Examination Regulations for the
International MSc Program in Computational Logic
at the Technische Universität Dresden

From 9th April 2003

Based on § 24 of the University Level Institutions Act in the Free State of Saxony (Sächsisches Hochschulgesetz - SächsHG, or Higher Education Act of the Free State of Saxony) of 4th August 1993 (SächsGVBl. p. 293), the Technische Universität Dresden enacts the following examination regulations.

In these Regulations masculine designations of persons apply to female persons as well.

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I. General

Article 1. Academic Degrees

The International MSc Program in Computational Logic qualifies for professional practice and research. It is completed by the Master’s examination. By virtue of successful performance in the examination, Technische Universität Dresden awards the academic degree of “Master of Science” (abbr. M.Sc.). The certificates indicate that the degree was obtained in the International MSc Program in Computational Logic.

Article 2. Regular Study Period, Course Structure, Range of Courses Offered

1. The regular study period covers four semesters. Students who acquired the study requirements described in Article 3, Paragraph 1, Number 2 of the associated study regulations at a German university normally should spend one semester of the regular study period at a university-level institution in a country other than Germany. The present Examination Regulations and the accompanying Study Regulations ensure that the course and examinations can be completed within the regular study period.

2. Courses are offered for a period of three semesters. They are organised into modules and include lectures, exercises, seminars, and practicals up to a total of 90 ECTS credit points (abbreviated cr). The fourth semester is intended for the preparation of the Master’s thesis.

3. The programme is completed by the Master’s examination.

Article 3. Examination Structure and Deadlines

1. The Master’s examination (article 16) consists of the module examinations, the Master’s thesis and its defense. Module examinations may consist of several partial examinations. The examinations\(^1\) are held in oral or written form (Articles 7–10). The examination language is English. Students can take oral examinations in German.

2. Examinations are scheduled after the appropriate course has taken place. Individual modules can be completed by a general examination, that is, one not related to any individual course. Successful study progress will be assessed by ECTS points.

3. The candidate has to register for examinations within the respective periods announced by the examination board. The periods for registration, and the times for the examinations will in general be posted at the beginning of courses and at latest four weeks before registration.

4. The Master’s examination has to be taken by the end of the fourth semester. If the Master’s examination has not been taken within four semesters after the end of the regular study period, it counts as failed for the first time. A failed Master’s examination can only be repeated once within one year. After this period has passed, it counts as finally failed.

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\(^1\)In the following, the term “examination” means module examination if an examination includes several partial examinations; otherwise it means examination.
Article 4. The Examination Board

(1) The Examination Board shall be responsible for decisions concerning examinations and for their organisation. The Board is authorised to carry out the organisation.

(2) The Examination Board consists of a professor as chairman, two further university lecturers, one of which is to be deputy chairman, an academic co–worker and a student. All must be members of the Department of Computer Science. The chairman and his deputy shall be elected by the Department’s Council. The academic co–worker is appointed for a period of three years. Based on agreement between the Council and student representatives, the student is appointed for a period of one year, the academic co–worker and the professor are appointed for three years. For the student, a deputy is also appointed, similarly for one year.

(3) The Examination Board ensures that the provisions of these Examination Regulations and of the accompanying Study Regulations are observed. The Examination Board determines examination dates and their public announcement. In particular it ensures reasonable pauses between examination dates. The Board reports regularly on actual study duration and examination results. If necessary it may make proposals for the reform of Examination and Study Regulations. The Examination Board is also responsible for release of course unit grades and aggregate grades.

(4) The Examination Board constitutes a quorum if the chairman or his deputy are present along with two additional members. The Board decides by simple majority of members present. In the event of a tied vote, the chairman’s vote is decisive; in case of his absence, the the deputy’s vote is decisive.

(5) Invitations to attend Examination Board meetings must allow sufficient notice and should give an agenda. Minutes of the meeting are to be taken. Examination Board meetings are not open to the public. Examination Board members are bound to secrecy by the chairman.

(6) The candidate is to be informed in writing immediately following a decision on his application. In case of decisions to his disadvantage, the reasons are to be given including information on how to appeal against the decision.

