza already.



Elina Jansone
Actuary

Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of pizza or savor it all for yourself?

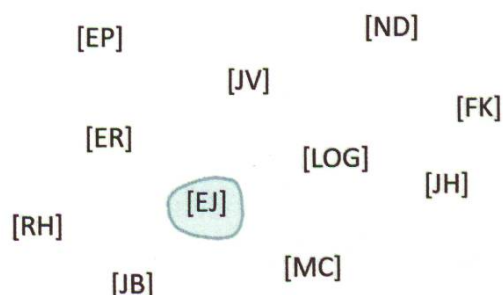
If there's pizza, I'll eat it. I can deal with the consequences later.

In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a classic look or a bold style that splits opinions? And why does Nora choose the latter?

Well, whatever she's wearing looks pretty comfy. But would you really call that "bold"? Have you seen me wearing cosplay to lectures yet? Honestly, certain trends seem to be jumped on so often that wearing classic makes you stand out much more.

Based on what criteria would you split the VIS-Board?

Their study program.



Who are you?

I'm Elias, the forever Bachelor Student.

What's your job at VIS?

I'm head of External Relations, the second Mailwriter EFZ on this board. I'm supposed to make sure the fun events have sponsors and that the sponsored company events are fun.

**If your job has anything to do with HoPo:
What's your justification for being here?**

Who needs politics, when you're getting bribed in pizza?

**How do you manage to split your time between
being on the board, studying (and having fun ,
if applicable)?**

There's always a way to sneak a mail into {{
.\$FunActivity }}

**Who/What would you currently like to split
from:**

- Some old pair of jeans
- The need to write mails to people who'll never reply

**Describe a time when a split-second decision
changed everything for you.**

Not really changing everything but trying to catch a falling knife is kinda dumb.

**Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of
pizza or savor it all for yourself?**

Usually there's no pizza left at the end of my events, so I'll savor that last slice without any shame, if I get my hands on it.



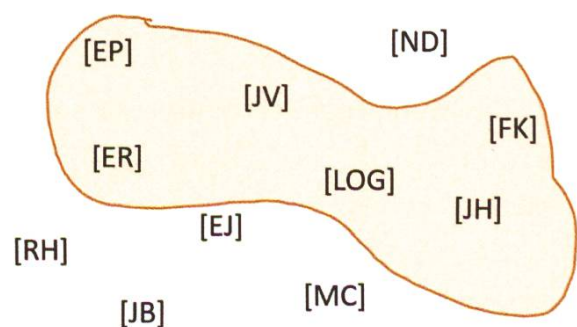
Elias Ruff
ERK - President

**In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a
classic look or a bold style that splits opinions?
And why does Nora choose the latter?**

In the world of fashion it is better to boldly go where no one has gone before, if you want to make a name for yourself. I congratulate Nora on being the oVIS Mom.

**Based on what criteria would you split the
VIS-Board?**

Does/Does not look like they might enjoy British Bulldog.



Who are you?

Joël

What's your job at VIS?

I'm the treasurer which means I handle everything money related. When I am not juggling with numbers, I organize the Snowdayz.

If your job has anything to do with HoPo:

What's your justification for being here?

I pay their bills.

How do you manage to split your time between being on the board, studying (and having fun , if applicable)?

Currently not at all.

Who/What would you currently like to split from:

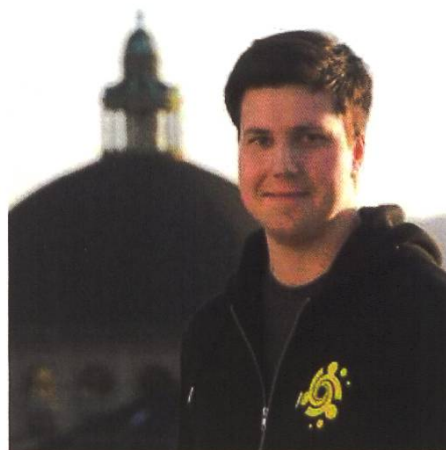
- Huge piles of expense invoices

Describe a time when a split-second decision changed everything for you.

When asked to coordinate the camp kitchen organization, I accepted, leading to two incredibly demanding weeks. However, this experience ultimately led to my involvement in FKK and eventually becoming a board member.

Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of pizza or savor it all for yourself?

Savor it for myself.



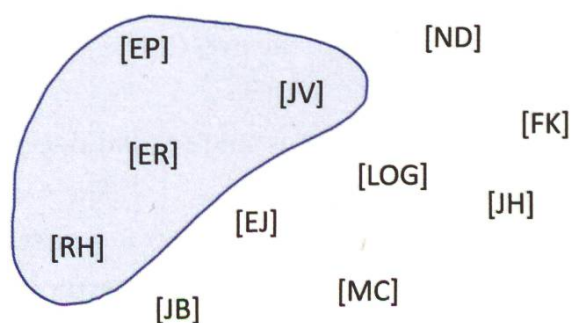
Joël Vögtlin
Treasurer

In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a classic look or a bold style that splits opinions? And why does Nora choose the latter?

The classic look, since I prefer to blend in. Since she'd rather have people questioning her fashion choices than her work.

Based on what criteria would you split the VIS-Board?

Attendance Snowdayz 2023.



Who are you?

My name is Jonas Blank, one out of two (2) Jonas Blanks at ETH currently.

What's your job at VIS?

I am in charge of Communication, meaning I will be managing the VIS website, social media accounts, and I am in charge of VIS merchandise!

**If your job has anything to do with HoPo:
What's your justification for being here?**

HopO has a very imPortant functiOn in Both vis and vseth in generAl anD we shouLd nOt make fun of their heLp.

**How do you manage to split your time between
being on the board, studying (and having fun ,
if applicable)?**

I doomscroll for 8h a day, am on the board for 8h, sleep for 8h and study for... wait...

**Who/What would you currently like to split
from:**

- Certain plushies in the oVIS (Blåhaj)

**Describe a time when a split-second decision
changed everything for you.**

Signing up for my Master gave me a scare because I forgot to request my Bachelor diploma and thought that all my credits were suddenly gone.

**Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of
pizza or savor it all for yourself?**

I would split it in half n times, for $n \rightarrow \infty$. That way, everyone can have a slice.



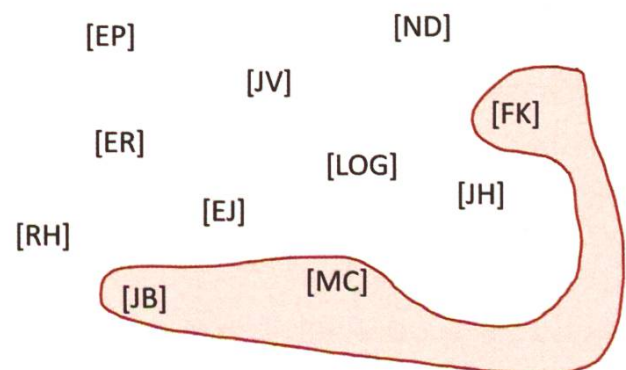
Jonas Blank
Communication

**In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a
classic look or a bold style that splits opinions?
And why does Nora choose the latter?**

I'm more of a classic look guy, not everyone can pull off crazy fits.

**Based on what criteria would you split the
VIS-Board?**

Based on skill-level of playing Rageage.



Who are you?

Schack Hoffmann

What's your job at VIS?

Keeping servers healthy by feeding them updates, putting them to sleep every now and then, and handing out permissions to anyone. Blaming other people for misconfiguring clusters.

If your job has anything to do with HoPo:**What's your justification for being here?**

HoPo can be used for testing permission management as they are low priority. They are a feature, not a bug!

How do you manage to split your time between being on the board, studying (and having fun , if applicable)?

Calendar:

1. enter events, meetings, freetime & co.
2. blindly follow the mess that this produces.
3. Ignore lectures.

Who/What would you currently like to split from:

- ETH
- Some of these questions

Describe a time when a split-second decision changed everything for you.

Was convinced by some person to perform "minor" updates... As sysadmin, not a single day has passed where the VIS IT was fully working.



Jacques Hoffmann
CIT-President

Are you the type to evenly split the last slice of pizza or savor it all for yourself?

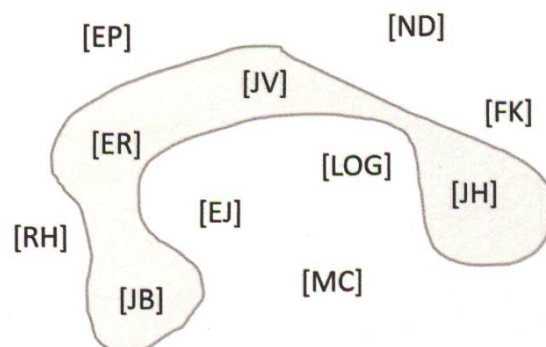
Who splits a slice of pizza? Toss a coin, have a stare-off or literally anything else.

In the world of fashion, is it better to go for a classic look or a bold style that splits opinions? And why does Nora choose the latter?

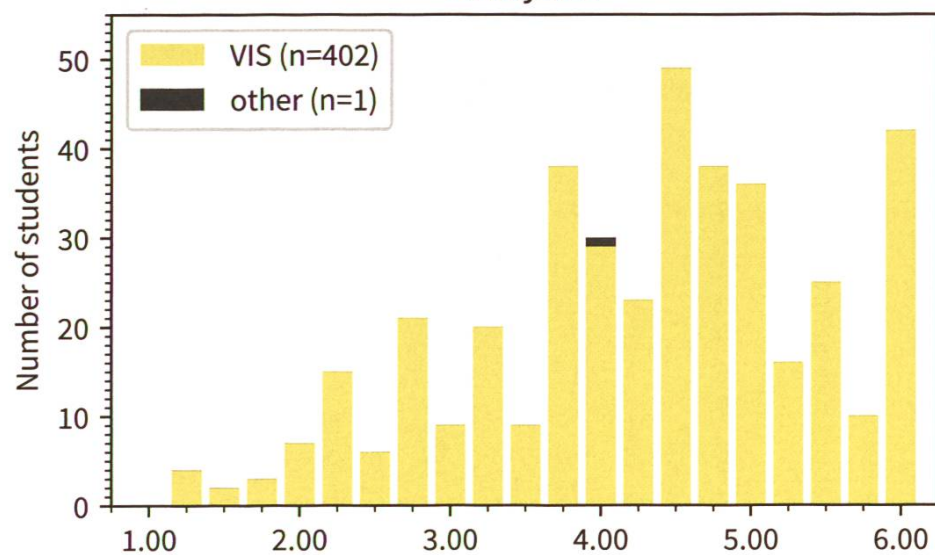
Is this about Birkenstocks? Does it always have to be about Birkenstocks?

Based on what criteria would you split the VIS-Board?

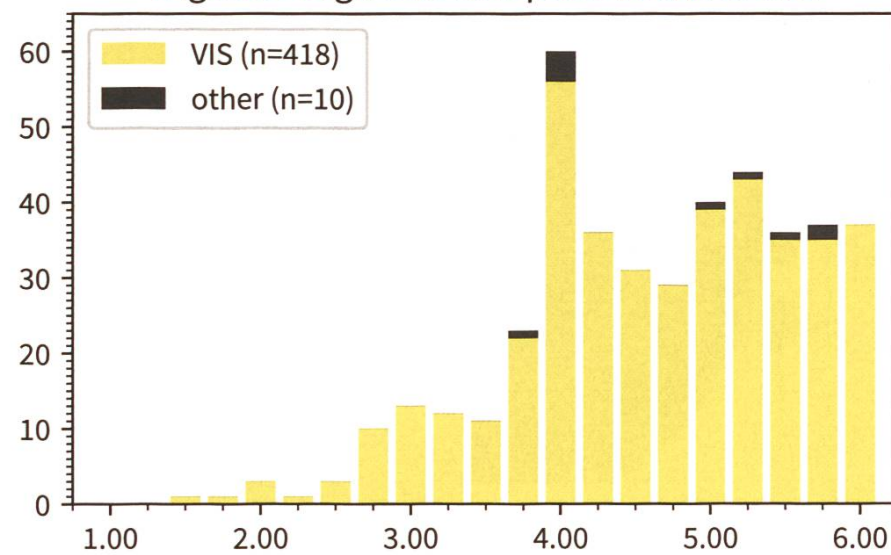
People with severe lack of creativity and unable to finish this questionnaire in time.



