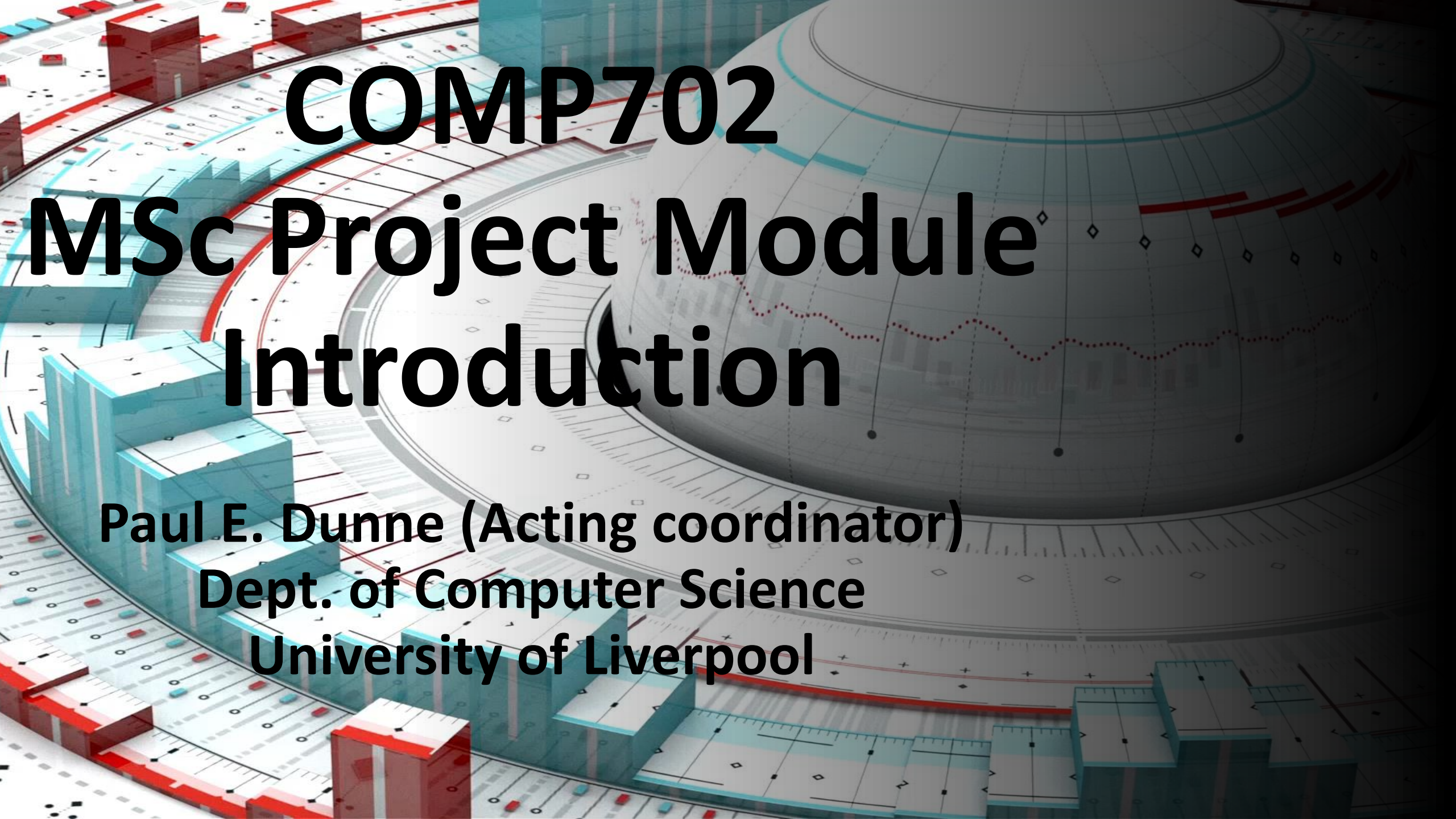

COMP702
MSc Project Module Introduction

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Why did I do an MSc?
I could have got a job instead.
But this? It's hard and tough for me
not sure I'll get things in my head.

I might have been a merchant banker.
Why did I do an MSc?
Perhaps some other kind of danker
sober upright post had. Maybe.

But no it wasn't meant to be.
A few more letters by my name.
Why did I do an MSc?
There isn't money, worth or fame.

Reflect I do but can't make sense.
What brought me here to misery?
Perhaps I'm thick, perhaps I'm dense,
Why did I do an MSc?