(7) Examination Board members have the right to be present during an examination.

Article 5. Examiners and Observers

(1) The Examination Board appoints examiners and observers for individual examinations. As stated in Article 3, Paragraph 3 and Article 10, Paragraph 8, the candidate may propose examiners for the Master’s thesis and for oral examinations giving sufficient notice. However the proposal does not constitute a right.

(2) If there are no compelling reasons to the contrary, appointed examiners must be university professors who have independently taught the course material to be examined. Academic co–workers may be appointed as examiners if they are authorised to practice independent teaching or if they are commissioned by the Dean.
(3) Candidates for appointment as examiners or (in the case of oral examinations) observers are eligible for nomination only if they have a “Diplom-Informatiker” degree or an equivalent qualification.

(4) The examiner and the observer are bound to secrecy by the Examination Board chairman.

**Article 6. General Admission Requirements, Admission Procedures**

(1) The candidate may only be admitted to the Master’s level examination if he:

1. Is enrolled for the Masters’ programme in Computational Logic at the Technische Universität; and
2. Satisfies the admission requirements of article 16.

(2) In order to take exams the student has to register in the form determined by the examination board. The examination board determines the procedure for the registration for the individual exams as well as its technical and organisational aspects. Up to two weeks before the examination date, the candidates have the right to withdraw from the examination. This does not affect the time limits stated in Article 3, paragraph 4.

(3) The admission for an examination can only be refused if

(a) The requirements in paragraph 1 are not met;
(b) The application is not complete;
(c) The candidate has finally failed the final examination in the same programme, or one that is comparable according to state law, or if he is currently in an examination procedure for such a program;
(d) The candidate has finally failed the examination due to exceeding the time limits for registration on taking the examination; or
(e) The candidate has forfeited his right to take the examination according to state law.

**Article 7. The Form of the Examination**

(1) Examinations may take the form of an oral examination (Article 8), a written examination (Article 9), or an alternative examination, as determined in the description of a module.

(2) If the candidate can show inability to take an examination in whole or in part according to the normal procedure due to long-term or permanent handicaps, the the candidate may apply for an alternative procedure. The chairman of the Examination Board appoints must then ensure the possibility of obtaining the credits using alternative methods. An application may apply to some or all parts of the Master’s examination.

(3) The examinations are not public, with the exceptions noted in Article 8, Paragraph 5 and Article 10, Paragraph 8.
Article 8. Oral Examinations

(1) In the oral examinations, the candidate is to show that he has an overview of the subject area of examination. In addition, it should be determined whether the candidate has acquired the necessary fundamental knowledge.

(2) When the oral examination is taken, one examiner is to be present who is assisted by one competent observer or alternatively at least two examiners are present (collegiate examination) when the examination is taken by the candidate. Oral examinations are taken as individual examinations. The rule is that the candidate is examined by just one examiner; in the case of collegiate examinations one of the examiners is to consult with his co-examiners before determining the grade.

(3) Generally, the oral examination has a minimum of 30 minutes duration and a maximum of 60 minutes duration.

(4) During oral examinations, a protocol is to be taken. In particular the protocol should make clear the reason for the grade allocation. Immediately following the oral examination, the candidate is to be informed of the result.

(5) Students who will take the same examination at a later date are permitted to attend the examination as listeners if the candidate and the examiner agree. However, they may not be present during the consultation or when the candidate is informed of results.

Article 9. Written Examinations

(1) In written examinations, the candidate should demonstrate his ability to tackle a scientific problem using available methods in the field and to find ways of solving the problem in limited time and with limited auxiliary means.

(2) Generally, the duration of the written examination is at least 90 minutes and at most 180 minutes.

(3) During the written examination, a protocol is to be taken which includes the names of examiners and invigilators, an attendance list and the task assignments. Written examinations, as well as other written works essential either to proceed with or complete studies, are normally assessed by two examiners; this is always the case if the examination is the final repetition.

Article 10. The Master’s Thesis

(1) The Master’s thesis completes the student’s academic training. It gives the candidate the opportunity to demonstrate his skills and abilities in independently dealing with a problem in computational logic or its applications by the use of scientific methods.