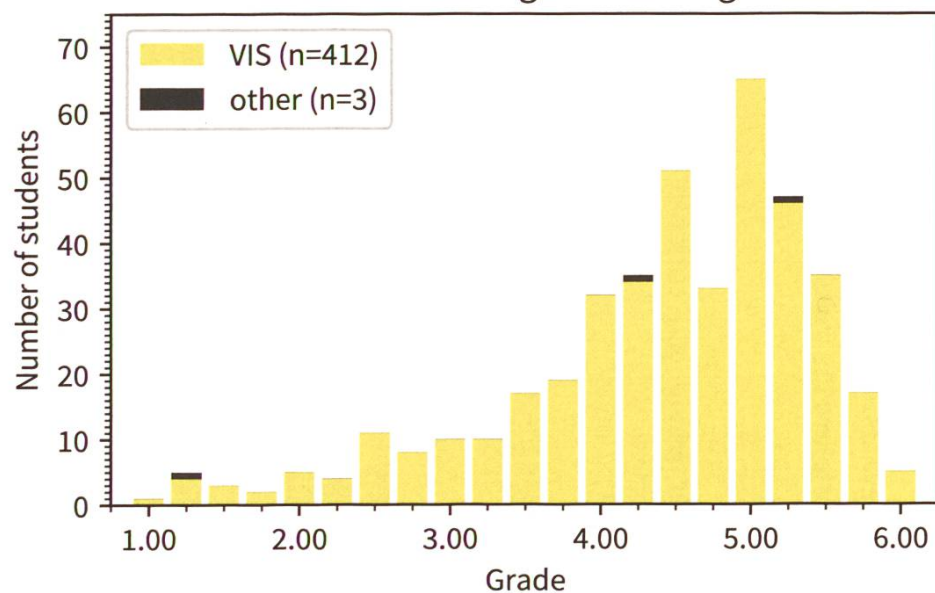
Analysis I



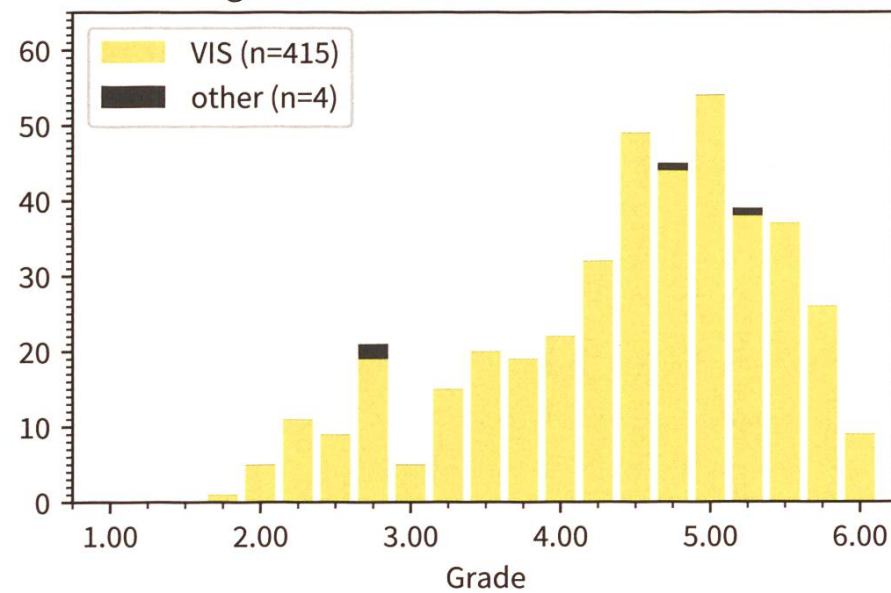
Digital Design and Computer Architecture



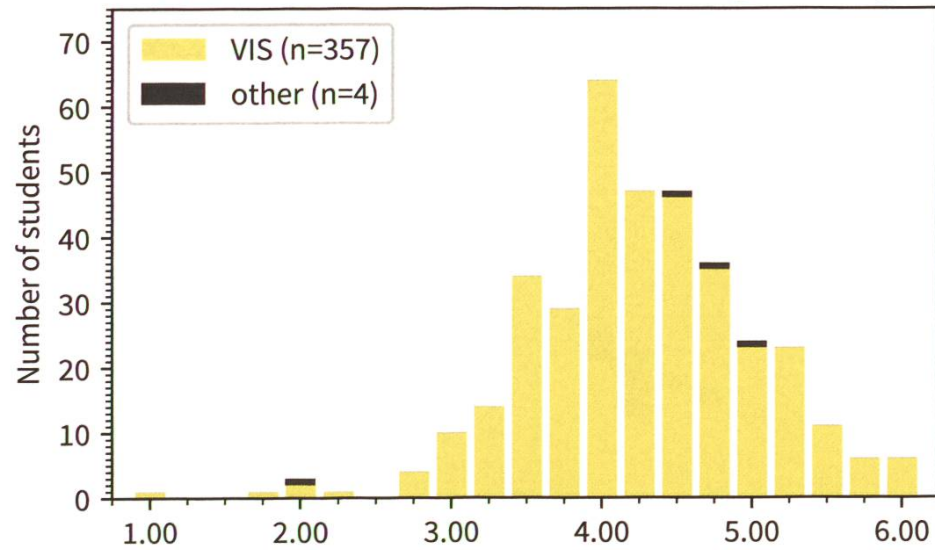
Parallele Programmierung



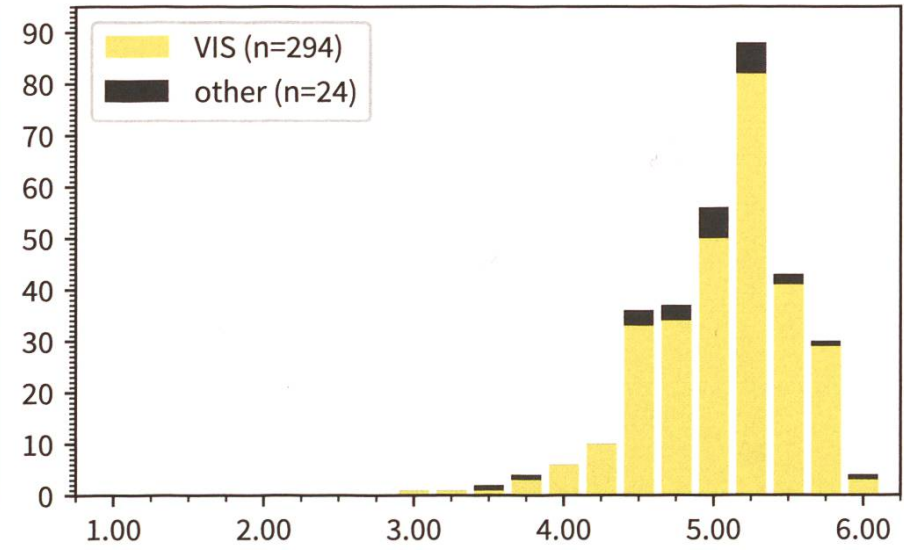
Algorithmen und Wahrscheinlichkeit



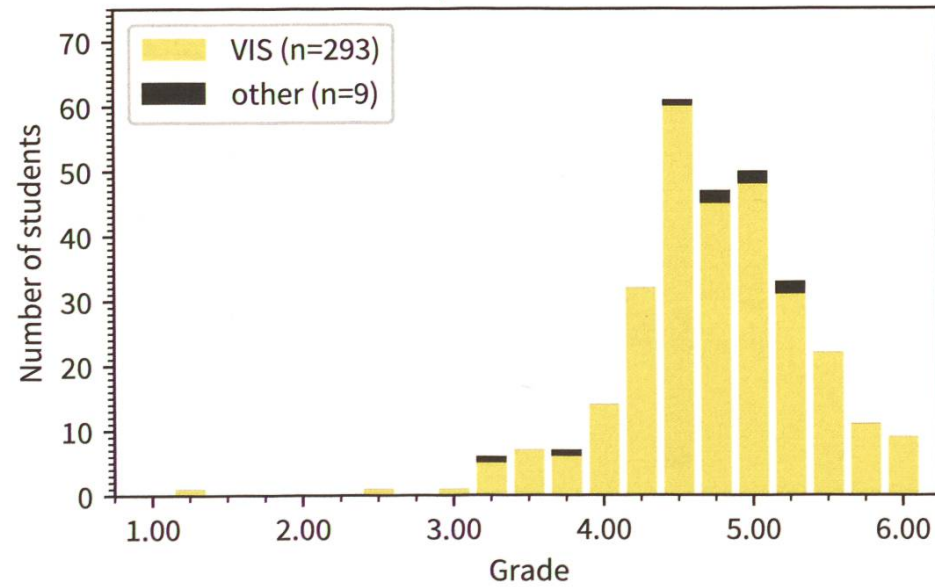
Formal Methods and Functional Programming