(2) Generally, the subject for the Master’s thesis is assigned by a university professor in the Department of Computer Science who is also responsible for supervision during preparation of the thesis. The supervision may be entrusted to an co–worker. Supervision outside of the Department of Computer Science requires the examination board’s agreement. The candidate is given the opportunity to submit proposals on the subject of the Master’s thesis.
(3) The subject of the Master’s thesis can only be approved if the candidate is admitted to the Master’s examination according to Article 6 and has acquired at least 75 of the 90 crs required for the first part of the Master’s examination. The subject is approved formally by the chairman of the examination board. The date of approval is entered in writing in the examination documents. When the prerequisites are fulfilled as described in the first sentence here, the candidate may apply for authorisation of a subject for the Master’s thesis within a period of four weeks.

(4) The Master’s thesis may be prepared by a group if the contribution of each individual group member is clearly distinguishable for assessment and based on clearly indicated chapters, page numbers or other objective criteria necessary for separate assessment and meeting the demands in Paragraph 1.

(5) The time available to prepare the Master’s thesis is six months. This period should not be exceeded. When assigning the subject and scope of the Master’s thesis, the supervising university professor must ensure that the deadline can be met. The thesis subject may be modified only once and may only be re-approved within the first two months of the preparation period; following re-approval, the time, available for the new thesis subject is again six months. The examination board is authorised to extend the time available for the Master’s thesis by at most three months if the candidate submits a well-founded application and the supervising university professor agrees.

(6) On the final day of the preparation period, the Master’s thesis is to be submitted in three copies at the examination office, otherwise it shall be regarded as “inadequate”. The time of submission is to be put on record. Upon submission of the Master’s thesis, the candidate is to confirm in writing that the thesis was independently prepared. In the case of a group effort, this applies only for his particular contribution. He must also confirm that he used only the references and auxiliary means indicated in the thesis.

(7) Generally, the submitted Master’s thesis is assessed by two examiners who will give their evaluation. One examiner is to be the supervising university professor. The second examiner is to be appointed by the chairman of the examination board. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the individual assessments; if one particular assessment is rated “inadequate” (grade 5.0, or FX/F), the examination board is to decide on the further procedure. Assessments are to be sent to the examination board within one month of thesis submission. The candidate may apply for authorisation to view an evaluation; this opportunity should be given to the candidate at least one week before the thesis defense.

(8) In principle, the Master’s thesis is to be defended in public in presence of the examination board. A candidate is only admitted to a defense if he has acquired the 90crs according to article 16, paragraph 2 in the first part of the Master’s examination. The defense is to take place following successful completion of all examinations and when the conditions in Article 16 are met. The Master’s thesis is to be defended no earlier than two weeks after submission, and should have been held by six weeks after submission, if the candidate is admitted according to sentence 2 of this paragraph. At the minimum, the examination committee consists of the supervising university professor, the second examiner, one observer and if applicable the academic co–worker entrusted with supervision in accordance with paragraph 2. An invitation for the defense is to be made by public announcement at least seven days before the appointment. Of the defense a protocol is to be made using a
form issued by the examination board. If the defense is assessed as “inadequate” (grade 5.0, or FX/F), it may be repeated in accordance with article 14.

(9) The Master’s thesis and its defense is assessed in accordance with article 11, paragraph 1. The grade assigned to the Master’s thesis is the grade assigned to the written thesis with weight factor 3 and the grade for the defense with weight factor 1. article 11 is to be applied accordingly.

Article 11. Assessment of Examination Results

(1) In the individual examinations, grades are determined by the respective examiners and have the following meanings:

1 = excellent outstanding performance;
2 = good performances considerably above average standard;
3 = satisfactory performance which meet the average standard;
4 = adequate performance which meets the minimal demands in spite of deficits;
5 = inadequate performance which fails to meet the demands due to severe deficits or which are regarded as failed (Article 13).

For a more refined assessment, intermediate values are used by increasing or reducing the individual grade by 0.3; the particular values of 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 may not be used. Intermediate values are used to determine the grade as set out in Paragraph 2 and to determine the overall grade as stated in Article 17, Paragraph 1.