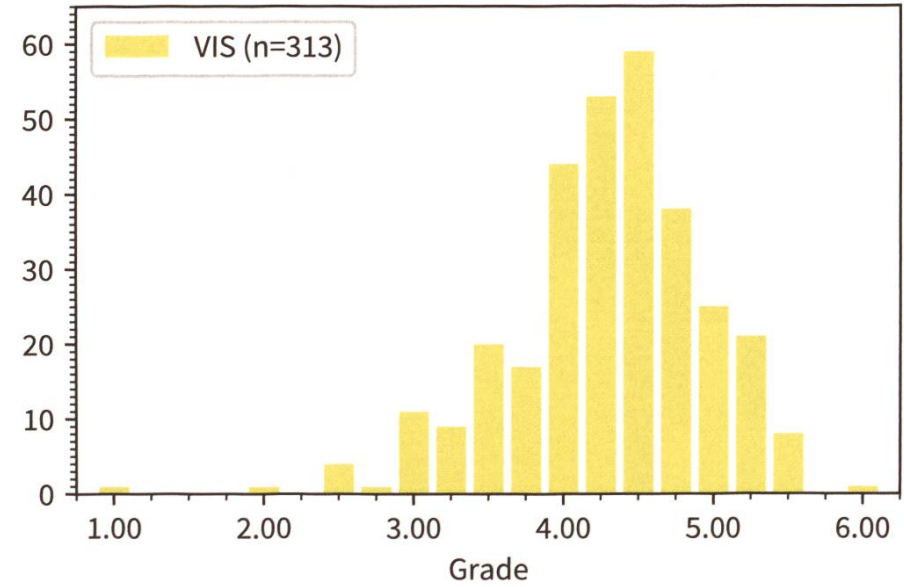
Data Modelling and Databases



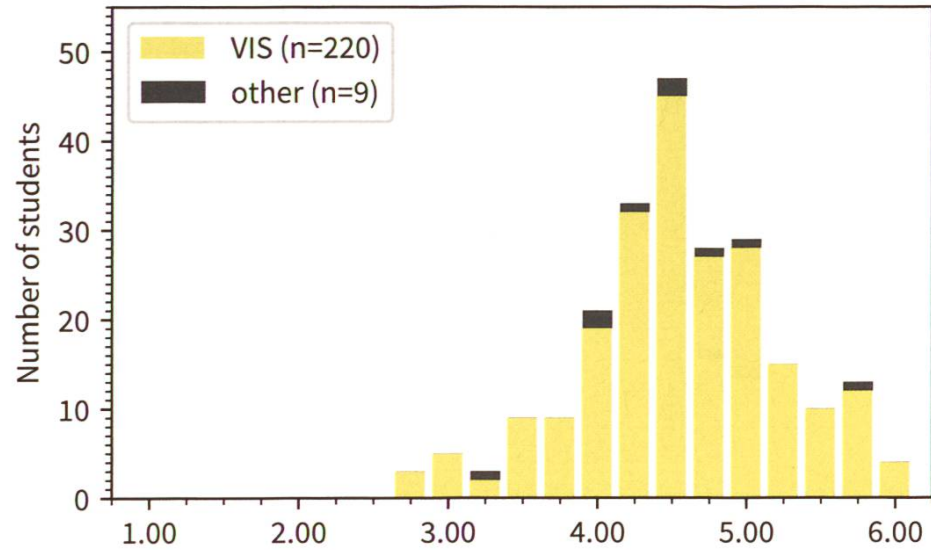
Computer Networks



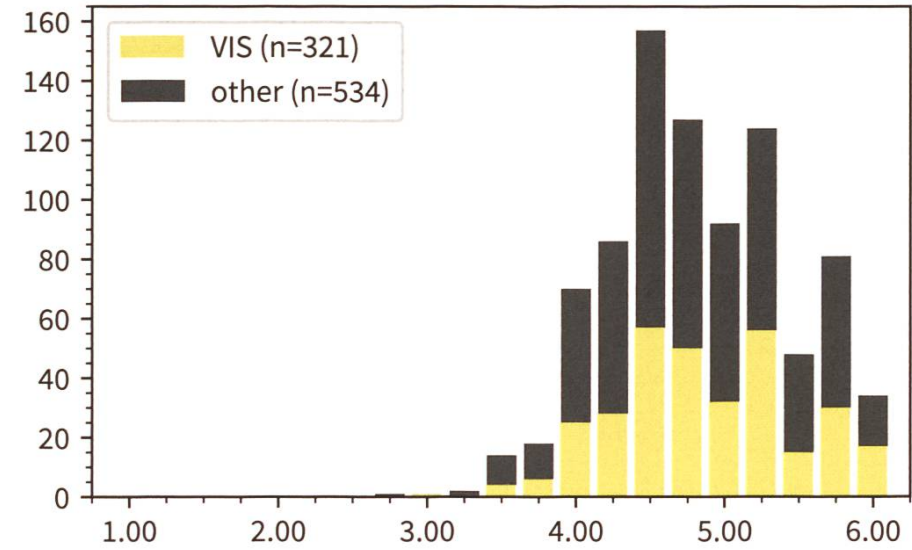
Wahrscheinlichkeit und Statistik



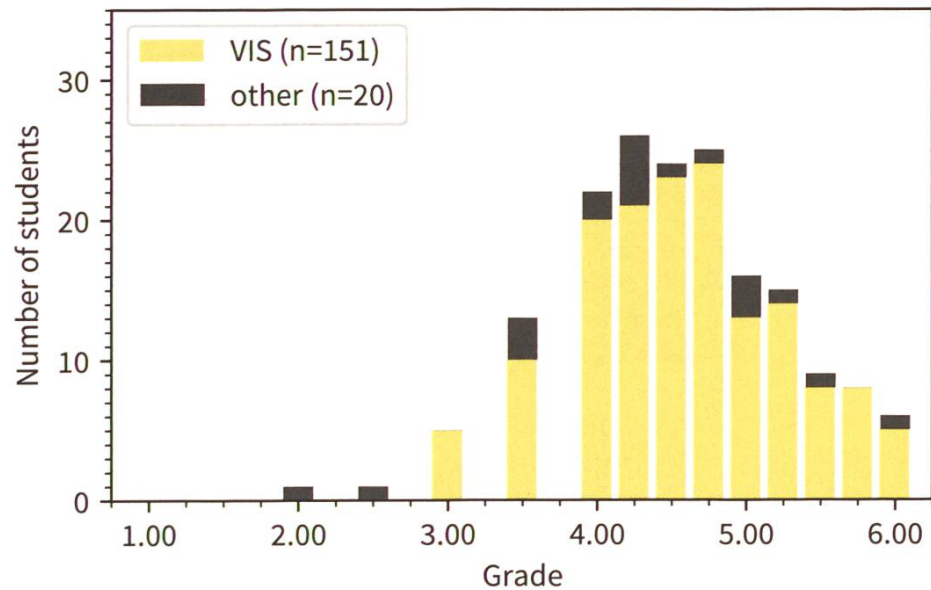
Rigorous Software Engineering



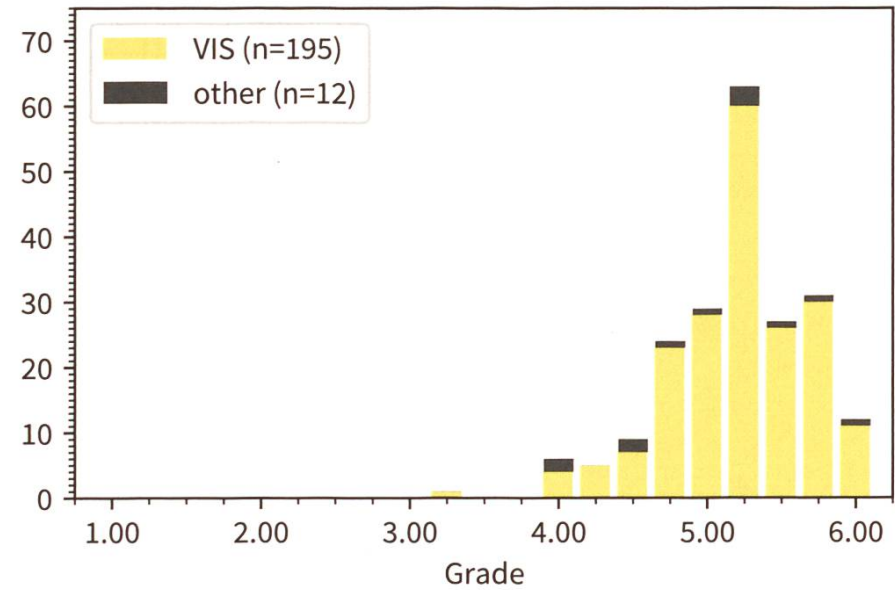
Introduction to Machine Learning



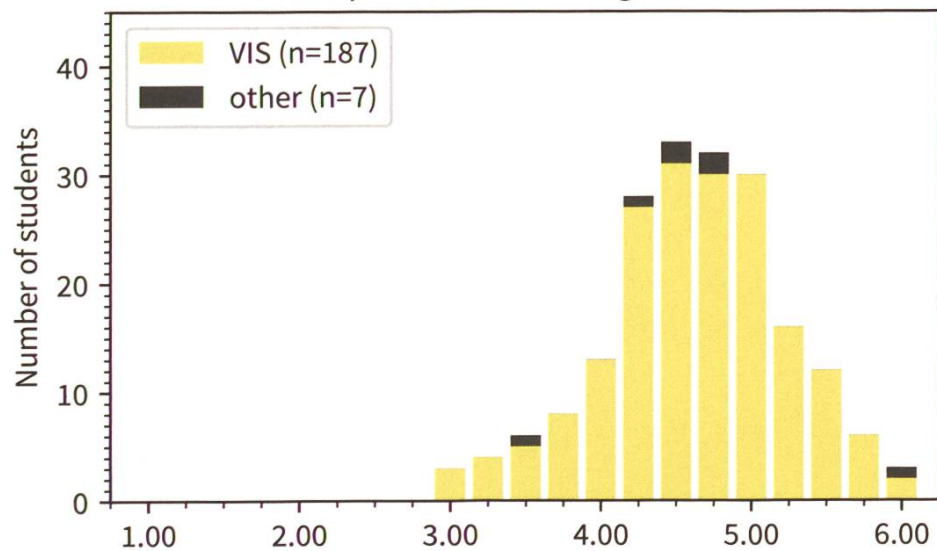
Information Security



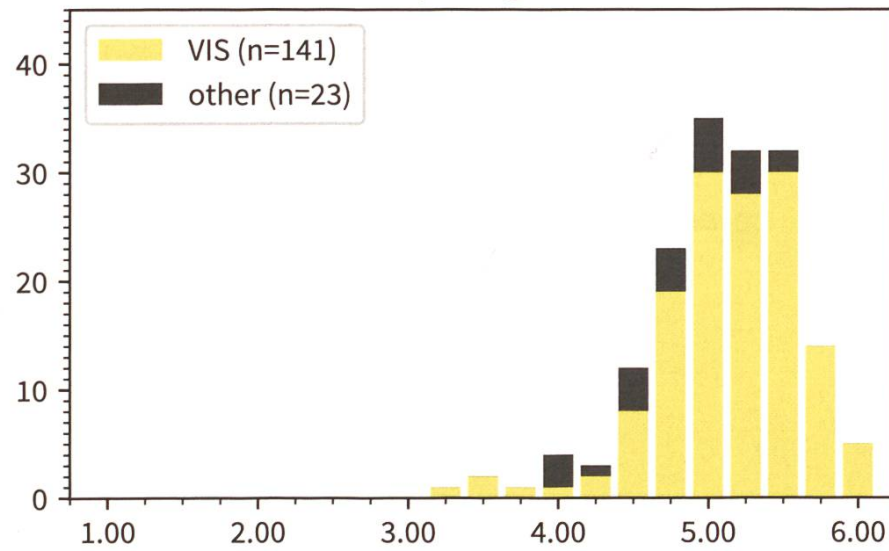
Advanced Systems Lab



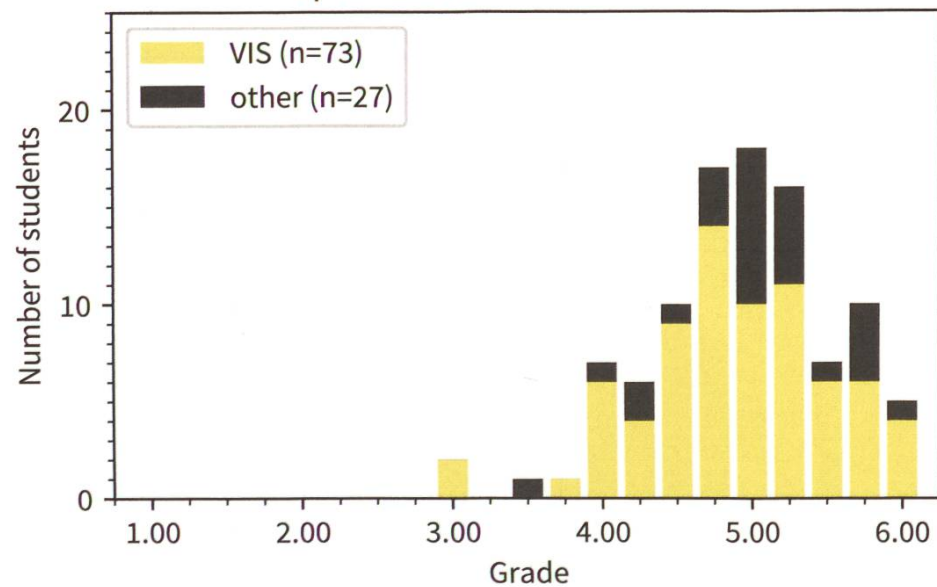
Computational Intelligence Lab



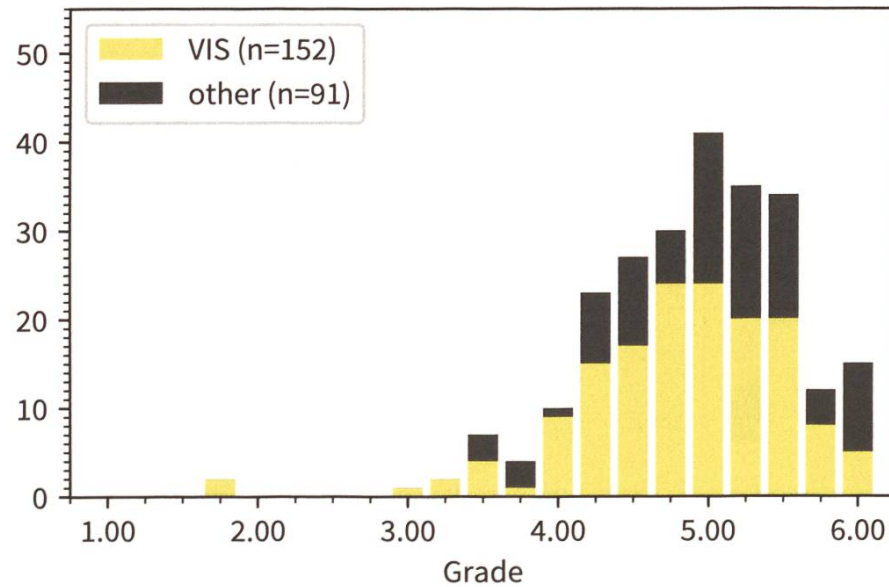
Cloud Computing Architecture



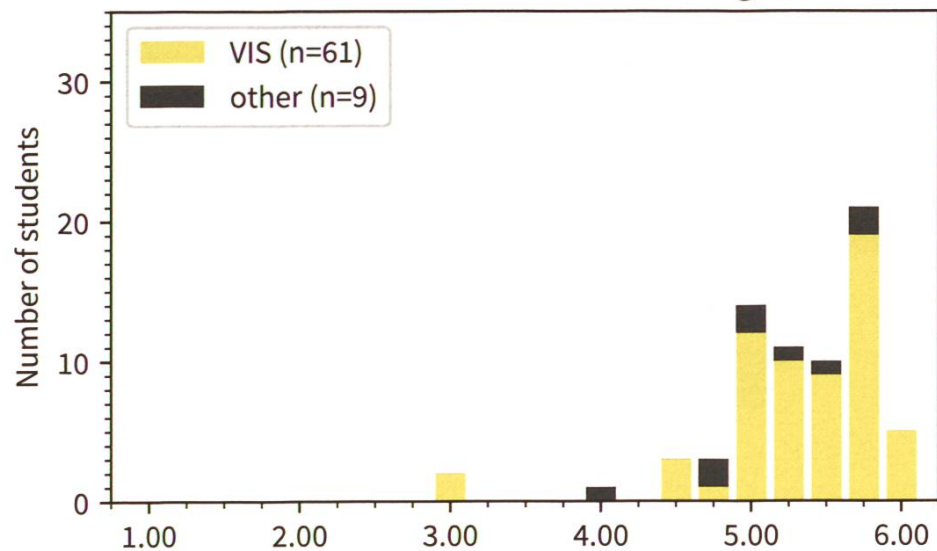
Optimization for Data Science



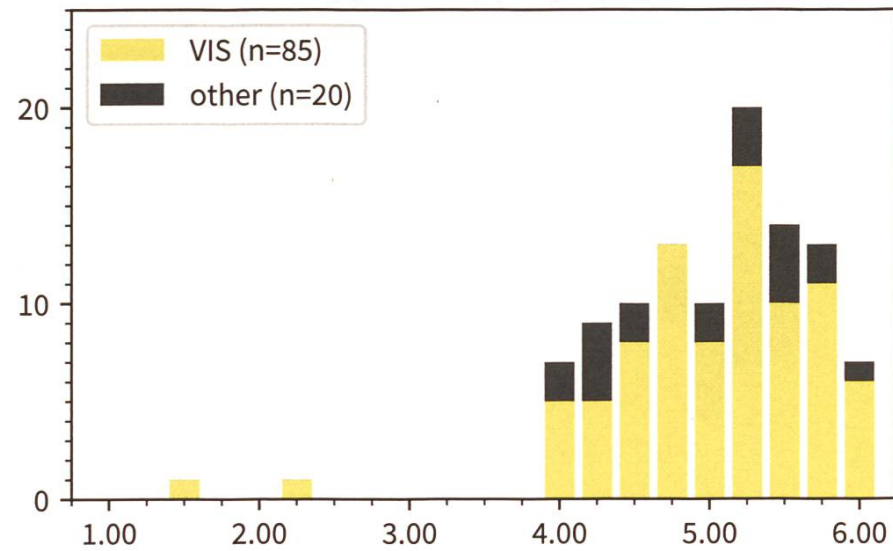
Machine Perception



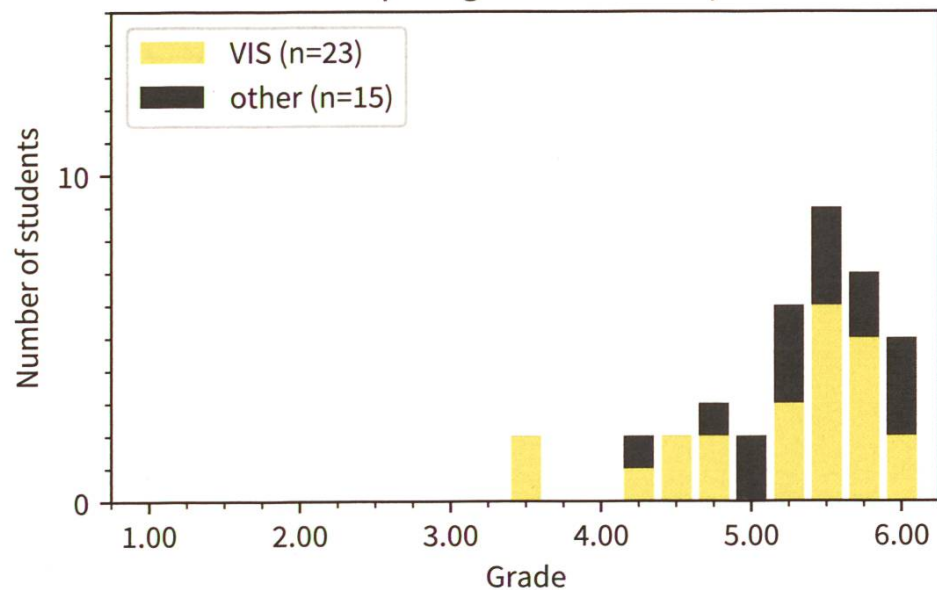
Automated Software Testing



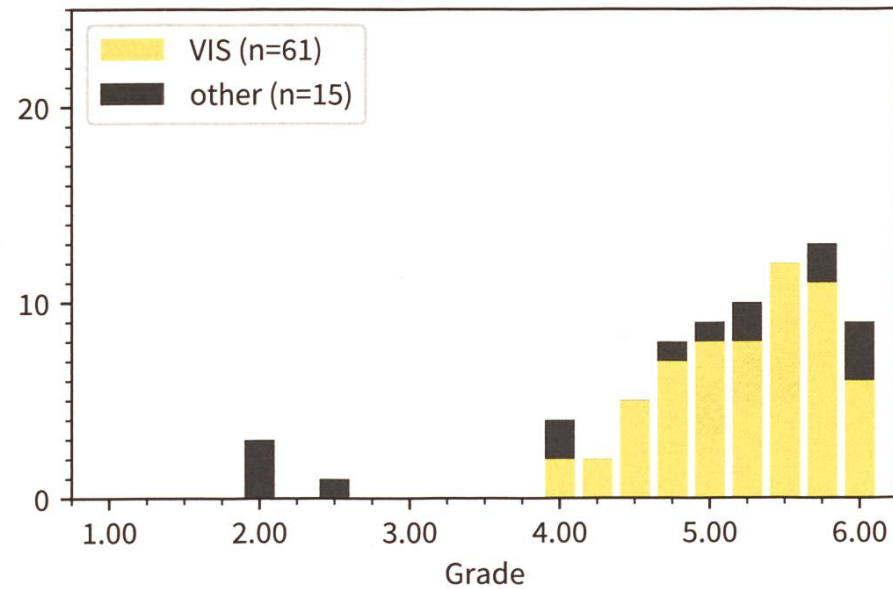
Applied Cryptography



Advanced Graph Algorithms and Optimization



Shape Modeling and Geometry Processing



Friday 22.9.2023, 13:45, 80 dewy-eyed Erstis arrive at Zürich HB, having just gone through their first week of ETH comprised of mostly administrative and motivational lectures. They don't know yet that it's all downhill from there. However, that is an article for another time. Those Erstis are motivated and raring to go. The organizers arrive with a slight delay of course but they got drinks with them. The ESW is ready to begin.

ESW Retrospective

FLORENCE - WAS THERE

The ESW (Erstsemestrigen Weekend) is traditionally the first event that many computer science students go to. VIS has organized this event since 2016 to help connect Erstis with their peers. This has proven very helpful for them, since getting to know new people at ETH can be daunting, especially if you're the only person from your High School or might be from another country entirely.

From Friday to Sunday, we spent time together in the beautiful Toggenburg. That time of course was not all leisure. No, the Erstis had some challenges to fulfill and talks to listen to. Friday evening a Tichu/Chess/Jass tournament was held to fire up the competitive spirits and get the people to form little groups. Saturday afternoon the professors were slated to arrive but uh-oh someone had stolen Björn from our midst.





The Erstis couldn't let this stand and through a series of puzzles and challenges they found the coordinates to get our beloved Björn back. Life would be so hard without bears. Then, on Saturday afternoon we welcomed three professors who gave us insights into research, education, and their life. The students had an opportunity to directly ask questions to their lecturers and also to some of the helpers who brought a student perspective into this enlightening afternoon. Another evening of fun followed, featuring a spontaneous basement rave.

The weekend concluded on Sunday after cleaning up. However, an imposter was amongst our midst. One of the helpers does not study computer science at all, but they intruded on our weekend to spy on our planning and execution. Only a scant few of the 80 Erstis found out which helper was the imposter and along

with the winners of the various tournaments and the group who found Björn, they earned a small prize. After that eventful weekend we made to travel back to Zürich HB, where we coincidentally met the Computer Science Master Welcome Weekend group organized by the VIS MoEB committee. The Master students who freshly started ETH of course also get a chance at an ESW and connect with their peers.