(2) If the examination consists of several partial examinations, the grade is to be determined by taking the mean of the individual partial examinations weighted according to the number of crs of the study units concerned. Verbally, the grade may be described as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>ECTS grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>an average of up to 1.5 inclusive</td>
<td>excellent A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an average of above 1.5 up to 2.0 inclusive</td>
<td>very good B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an average of above 2.0 up to 3.0 inclusive</td>
<td>good C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an average of above 3.0 up to 3.5 inclusive</td>
<td>satisfactory D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an average of above 3.5 up to 4.0 inclusive</td>
<td>adequate E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an average of above 4.0</td>
<td>inadequate FX/F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) When determining the grade, only one decimal place is taken into consideration; all further decimal places are truncated without rounding.

(4) Paragraphs 2 and 3 here apply when the overall grade is determined according to Article 17, Paragraph 1.

(5) Module examinations count as prematurely completed if, by them, the candidate has acquired more than 30crs in the first semester or more than 60crs by the end of the second semester. A prematurely completed module examination that has been failed counts as not taken. Examinations that have in this context been assessed with at least “adequate” (grade 4.0) can be used towards a new examination procedure. Following an application by the candidate, prematurely passed modular or nonmodular examinations can be repeated at the next regular examination date, in order to obtain a higher grade. In these cases, the better grade will be counted.
Article 12. Withdrawal, Absence, Deception, Irregularity

(1) An examination is considered as failed, if the candidate does not attend the examination, if he withdraws after the examination has begun. This does not apply if reasons exist, for which the candidate is not liable for. Likewise, an examination is considered as failed if the candidate does not hand in a written examination within the available time.

(2) Reasons for absence or withdrawal as set out in Paragraph 1 must immediately be submitted in writing to the Examination Board and substantiated. In the event of illness a medical certificate is required, and, in cases of doubt, a certificate by an ‘Amtsarzt’ (medical officer). As far as the keeping of deadlines for the first registration for exams, the retake of exams, the reasons for withdrawal from exams and the keeping of time limits are concerned, the illness of a candidate is to treated the same as the illness of a child or dependant relative who mostly is being cared for by the candidate, if the reasons are accepted. If the reasons are accepted, a new examination date will be be arranged. Any examination results already obtained are to be taken into account. In the same way, a new appointment is to be scheduled for the Master’s thesis.

(3) If the candidate attempts to influence his examination results by deception or by the use of prohibited auxiliary means or if he willfully participates in a deception, the examination shall be considered as failed. A candidate who willfully disturbs the regular examination procedure can be denied the right to continue the examination by the examiner or the invigilator, normally after issuing a warning. The examination is then considered as failed. The reasons for the exclusion are to be recorded in the examination protocol. In severe cases, the examination board can prohibit the candidate from taking further parts of the exam.

(4) By submitting a written application with supporting reasons within a time-limit of two weeks, the candidate may request that the decisions taken according to Paragraph 3, sentences 1 and 2 be reconsidered by the examination board. Negative decisions must immediately be communicated to the candidate with justification, and be accompanied by an account of legal measures the candidate can resort to.

Article 13. Success and Failure in Examinations, Certification of Examination Results

(1) Module examinations are considered as passed when they are assessed as at least “adequate” (grade 4.0, or E). In this case ECTS points are acquired.

(2) Module examinations are considered as passed if all the individual examinations required for passing it are assessed as at least “adequate” (grade 4.0, or E). The individual examinations required are determined in the module descriptions.

(3) If the candidate failed a module examination or the Master’s thesis was assessed as worse than “adequate” (grade 4.0), the candidate is to be informed if and to which degree and which time the modular examination or master’s thesis must be repeated.

(4) The Master’s examination is considered as failed for the first time if the student has not successfully completed all the examinations required in these regulations, that is, all the module requirements, the Master’s thesis, and its defence by the end of the eighth
study semester. The Master’s examination can be retaken within a year. If the Master’s examination is not retaken within a year, it is considered as finally failed.

(5) If the candidate failed the Master’s examination, he can apply for a written statement giving the grades of examinations taken and making clear which examinations are still missing, and that the final Master’s examination was not successfully completed. The candidate’s application must include the relevant documents along with the exmatriculation certificate.

Article 14. Repeat Module Examinations

(1) Failed module examinations may be repeated once. The form of the repeat examination is determined by the examiner. If the examination was passed it cannot be retaken, except in the case of article 11, paragraph 5. Unsuccessful attempts to take the examination at other universities are to be taken into account.

(2) In substantiated exceptions, a second repeat is possible at the next possible exam time. A written application for a second repeat examination must specify the reasons and be submitted to the Examination Board within four weeks of the failure notification for the first repeat examination. A second repeat of the Masters thesis is not possible. Unsuccessful examination re-sits at other universities or equal university-level institutions must be taken into account.

(3) The repeat module examination according to paragraph 1 is to take place within a year after the first examination attempt. If the candidate does not take the examination within this period for reasons he is liable for, the module examination shall be considered as finally failed.

(4) When a module examination is repeated, those results are to be repeated that have not achieved at least score “adequate” (4.0, or E).

Article 15. Recognition of Study Time, Examination Results and Coursework at other Universities

(1) Study time, examination results and coursework achievements at other universities are acknowledged if they are equivalent in content, scope and requirements to the International MSc Program in Computational Logic at Technische Universität Dresden. It is recommended that no mechanical comparison be made, but instead the achievements as a whole should be considered and evaluated. For recognition of study time, examination results and coursework achievements in courses beyond the scope of the German Higher Education Law, the equivalence conventions approved by the Conference of the Ministers of Culture and by the Conference of Vice-Rectors of University-level Institutions as agreed by university partnerships are to be taken into account.

(2) For study time, examination results and coursework achievements in state-approved correspondence courses, Paragraph 1 applies accordingly.

(3) Courses studied abroad are to be determined by agreement with a lecturer who is participating in the Computational Logic Program. This lecturer is to confirm the equivalence
of those courses to the teaching content of the Computational Logic Program according to the guidelines in the ECTS Brochure.

(4) In the recognition of examination results, the grades are to be accepted if there are comparable grading systems. These grades will then be incorporated into the overall grade. If the grading systems are not comparable, the notice “passed” is recorded. An indication of this recognition may be included in the certificate.

(5) If the prerequisites of Paragraphs 1 and 2 are met, there is a legal right of recognition. The recognition of performances achieved in the Federal Republic of Germany is done officially. The candidate must submit the documents required for this recognition. Coursework is recognised by the examination board.

II. The Master’s Examination

Article 16. Extent and Form of the Master’s Examination

(1) The Master’s examination consists of two parts. In the first examination the candidate has to achieve at least 90 crs according to paragraph 2 here. The second part of the Master’s examination encompasses writing the Master’s thesis and its defence.

(2) In the first part of the Master’s examination, the candidate has to acquire 90 crs according to the following regulations:

(a) 90 crs have to be acquired in each of the final module examinations of the modules:
   i. Introduction to Computational Logic
   ii. Foundations of Logic and Constraint Programming
   iii. Advanced Logic
   iv. Deduction Systems

(b) 12 crs have to be acquired in the practical;

(c) 42 crs must be acquired through completing supplementary modules that can be chose out of five optional modules (Wahlpflichtmodule). These optional modules, and the details of the module examinations, are described in an attachment to the study regulations. These module descriptions are updated at the beginning of each study year by the examination board.

(2) The student registers for the second part of the Master’s thesis by substantiating with the appropriate documentation to the examination board at least 75 from the total 90 crs in the first part of the Master’s examination, by taking into account article 13, paragraph 4.

(4) In the second part of the Master’s examination 30 crs are acquired. The second part begins with the announcement of the title of the Master’s thesis.

Article 17. Determination of Overall Grade and Issuing of the Certificate

(1) The overall grade obtained in the Master’s examination is determined from the arithmetic mean of the following grades:
1. Arithmetic mean of grades, weighted on the basis of course credits, of the modules of the first part of the Master’s examination according article 16 paragraph 2;
2. The grade assigned to the Master’s thesis weighted by a factor of 0.5, according to Article 10, Paragraph 9 and taking into account Article 11, Paragraph 4.