All in all, personally, I think the weekend was a great success. I saw some of the groups that formed at ESW again at the VIS ESF and also just hanging around. Some of those motivated Erstis joined VIS committees, which is always great to see and who knows, most probably there is even a future board member among them. Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to the kitchen helpers. Without you we would have gone hungry for 3 days. Y'all are amazing.





Have you ever accessed a VIS site like the community solutions and had something break? Maybe you clicked a button and just nothing happened or you visited the site and there was no CSS so it looked like a web-1 website with very wrong formatting

Breaking apart why VIS applications fail

MARK - LIKES TO BREAK STUFF, BUT ONCE IN A WHILE HAS TO GIVE A QUICK EXPLANATION OF WHY.

A big reason for this is due to the concept of microservices. On the IT level of VIS when working on a project we develop on a lot of different smaller programs at the same time. In the example of the community solutions, there are already numerous noteworthy services all working individually, but every one of them is required for the whole website to fully function.

The main service that you get to see is a program whose sole responsibility is to give out a bundle of HTML, CSS & JS to anyone that visits the website. This is what we call the **frontend** service.

The second service, which is equally important but not directly visible, is the **backend**. It handles all the operations you, the user, shouldn't be seeing or having to think about. This includes operations like checking what exams exist on the site and are visible to you, how many upvotes a certain answer has, and whether you have upvoted an answer or not. Fun fact, if you open your network tab in the browser and visit community solutions you can see all the communication that takes place between the frontend and backend. Some of our websites, like the VIS homepage, need to communicate with the backend of the Eventmanager, the tool used to manage events. This is all done in the background but all easily possible, because of the split-up structure of the services.

Now, if one of these services goes down or the connection between them breaks, a lot of the site becomes unusable. So why even split up all these services and not just bundle everything into a single block like Amazon and Netflix used to do in these so-called monolithic architectures? The reason is that the positives greatly outweigh the negative aspects for an infrastructure like the one at VIS where there are a lot of services that depend on each other.

In the concept of microservices, all services are split apart to only fulfill a single role. This becomes extremely helpful when you have a lot of different projects that require some parts of another site. For example, most websites require the authentication and login service, so instead of having to bake in all the authentication functions into each website, you can just reroute all the authentication requests to the one authentication service. If the authentication is getting overrun with requests and is becoming slow, the amount of instances that are running can then be scaled up without affecting all the other running websites. This allows for very fine control of how many resources each microservice takes up.



ANZEIGE



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Daniela, Software Engineer

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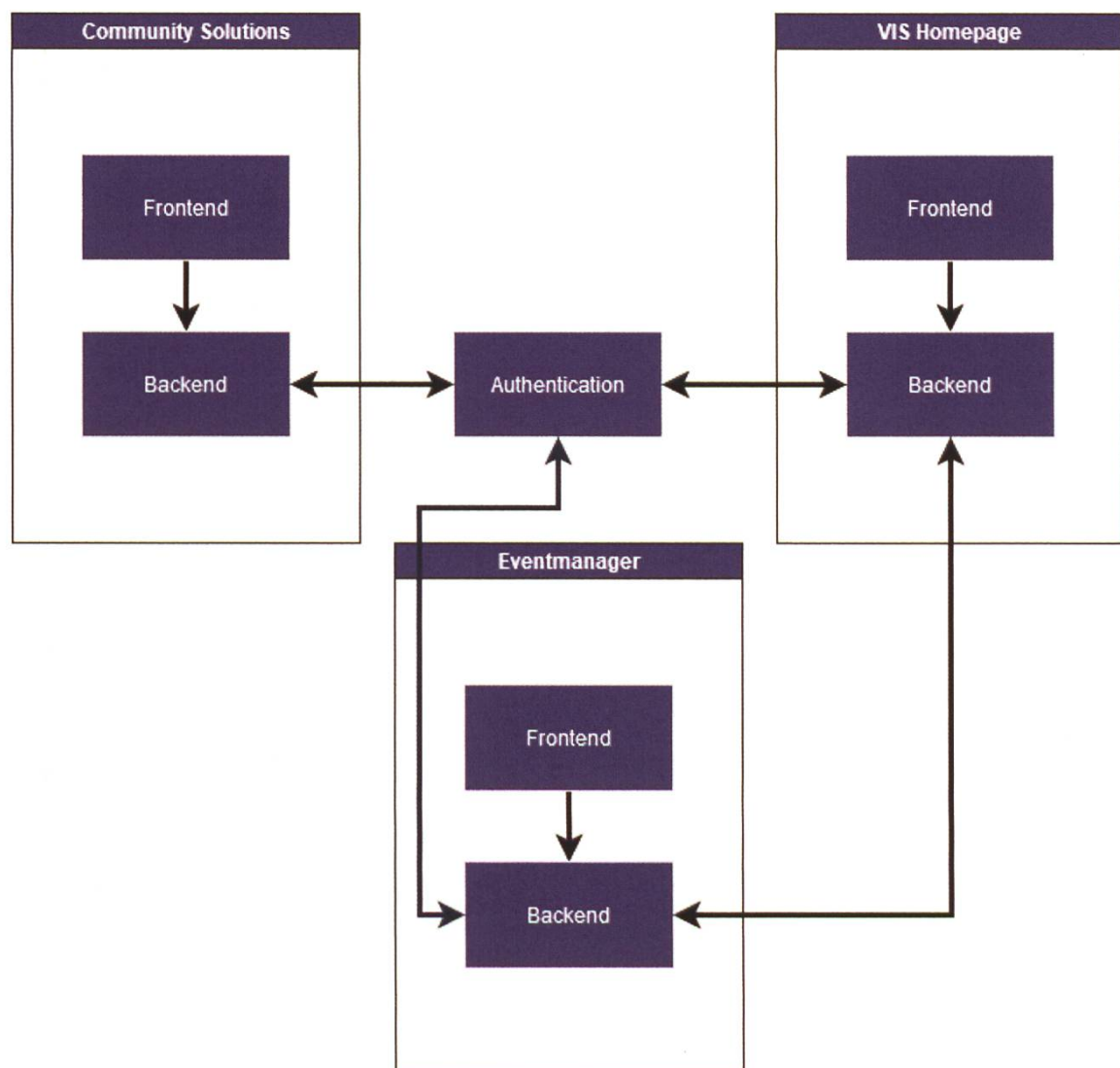
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The split up architecture allows for different websites and services to easily access other services. You can have services running on the server cluster which you only want to be accessible from inside the cluster itself. Having all the services split up you can access any other public or private service as long as it's colocated in the same cluster.

These are now just two reasons why microservices are cool, but also why they result in the VIS sites sometimes breaking halfway. Of course this article is very vague and high-level. If you want to learn more about how all these services work in-depth, head on over to the CAT and CIT committees to learn more and hack on them.



Have you ever tried to change something in your life? That can be challenging, especially if the change is large. The divide and conquer method is something really powerful you can apply to gradually change your life.

Divide and conquer your life

JOHAN STETTLER - OLD "WISE" GUY

Most people take good care of their body. They eat healthy, they do sports and I know many people going to physical therapy, if they are injured. Especially physical therapy is important, because certain injuries evolve to more severe stuff, if not treated. It is therefore more shocking to me that not many people I know take care of their mental health similarly. In my opinion, everyone should have a check-in with a psychologist as much as they go to physical therapy, to prevent smaller mental health issues from becoming more severe. Going to therapy is often stigmatized as a last resort option, but it should not be. But I am not here to talk about this, I am certainly not an expert in this domain. I want to share a personal approach on going through life, which has a positive impact on my happiness overall. Maybe you can take something away from this article.

My inspiration comes from Agile¹, a concept from software engineering. As you develop the software, you, or the client, become more aware of the possibilities of the application, hence the requirements change frequently. When you have a general direction of what the end product should be, define the next bigger step you want to take towards this end goal and finally, divide the step into more manageable subtasks. After a fixed amount of time (3 weeks is what my company does) you assess the situation. What tasks were achieved, which ones were not done, and which ones were dropped. With all this new information, the team learns more about the application and the real end goal, which was not really known at the beginning. This Agile approach enables you to stay adaptable, making it possible to deviate from original plans. The cycle then begins anew with the now more suitable end goal in mind. This was super badly explained by somebody with little to no experience in this work philosophy.



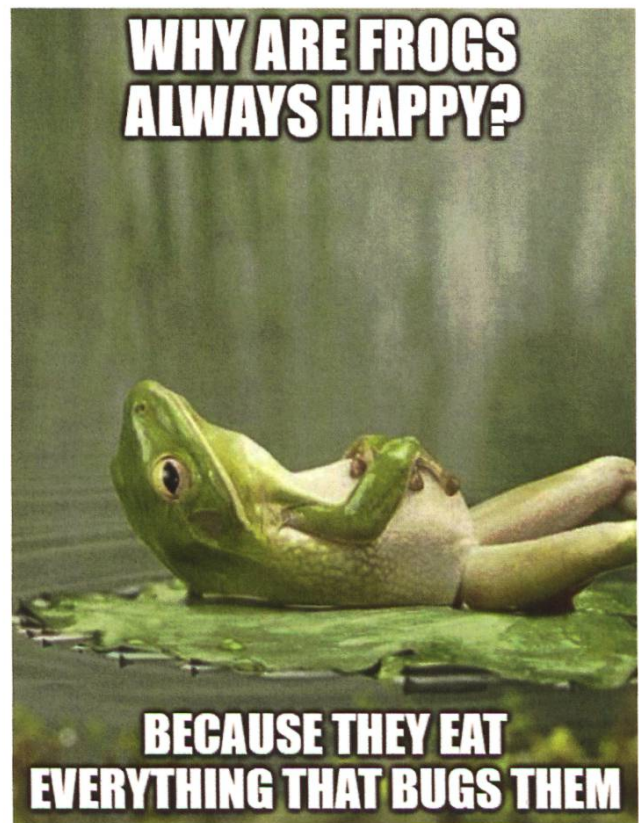
I structure my life around pursuing happiness using this concept. Periodically, about once every month, I take some time to ask myself the challenging question: "Am I happy?" Complete honesty with oneself is crucial here, and it's not always easy. If I find that I'm not genuinely happy, it signals a need for a change in my life's direction. For example, I realized that I wasn't happy studying math, although it was the one thing I liked the most in high school. And now I have a bachelor's degree in CS.

At times, I've also recognized when I wasn't feeling my best due to a lack of physical activity. In response, I set a general goal to be more active over the next year and created specific tasks like "Browse ASVZ" and "Select one Course." This led me to try volleyball in 2019, which I enjoyed for a full year. I lost interest over time, because change happens all the time. But I still required something that makes me happy and somehow ended up being a PapperlaPub board member, hosting a bar.

[1] https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agile_Softwareentwicklung

It's essential to regularly question whether you're on the right path in life and also surrounded by the right people. This will change over time, because you change as a person and so do the people around you. Once you identify a new overall goal, break it down into further steps. Then divide the first step into manageable subtasks. After a while, evaluate your progress. Schedule a time slot for this. Importantly, don't **ever** feel bad about tasks left undone; it's normal and also helps you understand your desires better.

This works for me. It does not mean that this will work for anyone else, but maybe it gives you an idea. Take care of yourself, and never neglect your mental health.



So on 21.7.2023, both Barbie and Oppenheimer dropped in cinemas and the internet went wild. Well, it went wild a long time before that, basically since those movies were announced. Everyone saw the memes of people wanting to dress up all dark for Oppenheimer and then changing to bright pink for Barbie. The two movies became unmistakably linked in the common consciousness of the internet. And thus Barbenheimer/Oppenbarbie was born. It is generally known as Barbenheimer, but I have heard Oppenbarbie on rare occasions

Barbenheimer vs. Oppenbarbie

SHORT MUSINGS ON THE BEST MOVIE AND FANDOM BY
FLORENCE

But which name for this phenomenon is more correct? Language is a social construct so what the people say counts, but maybe there is a more funded explanation.

A first approach might be to say the better movie gets the first spot in the portmanteau. However, this leads to a bigger problem. Which is the better movie? Answering this question objectively is not possible in my opinion. There's too many metrics to consider. Are we looking at the script, at the cinematography, or at the box office? Are we looking at public opinion, what movie people could connect more to and take more from? The movies are hard to compare because they're so different, so it feels ingenuine trying to do it on a more subjective metric like box office.

Both movies are important to different people in different ways, and both are not without flaws. There has been a lot of discourse on the internet about the Plastic Feminism of Barbie and some of the questionable writing choices in Oppenheimer. Trying to find the objectively better movie is a Sisyphean task.

Alternatively, in eastern fandoms, it is understood that the first part of a ship's name is the top of the relationships. If we analyse Barbenheimer/Oppenbarbie through this lens, then Barbenheimer is obviously the right choice. I could argue if Barbie the character would top Oppenheimer the character, but I won't. I do not want to deal with the consequences.



I'm going to argue which movie was more important in building the Barbenheimer/Oppenbarbie phenomenon. Before the concept of the double feature was brought into existence by the release dates, hype for Oppenheimer was... lackluster. Of course, in movie buff circles Oppenheimer was the movie to watch in summer, but the wider general audience was not that excited about it, whereas Barbie was hype from the start. The bright neon spandex on rollerblades made waves online when the teaser dropped and since then the conversation has never really stopped. You were either excited for it or you hated it, no middle ground. Oppenheimer profited a lot through the Barbenheimer/Oppenbarbie memes and the connection to Barbie. Of course, Barbie also profited from these memes, but it would have been a widely watched movie either way. I can't say the same about Oppenheimer.

As it stands, Barbenheimer is the name that the people choose. Why they coined that term, I can't say. Maybe they just sorted lexicographically.



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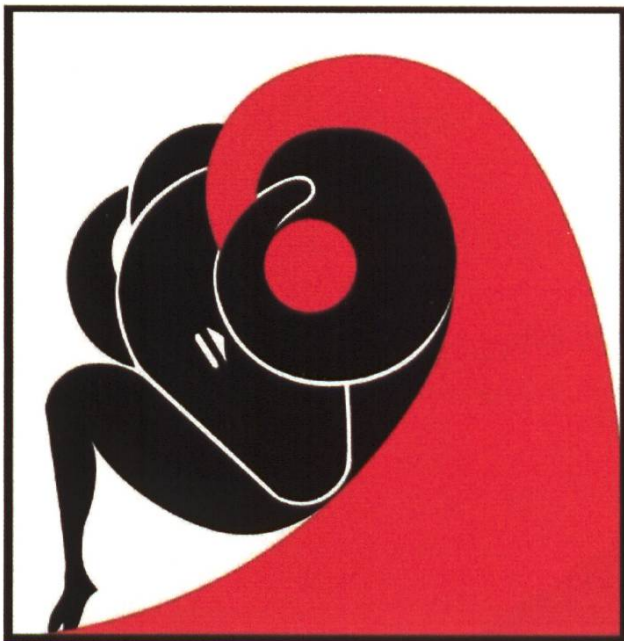
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Wir befinden uns im Jahre 1962 n. Chr. Das ganze Jura ist von den Bernern besetzt... das ganze Jura? Nein! Eine von unbeugsamen Jurassiern zusammengesetzte Gruppe hört nicht auf, dem Eindringling Widerstand zu leisten. Und das Leben ist nicht leicht für die Berner Politiker, die als Besatzung in den befestigten Lagern Délémont, Porrentruy, Moutier und Bern liegen...