(2) If the Master’s thesis is rated with the grade 1.0 and if the overall grade of the Master’s examination is better than 1.3, the candidate is awarded the overall grade “passed with distinction”.

(3) When the candidate has passed the Master’s examination, a certificate of his academic performance is issued in German and in English. The certificate lists the non-German universities where the student was registered during his studies in Computational Logic, the grades of the module examinations, along with subjects examined and names of examiners, the topic of the Master’s thesis along with the supervising university professor and the overall grade of the Master’s examination. On application by the candidate, the certificate may also include the number of semesters required to complete the Master’s examination and the supplementary modules as stated in Article 17 paragraph 5; for this purpose, the candidate must submit the relevant documentation.

(4) The certificate carries the date on which the final examination was passed. The certificate is to issued no later than eight weeks following this date and is to be signed by the Dean and the Chairman of the Examination Board.

(5) The candidate is permitted to take examination in modules other than those that are compulsory (supplementary modules). On application by the candidate, the results of these module examinations will be included in the certificate, however they will not be taken into account when the overall grade is determined.

Article 18. The Master’s Document

(1) Together with the certificate, the candidate is given the Master’s document which certifies the academic degree “Master of Science” (M.Sc.). The Master’s document is signed by Chairman of the Examination Board and the Rector of the Technische Universität Dresden, and carries the Seal of the Technische Universität Dresden. It carries the date of the certificate.

(2) The Technical University will issue a diploma supplement (DS) according to the ‘diploma supplement model’ of the European Union/ European Council/ UNESCO. As a description of the national education system (DS – section 8), the text agreed upon by the KMK (Kultusministerkonferenz, that is, Conference of the State Ministers of Culture and Education) and HRK (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, that is, Conference of Rectors and Presidents of University Level Institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany) in its current valid version is to be used. In addition to the diploma supplement, the Technische Universität Dresden will give the candidate english translations of the document on the awarding of the academic degree and of the certificate with attachment.
III. Final Clauses

Article 19. Invalidation of the Master’s Examination

(1) If the candidate has used deception in an examination or has participated in a deception as set out in Article 12, Paragraph 4, and this only becomes known after the issuing of the documents, the Examination Board is authorised to declare the examination totally or partially failed. This applies as well for the Master’s thesis.

(2) If the candidate did not meet the examination admission requirements, but did not intend to deceive, and if this becomes known only after the issuing of the documents then this deficit is disregarded for if the candidate had passed the examination. If the candidate deliberately used incorrect procedures to gain admission, the Examination Board can declare the examination as failed, and the Master’s examination as failed. Before the Examination Board makes a decision, the candidate shall be given the opportunity to state his point of view.

(3) If the examination was considered as failed as stated in Paragraph 1, the certificate issued on the basis of the examination and, if necessary, the Master’s document awarding the academic degree and the diploma supplement are to be confiscated. The examination is to be repeated as stated in Article 14. A decision as set out in Paragraphs 1 and 2, sentence 2 is no longer possible if five years or more have elapsed since the date on the certificate.

Article 20. Inspection of Examination Documents

(1) Within the period of one year after the completion of the Master’s examination the candidate may apply to the Examination Board for permission to inspect written examination papers, examiner evaluations and examination protocols. The Chairman of the Examination Board determines the date and location of inspection.

(2) Copying of inspected documents is not permitted.

Article 21. Authority and Publication

(1) These examination regulations are valid for students registered as of the winter semester 2002/2003. For students registered before this, the examination regulations from 26th November 1997 are applicable, as amended on 9th May 2000.

(2) These examination regulations shall be in force with effect from October 1st 2002 and shall be announced in the “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen” (Official Announcements) of the Technische Universität Dresden.
Appendix 1: Breakdown of the Module Examinations of the Master’s Examination according to Article 16, Paragraph 2, Number 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modul</th>
<th>Dauer (Min.)</th>
<th>Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Computational Logic</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Logic</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Logic and Constraint Programming</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction Systems</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>