Die Abspaltung des Juras – Astérix gegen die Berner

BENJAMIN GRUZMAN – HAT AUCH SCHON ÖFTERS DARAN GEDACHT, AUF JURA ZU WECHSELN



LE GROUPE BÉLIER

Oder so ähnlich könnte man eine Erzählung der Geschichte der Unabhängigkeitsbewegung der Gruppe der Béliers anfangen. 1962 gegründet, haben sie ihren legendären Teil der Jurafrage gespielt, in dem sie 60 Jahre lang verschiedenste Aktionen in der Schweiz durchgeführt haben, die man am besten als politische Shitposts bezeichnen kann.

Dieser Artikel wird keine objektive Beschreibung der politisch-geschichtlichen Hintergründe der Abspaltung des Kantons Jura von Bern sein, sondern die absolut witzigen Pranks der Béliers erzählen.

Pool's closed – Bern Edition

Besonders die Stadt Bern wurde öfters Opfer des jurassischen Humors. Als Hauptstadt des Feindes wurden alle Institutionen in Mitleidenschaft gezogen.

1971 nehmen junge Aktivisten das Berner Rathaus mit Jura-Flaggen und einem Plakat «Rathaus = maison close¹» im Sturm ein und mauern mir-nichts-dir-nichts die zwei Eingänge zu.

Sehr ironisch ist, dass das Haus, hinter dessen Mauern die Entscheidungen getroffen werden, welche die Jurassier unterdrücken, sich dann selber hinter Mauern befindet. Wie wohl die Ratsmitglieder am nächsten Morgen darauf reagiert haben, die Tür verziegelt wiederzufinden?

1972 greifen die Béliers sogar das Herzstück der Schweiz an: den ÖV. Um gegen die schlechte Instandhaltung der Strassen im Jura zu protestieren, werden während der Operation «Macadam» in der Berner Altstadt die Trams von Aktivisten gestoppt und die Schienen der Spitalgassen asphaltiert.

1992 werden dann auch die Schwimmbäder der Stadt geschlossen. Nicht wegen Stingraids, sondern weil die Jurassier die Becken der Ka-We-De, Marzili und Wyler rot färbten, um gegen eine Entscheidung des Bundesgerichtes zu protestieren.

Auch der Rest des Kantons blieb nicht verschont: Als Protestaktion wurden zum Beispiel auch schon mal die Schienen der Jungfraubahn bei Lauterbrunnen gestohlen, was den Zugverkehr für ganze drei Stunden unterbrochen hat.



Die Odyssee des Unspunnensteins

Eines der grössten Symbole der Schweiz ist (nicht wirklich) der Unspunnenstein. Dieser 83,5 kg schwere Chemp (grosser Stein) wird seit der Urgeschichte (1805) auf den Schwingerfesten für das traditionelle Steinyeeten verwendet.



Unspunnenstein

1984 wird dieses Fundament Berns aus dem Touristikmuseum Interlaken von einer jurassischen Spezialeinheit entwendet. Der Stein wird offiziell als «Geisel» genommen, bis das Südjura aus der Berner Gefangenschaft entlassen und Teil des Kantons Jura wird.

Nach langen und schwierigen Investigationen schafft es ein Fotograf, das Symbol der Nation in einem Weinkeller der wallonischen Autonomiebewegung in Belgien zu lokalisieren. Leider schafft es der Held nicht, die Geisel zu befreien.

2001 wird am nationalen Pferdewettrennen in Saignelégier JU der Stein, verpackt als ein riesiger Bonbon (nicht vergessen, dass er 80 Kilo wiegt), von Unbekannten an die Frau des Schweizer Botschafters in Berlin übergeben. Der Stein war sehr verwundet: Er hat ganze zwei Kilogramm verloren und trug das Emblem der Béliers und die zwölf Sterne der EU, als auch das Datum des EU-Referendums, welches von den Welschschweizern befürwortet und von den Deutschschweizern abgelehnt wurde.

Doch die Leitung der Gruppe streitet ab, den Stein zurückgegeben zu haben und dementsprechend wird 2005 der Stein wieder aus Interlaken gestohlen. Höflicherweise wurde diesmal ein Ersatz da gelassen: Einen Pflasterstein mit dem jurassischen Wappen.



Auf der Skulpturenausstellung in Biel 2009 präsentieren die Béliers frecherweise eben diesen Stein in einem Destillierhelm einsehbar durch ein kleines Sichtloch und alles verziert mit pro-Vereinigungsinschriften.

Ikonoklasmus – Wie der Fritz seinen Kopf verloren hat

Nichts hat eine grössere Symbolik als Symbole. Eines der Grössten im Schweizerlande ist die Wache von Les Rangiers nahe der französischen Grenze im Jura. Erbaut wurde die den Einheimischen als «Le Fritz» bekannte Statue zur Ehre der Schweizer Truppen des Ersten Weltkrieges, die den Einfall der kämpfenden Armeen in die Schweiz verhindert haben. Doch schnell wurde er zum Symbol der Berner Herrschaft über die Region.



Le Fritz

1984 wurde der Soldat zum ersten Mal gestürzt und erst nach einem Monat stand er wieder aufrecht. Zwar wurden mehrere Aktivisten verhaftet, doch die Helden konnten dem Gefängnis entfliehen (bzw. wurden mangels Beweisen freigelassen...).

1989 kam es zu einem weiteren Sturz; sein Kopf wurde zusätzlich mitgenommen und der Sockel mit einem Hakenkreuz und der Inschrift «EMD² tötet» verziert. Die Überreste fielen wenig später auch noch einem Brandanschlag zum Opfer. Vor ein paar Jahren hat ein Journalist der RTS die Stürzer zu den statuenzerstörenden Taliban verglichen, und in Antwort findet man auf der Webseite der Béliers den Artikel «Adieu le Fritz»³. Recht unterhaltsam zu lesen.

Und wenn sie nicht unabhängig sind, kämpfen sie noch heute

2015 kam es, soweit ich weiss, zum neusten Shitpost der Béliers. In der Aktion «Vaud, vache, cochon, couvée» (dt: Waadt⁴, Kuh, Schwein, Brut) hingen die Jurassier eine wunderschöne Kuh an das Berner Rathaus und verschickten wohl einen der witzigsten Briefe jemals.

Ich empfehle allen, die Französisch können, das Original zu lesen⁵.

Kurzer Kontext: Im Wiener Kongress wurde dem Kanton Waadt die Unabhängigkeit gegenüber Bern gegeben, während das Jura als Ersatz dienen musste. Seither sind die Jurassier hässig auf die Waadtländer.

Für alle die im Gymi in Franz eine 2 hatten, eine kleine Zusammenfassung der geilsten Stellen: «Wenn man von einem Ei ein Poulet erwartet, und von einem Waadt⁴ Rindfleisch, gibt es vom Bären⁶ nichts anderes als einen schmerzhaften Biss»



«Für den Zweihundertsten des Wiener Kongresses will die Gruppe Béliér einen grossen Schlag machen [...] gegen das Jura tauschen wir das Waadt»

«Man sollte mehr Empathie von einer ehemaligen Berner Kolonie erwarten, aber es stimmt, dass die Berner schon immer den Waadtländer Wein liebten [...] und hatten demnach [...] nicht die gleichen grausamen Wege wie für das Jura»

«[...] es ist stark zu erwarten, dass Moutier⁷ die Rolle des Hirten spielen und die Herde⁸ zu den Weideländern des Jura bringen wird, bevölkert von Menschen weniger tierisch⁹ Heu zu essen»

«Es ist zu hoffen, dass [...] der Sohlengänger des Plateaus das lemanische Waadtland nicht zu stark missbraucht. Es wäre ja trotzdem schade, sich für immer vom Waadt⁴, Kuh, Schwein und Brut zu verabschieden wegen eines gefräßigen Bären»



[1] dt: geschlossenes Haus

[2]: Eidgenössisches Departement für Verteidigung

[3]: <http://www.groupebelier.ch/?p=920>

[4]: http://www.groupebelier.ch/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/LBI-2015-08-22_Veau_vache_cochon_couvee.pdf

[5]: Homonym im Franz. mit Kalb

[6]: Symbol Berns

[7]: Stadt des Berner Juras welches für eine Vereinigung mit dem Kanton Jura gestimmt hat

[8]: Gemeint ist der Rest des Berner Juras

[9]: Homonym im Franz. mit verrückt

Die Fotos entstammen von fr.wikipedia.org und groupebelier.ch

Dear reader

As I was born and cultivated in the eastern part of Switzerland, visiting the OLMA (national fair for agriculture and nutrition in St. Gallen) and recognizing it as an annual gathering was almost inevitable. Too many fond memories lie in those halls...

(Almost) My first time at OLMA

FABIAN RUCKSTUHL - FOR ONCE DOESN'T USE AI GENERATED PICTURES...OR DOES HE?

But as fond memories often do not represent the reality, but rather a somewhat romanticized version of the reality, I take this chance and present to you the experience that I (an almost annually OLMA-goer) had with a bunch of people (2 of them are fellow VISIONÄRE) that had never gone to OLMA before. Furthermore, as by the time you receive this magazine the OLMA is already over, it may help you decide if a visit next year is worth your time (and most probably nerves).

Halle 2 & 3

As I said, the OLMA is an agricultural and nutrition fair and of course the first thing we saw when we entered Halle 3 was a booth that was selling very heavily priced ironing boards... The rest of Halle 2 & 3 is quite similar: A lot of buyable household memorabilia, which is astonishingly often marketed to women in a bit "historical" way: "Der Frauenherzen Küchentraum".

This also gives a hint of the biggest flaw of OLMA beside the Halle 4 & 5 delirium (I will announce this particular point later on). A lot of people visiting OLMA are not the bunch of people you would describe as progressive. For instance, I heard from a friend that on the first day in the welcoming speech the joke was made that the Bögg has 2 genders: Bögg and Bögg*.



Fellow Visionär C 🍋 demonstrating that people of this years Gastkanton Zürich have a headstart to most OLMA-goers regarding emanzipation

There were also at least 4 “energy-healer” booths, which promised to heal me of any negative effect modern technology and Wasseradern did inflict on me. Sadly, I couldn't profit from such treatments, because I couldn't turn off my 5G-microchip Bill Gates had infused me with the covid vaccine.

Halle 9



In Halle 9 there is a special place where the Gastkanton Zürich is able to demonstrate itself and its innovation regarding nutrition and agriculture. The canton of Zurich decided to plant “Familie Zürchers Garten”.

This exhibition was actually quite cool (better what former Gastkantone did in recent years). The target audience were quite obviously younger than me, but especially the booths hosted by Zürcher Universities (ETH, UZH and ZHDK) were quite cool and managed to offer some interesting thoughts about future nutrition.

In the second half of Halle 9 you can find basically the same as in Halle 2 and 3, but this time with kitchen memorabilia. If you manage to cross the whole hall, you will find yourself in the Swisscom Gaming Zone, where (no joke) the Farming Simulator League is taking place. We, being fellow gamers, tried to create some excitement in the crowd by cheering on the 2 haystacking finalists, sadly with only partial success.

Säulirennen and Halle 7

Everyday at 16:00 the biggest gathering of OLMA starts: the Säulirennen. As the name suggests, piglets run one round in the arena and the fastest one wins (and doesn't get processed to bacon in Halle 1?). From personal experience, you always lose the money you have bet. It's really funny seeing the piglets running surprisingly fast, but the moderation is extremely cringe. If you took a shot every time the moderator makes a “Sau-joke”, like in bla bla is a “frechi Sau”, you would get more hammered than most specimens in Halle 4 & 5 (more on that later).



Halle 7 is my personal favorite. On the bottom floor you can find approximately 80 living elite-cows (these monuments of cows are able to produce up to 60 liters of milk a day) standing in two rows next to the gangway and some pigs. Especially a huge boar, about which one of my friends asked me what kind of boil was hanging between its hind legs (this boar has fathered more than 3500 piglets), is a view you won't be able to get outside such agricultural fairs. It is actually really funny to go OLMA with people that have grown up in cities, or who (because of whatever other reason) have never been near a cow. Such people often get surprised by the sheer mass of a single cow, not even counting the other 79...

I wanted to take pictures of the top floor of Halle 7, but due to cuteness-reason I forgot to do this, because the whole hall is filled with cute animals: goats, hares, calves, piglets, fluffy chickens. Some of my friends were too cool to join me in the petting zoo, but believe me: Your day can't be ruined if a little goat nibbles on your hand, not even by Halle 4 & 5.

Halle 1



If you are neither lactose intolerant or a vegetarian you can definitely have a fun time in Halle 1. As it is the place where all the food and drink producers present their food, you can try a lot of food here. If you are vegetarian, your food trying options are a bit grim: The only vegetarian food we found were some dried fruits and beers. Also the ETH did have a quite nice booth in this hall. I personally find it really important that universities try to inform people of their doings, instead of congratulating each other at fancy conventions. Fairs like OLMA are prime opportunities to achieve this. Sadly the students who were looking after this booth were mostly demotivated and also not well informed. This is actually sad, because the exhibits in the booth are actually quite cool: An AI experience for kids, vertical farming, a laser-shooting weed-killing robot that is developed by former (and current) students who assembled their first prototype in Bastli.

Halle 4 & 5 Sodom and Gomorrah

Halle 4 & 5, also known as the Degustationshallen are the reason why probably most of St.Galler citizens visit the OLMA and take one of their annual 5 weeks of vacation during October. The collective mass drinking starts each day at 11:00 and ends at 19:00:00, just to relocate at the near Moststube until 22:00 to be then thrown out and let free onto the already overfueled St.Gallen nightlife.

Nevertheless entering the Degustationshallen on an afternoon after the Säulirennen is like entering Dante's third circle of hell: Drunkards stumble in a filled to the last place room over their own feet and almost fall into empty glasses and bottles on the floor, males and females that try to relieve their fifth youth by inviting way too young youths to a glass of wine whilst discussing their AHV, a smell that is best described as a mixture of the Middle Ages, sweat and barf, ... I think you get my point.

Even if you manage to fight your way through this dadaistic gangway of drunkenness and end up in the freedom of the Raucherbereich, you can see down a long stairway, where mostly juvenile drunks, who almost always brought their own booze in glass bottles, drink, argue and eventually beat each other (this year I witnessed a clash between 2 groups of about 10 guys each that ended with somebody striking some other guy with a glass wine bottle on the head, it took the police, securitas and ambulance more than 5 minutes to arrive). In 2019 the STAPo St. Gallen had to make 30 interventions due to of Gewaltdelikte during OLMA (source: STAPO St.Gallen). To quote the Swiss Rapper Gimma: "Droga, Sex, Gwalt", but without sex, so basically just Droga and Gwalt. Ralph Weibel sums it all up in a very funny 5 minute video.

Offside the Messegelände: Jahrmarkt

Offside the Messegelände there is an annual funfair which can be accessed without an OLMA ticket. You can find the usual funfair stuff: Rides, overpriced food and sweets, weird handmade stuff that is definitely not imported from China and so on.

But beside that you can also find legends like Gmüesraffel Börner, a guy who has been selling the same vegetable graters since I was a kid, with the same jokes, the same sales pitch and so on. He could be named the god of teleshopping, with his never ending flow of cringe jokes.

Another really fun part of the funfair at OLMA, is holländische Blumenkönig. This is an auction where you can buy potted plants or offer some money, and then have so many plants thrown at you, that you can barely walk afterwards.



Addendum

Due to suspicious circumstances I was obliged to visit OLMA again, just two days after my first visit this year. Even though I still had the traumatic experience of two days earlier in front of my inner eyes, I was pleasantly surprised: There were way less “problematic people” there and way more families with kids. This changed the whole climate of the event. Even in the warzone of the Degustationshallen there were so many nice people. Almost every time I tried to order a beer and was not able to because there were people in between me and the bar, there was at least one really nice chap that either made space for me so I could order or even gave my order to the way more chilled looking than two days earlier barmaid.

The reason for my two differences was then explained to me by a very wise friend of mine: The first day I visited OLMA was a Monday. Mondays do have the peculiarity that a lot of guilds do have to work on Saturdays and therefore compensate on Mondays (hairdressers, restaurants, museums, retail, ...). This leads to a lot of more young adults visiting OLMA on Mondays than Wednesdays. Pro-OLMA-Goers doe know this and usually don't go on Mondays



*A report from Swiss TV of holländische
Blumenkönig at OLMA*



Ralph Weibel's take on OLMA

Think back for a second to when you were a kid and didn't have to worry about three assignments being due on the same day. Back to when you played in nature sometimes. Do you remember that hole in the rock face or those few stones that stood together in a way that you just knew you could reach into the holes with your hand? That urge to put your hand in there and see what you can find.

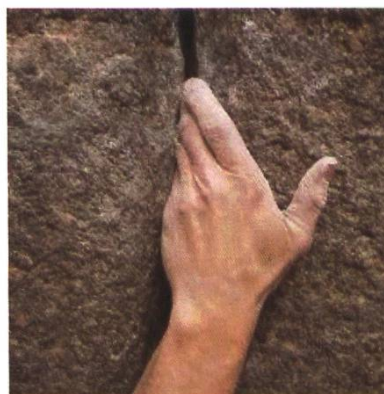
Mythical cracks and how to climb them

FLORENCE - DOES CLIMB HERSELF ON OCCASION

Turns out that never goes away. As an adult, however, you have more opportunities to justify doing just that. Let me introduce you to the wonderful world of crack climbing. Climbing as a concept is as old as the idea of opposable thumbs. Climbing as a sport for a scant few hundred years. Crack climbing as its own thing is even younger and started mostly by accident. Traditional climbers often follow cracks because they can put their safety gear into them but the climbing is done around it. From that, crack climbing naturally evolved but it never reached a great popularity.

Now what is crack climbing? Crack climbing is very similar to all other kinds of climbing. You wanna go up somewhere for no other reason than wanting to prove that you can. What's different is that you don't try to grip onto tiny protrusions in the rock and hang from your fingertips. Instead, you put your limbs into, well, cracks and wiggle them around until they are stuck and you can hang from them.

These techniques are called jamming, stemming and stacking based on how many limbs you put in there. Think of it like continuously doing knee bars but with various parts of your body. For example, for a hand jam, a climber clenches their fists in a crack which gives a lot of grip and it's somewhat safe for your body to hang from. In bigger cracks sometimes entire arms or legs or even the whole body are used as well. Naturally, there are names for the types of cracks based on their size: finger cracks, off-finger cracks, hand cracks, off-width cracks and chimney cracks (ordered from small to large).



<https://www.climbing.com/skills/finger-cracks/> →

Having read until here, you may be intrigued with the idea of trying to crack climb yourself. Let me curb your enthusiasm just a bit. Not all crags in nature offer lines where crack climbing is possible. Some rock types cannot form climbable lines and other conditions have to be met as well. The most well-known crack crags are in the US and UK. Especially Yosemite is a dream with its 5.14c line “The Meltdown”. However, in recent years crack volumes have started being produced by various companies, Wide Boyz being the most well-known, so you might find a crack climbing line in your local indoor climbing gym soon! Yes, it is called line not route in crack climbing.

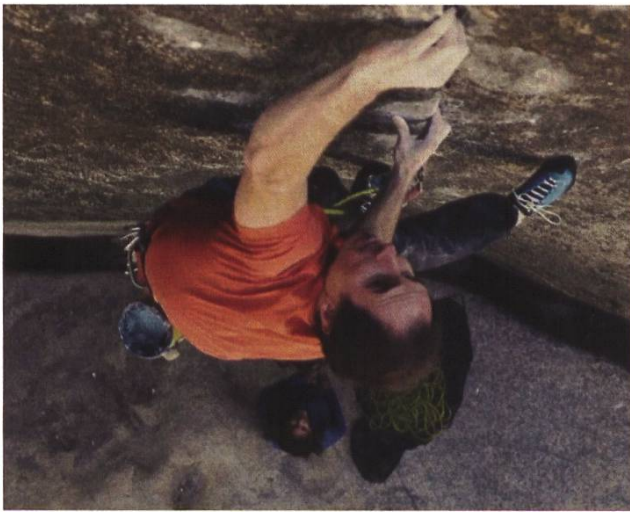


Image: Carlo Traversi on the first repeat of “The Meltdown” source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xU_TCLijPRQ

In the wider climbing community, crack climbers are sometimes looked at a bit funny due to crack climbing being very very niche. Not a lot of crack crags and the whole concept of not gripping onto rocks does not help. However, I must applaud the sheer boldness of it. The rock face did not give you enough tiny grips to cling to with 2mm of one of your fingers but it has a crack? You can climb that instead. I find that beautiful. We want to get up there by any means necessary. If it’s not possible by the traditional means of holding on, then we find a new way to do it. A true expression of determination and the human will to conquer big rocks. Crack climbing opened the possibility of climbing big rocks that were just not climbable before just as ice climbing expanded our perception on what material we can climb. Maybe there’s still more unexplored avenues for what to climb out there. And I hope we find them, because climbing is fun. Be it on faces or in cracks.



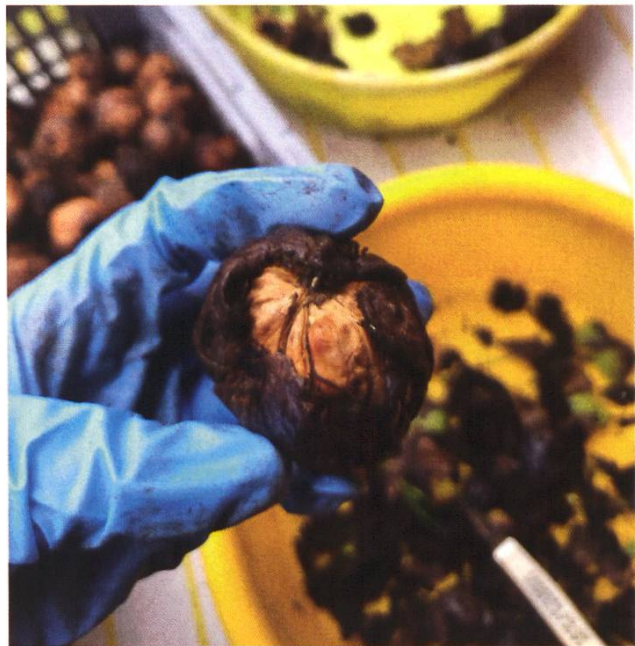
**Meine Mami hat 'n Baum.
Dieser Baum macht Nüsse.
Diese Nüsse sind doppelt so
gross, wie die Nüsse, die man
meistens im Laden kaufen
kann. Walnussgross ist keine
objektive Grösse!!**

Walnussgross, haha klar

FIONI - FINDET WALNUSSGROSS EINE UNNÜTZE
GRÖSSENANGABE

Ernte

Baumnüsse wachsen, wie der Name erkennen lässt, am Baum. Sie wachsen in einer grünen Hülle. In der Schweiz sind sie im Oktober reif und fallen vom Baum. Dann werden sie aufgesammelt und von den Resten der Hülle befreit. Um sie vor Schimmel zu bewahren, werden sie getrocknet und dadurch haltbar gemacht. Das Trocknen findet industriell in grossen Trockenanlagen statt, man kann sie aber auch einige Wochen im Wohnzimmer ausbreiten und öfter mal wenden, wenn man keine Anlage hat.



Die Nüsse sollten ohne die Hüllen getrocknet werden



Eine Walnuss am Baum

Färben mit der Baumnuss

Die grüne Hülle der Nüsse enthält Juglon. Für die Chemie-Fans unter uns: Juglon ist ein Isomer zum Farbstoff, der in Henna enthalten und wie Henna sehr färbend ist. Wann immer mit den Hüllen der Nüsse gearbeitet wird, sollten also Handschuhe getragen werden! Die Fingernägel werden sonst erst nach dem Auswachsen des gefärbten Horns wieder hell. Das heisst aber, dass man mit den Hüllen super die Haare oder Stoffe färben kann.



Ich habe es ausprobiert, jedoch etwas gefailed. Nachdem ich mir versehentlich ein Shirt gekauft hatte in einem Hellblau, indem ich aussah wie ein Seco, dachte ich mir, ich färbe es einfach.

Mein ehemals hellblaues Shirt hat nun eine hübsche Cappuccino-Farbe, jedoch genau bei den Achseln dunkle Flecken, als wäre da mehr Farbe getrocknet, was aber beim Färben nicht der Fall war. Jetzt sieht es so aus, als würde ich Kaffee schwitzen. Whoopwhoop

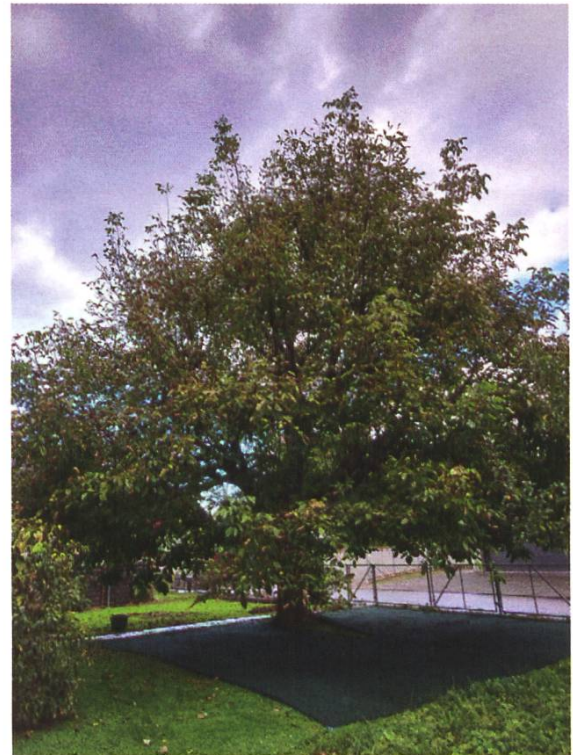


Ein Nussbaum mit Netz darunter, damit das Aufsammeln der Nüsse leichter ist.

Baumnussschnaps

Für Baumnussschnaps werden meist noch grüne Baumnüsse in einen Alkohol (z.B. Vodka) eingelegt. Natürlich zusammen mit etwas Zucker und den klassischen Weihnachtsgewürzen. Die grünen Baumnüsse haben selber schon einen sehr würzigen, angenehmen Duft. So eingelegt, muss der Schnaps erst etwa 6 Wochen Geschmack annehmen und danach nochmals ca. 4 Monate reifen. Das heisst: Nach 6 Wochen wird abgesiebt, der Schnaps in Flaschen gefüllt und im Keller verstaut.

Diesen Sommer habe ich das zum ersten Mal gemacht, das Resultat ist also noch ausstehend. Der Duft war aber bereits sehr betörend. Leider habe ich kein Foto gemacht; die eingelegten Baumnüsse sahen aber sehr cool aus.



Der Nussbaum ist unter anderem an seinen Blättern zu erkennen.



Viele Baumnüsse am Baum

Baumnussrezepte

Baumnüsse können klassisch in Cookies genossen werden. Als Topping machen sie aber auch Salate oder Joghurt interessanter. Ich benutze sie gerne im Pesto. Dafür einfach Oliven, Olivenöl, Baumnüsse, Knoblauch und Parmesan häckseln und mit etwas Nudelwasser mit den Nudeln vermengen. Zur Abwechslung schmeisse ich manchmal noch getrocknete Tomaten oder eine Chilischote dazu.

Fission

Eine super Beschäftigung im Winter beim Fernsehen ist dann das Knacken der Baumnüsse. Dabei ist vor allem das Snacken wichtig.

Warten bis sie schwarz werden

Grüne Baumnüsse können auch eingelegt werden. Da sie dabei schwarz werden, nennt man das auch schwarze Nüsse. Wiederum mit viel Zucker und Weihnachtsgewürzen werden die unreifen Nüsse einige Wochen im Wasser stehen gelassen, danach gekocht und in Gläser abgefüllt. Der Geschmack soll ähnlich wie von Oliven sein.

Da ich auch das diesen Sommer zum ersten Mal ausprobiert habe, weiss ich noch nicht, ob es sich lohnt und wie der Geschmack so wird. Leider habe ich aber die Nüsse etwas spät vom Baum genommen und die Schalen waren schon etwas zu holzig (glaube ich).



***Zwei verschieden grosse Baumnüsse
Schüga for reference.***

When I started this column, I first wrote about random observations on digital platforms. I started with an analysis of the funky spam mails VIS actives receive and looked into social media platforms before switching to a place called reality. My journey continued with (almost) wordless visual reports. Now, I am returning to report on social media again.

Tobi's Viewfinder

TOBI – LOOKS AT ATTENTION SPAN-SHORTENING
VIDEOS, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO

Having survived the summer of projects and exams, I re-installed Instagram to get back into the habit of mindless scrolling (and of course to stay in contact with old friends, looking at their posts from holidays to get my fix of that jealousy). One day, when I was training to shorten my attention span with Instagram Reels, I noticed a new phenomenon. A new type of posts promoting apps and strategies to help users to stop scrolling.

Some of the promoted apps want you to replace mindless scrolling with consuming their (paid) content that will help you win the next bar quiz. Others will force you to go home and rethink your life for a few seconds whenever you open one of the scrolling trap apps. A third category of posts is more budget-friendly: these posts don't promote an app, they just make you think about your use of time and potentially lead to directly switching to a better activity.

Building on the assumption that the content you get presented on Instagram's reel page is selected by learning algorithms instead of hard-coded rules based on your friends' likes and creators followed by you, this is fascinating. The content selection mechanism seems to learn that presenting content promoting not to use itself is beneficial. However, all of these posts may have no real impact. A cynic might also use this to point out that the algorithms have learned from humanity to destroy its livelihood.

So, I concluded that none of these ideas work. To still protect my attention span a little bit, I decided to talk to the pros in living a (students') life without social media: my grandparents. Being asked about what to do when not using a smartphone whenever you have to wait for a few minutes, they responded that reading a book (BookTok likes this), playing games with your friends (on longer train rides) or making up your mind about what to do in the upcoming days (think of meal-planning etc.) are good starters.

What really made me think, however, was a comment about reflecting on recent experiences. You could think about your last encounter with friends or how Polymensa uses shrinkflation. However, reflecting on what you learned in class and how it relates to your life seems to be something that you should definitely consider helpful. Try to think about connections between different courses, draw connections of topics discussed in class to society and what ethical issues are involved, maybe even consider their effects on climate change.

If you feel constantly overloaded with information from classes, the news and social media, you are certainly not alone. So maybe you should try for one week to not use your phone in every spare moment, but rather start to use your time to reflect on the pile of information your brain has already received. This might help you in the short and long term. And if it is not convincing, think about dinner recipes you could try out for your next WG-Dinner, your flatmates will definitely give you a like for that.

a talk by maia arson crimew

HACKING A MORALLY BANKRUPT INDUSTRY

Up against the U.S., Spyhide and others

The Swiss hacker known for its leak of the U.S. no-fly list talks about its work over the past year. Shedding light on the stalkerware industry including the software Spyhide, it makes the case for hacking an entire industry in the absence of justice and discusses the difference between legality and morality.

Thu, 30. 11. 18:00-20:00

Register:

<https://thealternative.ch>

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Saving the LC Milan IMW Any% Speedrun

PHILIPP HUTH - AN EESTEC SPEEDRUNNING LEGEND



Friday 12:00 pm: The challenge starts

In the EESTEC speedrunning community, it's common knowledge that it is crucial to take the direct shortcut to the IMW and not pass by the meeting point to shave two extra hours off our time. We start at ETH with an off-road/endurance hybrid build and allocate 2 extra skill points to our spatial awareness. I personally like equipping the LC Zurich traveller standard package for its unbreakable party spirit and portable JBL speaker.

Friday 13:33 pm: Shortcut to the IMW location

We take the train to Milano Centrale from Zürich HB. However, we will leave it already at Como S. Giovanni. Here we can restock on Italy's best consumables: ice cream and espresso - this buffs our blood sugar, heart rate, and mood stats.

Next, we board the bus to the IMW location. Here we don't have much to do, so we can gaze at the beautiful Lago di Como under the afternoon sun. Truly one of the best next-gen overworld experiences on the market. We exit the bus at Lanzo d'Intelvi and start one of the most important sections of our playthrough.

Friday 17:10 pm: Learning the secret forest path

We leave Lanzo towards the east and walk uphill for about 1 km. Here we will come across an overworld barrier, a mine, which we can not pass and which blocks our path to the accommodation. Notably, our minimap can not show the correct way to get around this yet.

Only through excellent platforming on the stones in the water, we can get to the other side of the small stream which is right next to us and the mine.

Here, we can scale the forested mountainside for 100 m with our off-road abilities. This unlocks a path through the forest which will now be marked on our map and leads us to the accommodation.

Friday 18:45 pm: Dinner and party

We should not forget to replenish our endurance stat at the excellent dinner prepared by LC Milan. Generally, the food here is always excellent and should not be missed out on. The following party is more optional. Not that it was not fun. LC Milan are great party people and always bring fun costumes.

But the other player and non-player characters at the site are not needed for our objective, so we can miss out on them.

Saturday 10:00 am: Breakfast and volleyball

Breakfast is very important here. Luckily, LC Milan has a dangerously over-motivated kitchen team that manages to work all day and party all night for us to have great food 3 times a day. Thank you very much to them at this point.

Now we just have to wait for the hike that is planned today, where all our preparations will come to fruition and we can save the day. In the waiting time, I decided to play some volleyball with the other attendees to kill the time faster. It definitely was fun too.

Saturday 12:07 pm: The hike

Starting from our accommodation, we follow the group on the hike through the surrounding cinematic hilly landscape where small villages are separated by lush green woods. Today a car rally takes place here, and we can watch different parts of the racetrack being prepared on our walk.

On our way back, we come to a now familiar area. Just 500 m from the accommodation, our tour guides will run into a problem, the mine.



Saturday 15:53 pm: Being a hero for 5 minutes

Now it's our moment to strike. We notify the tour guides that we have been lost here before, but now know a way around the mine. We use our learned knowledge on the minimap to find the entry to the path we found through the forest next to the mine. This entry separates from the street we are on and seems to go in the wrong direction initially. But after passing a persuasion check we try it regardless and reach the accommodation 10 minutes later.

Saturday 16:07 pm: Challenge completed

Thanks to us, the IMW group doesn't have to walk all the way back where we came from when reaching the mine, saving everyone from exhaustion and an overall unpleasant time. This completes our speedrun in 28 hours and 7 minutes, beating the previous record by half a day.

**The rest of the weekend**

Unsurprisingly for the people who know me, I spent the rest of the weekend avoiding parties, enjoying food and spending time with LC Milan, who are super fun people. I even made some new friends, though you wouldn't believe it.

Join the speedrunning community

Still reading this and kinda confused on some of the words used? Try visiting eestec.ethz.ch or our next member meeting on the 23rd of November at 18:30, HG F 33.5!



Free

SPECIALTY

Espresso

@Hönggerberg, Velove
13–14:45h Wednesdays

Filter Coffee

@Zentrum, CAB courtyard
12:15–14h Fridays



RRATIONAL
Coffee



Instagram



Website

COFFEE



*v.l.n.r. Oben: Nicolas Wehrli, Tobias Scheithauer, Pascal Strebel, Clemens Bachmann
Mitte: Manuel Hässig, Florence Kissling, Fiona Pichler, Benjamin Gruzman
Unten: Loïc Etter, Johan Stettler, Mark Csurgay
Nicht anwesend: Fabian Ruckstuhl, Hannah Osswald*

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