What's Involved

A. Preparing : selecting projects (and supervisor)
B. Doing : key stages.

Specification and Design Proposal

Demonstration and Presentation

Dissertation

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE **DATES** GIVEN BELOW WITH RESPECT TO START AND ASSESSMENT STAGES ARE WITH REFERENCE TO THE MAIN COHORT.

THERE ARE A FEW **EXCEPTIONS** WORKING TO A **DIFFERENT TIMETABLE**.

DETAILS MAY BE FOUND ON THE **PROJECT INFORMATION PAGE**

https://www.csc.liv.ac.uk/~ped/COMP702/Overview.html

Preparation

- There are 2 (TWO) basic ways of identifying a project to undertake

  A. PROPOSE YOUR OWN

  B. FIND A “SUITABLE” PROJECT FROM THE ADVERTISED COLLECTION

- Each of these has its own advantages and disadvantages.
- You should bear that in mind before making a definite commitment: you may, perhaps, have an idea you wish to put forward for your project work but, subsequently, find something on offer that is more appealing.
- Equally, you may find that the portfolio of projects contains little of direct interest to you and start to think about putting your own idea together.

Do – it – yourself

ADVANTAGES

You will (presumably) be able to work on something of interest to yourself.

You may already have some ideas about aspects that will require care.

You may already have some planned approach to undertaking it.

DISADVANTAGES

It is ***your*** responsibility to identify and persuade an academic to act as supervisor.

The *minimum* this will require is a *brief* and *lucid* description of what's involved.

Academics are *encouraged* to be *sympathetic* but they will ***not*** be ***pressurised*** .

It is possible that an idea you devise will not be considered without changes.

Off-the-shelf and ready-assembled

ADVANTAGES

Projects proposed in the portfolio provided will all be feasible and suitable scale items of work.

They will, in general, be linked to the expertise and background of the supervisor.

Usually the supervisor will have some plan of action for their completion.

DISADVANTAGES

The selection process is competitive: "*you can't always get what you want*".

Some descriptions may appeal superficially but turn out other than expected.

Some projects may be available but their supervisor is already fully committed.

Summary I

- If you have an idea you wish to work on **don't wait** for the portfolio to be released.
- Start some **initial preparation**:

Write a **brief** and **clear** description (150 – 200 words)

Identify *possible* supervisors

["*possible*" means with an **identifiable interest** in your idea, e.g. from the content of their Departmental web pages.

"*possible*" does ***not*** mean:

*"you work in Computer Science so you have just **GOT** to be interested. Whatya mean no? Oh come off it! I thought you did like computing sort of stuff"*]

Contact potential supervisors (**by e-mail**) including

a. A **copy** of your **proposal**.

b. A **rationale** for the individual you have approached seeming suitable.

While it is perfectly all right simultaneously to contact several individuals (subject to the caveats above) *please allow up to a week* for a response.

(*odd as it may seem members of the department have other minor matters of concern*)

Summary II

- If you would rather look at what's being offered, the portfolio of projects available will be released on **April 24th 2023** via

https://sam.csc.liv.ac.uk/COMP702

- If you have specific areas of interest start with the projects being offered in those areas by relevant staff.
- Read the descriptions ***CAREFULLY***.
- Feel free to contact (**by e-mail**) the person offering a project expressing interest.
- **DO NOT**

Base choices *solely* on the **PROJECT TITLE**

Or *solely* on the individual supervising.

Add it to your possible choices UNLESS you are prepared to have it assigned.

Assume that a project HAS been allocated until your name appears next to it.

COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT'S AVAILABLE

Next Steps

- Project work formally begins on **June 5th 2023**.
- The first important assessment point is

  Specification and Proposed Design

- This sets out (or, more accurately, *should* set out)

  WHAT you are doing (Specification)

  HOW you intend doing it (Design)

- Although **WHY** (and in a select number of cases, **WHERE**) are also relevant, they are not so important at this stage.
- The Specification and Design are core elements that position your project as *relevant* to **Computer Science** and *feasible* within the time available.
- Note the word "*proposed*": it is possible that your design may need *adjustment* to **scale down** (or **power up**) what is planned.
- The assessment feedback will clarify the extent to which either is needed.

Demonstration and Presentation

15 Minute Oral (spoken) Presentation

Demonstration of software

Supporting short (~5 pages A4, readable font size, 10-12pt) report

- While the Specification and Proposed Design also involve an oral presentation (10 minutes) that is only seen by the project main supervisor.
- The assessment of the Demonstration and Final Presentation is by both supervisors.

Dissertation

- The dissertation (which contributes 70% towards the overall mark) presents a record of your work and an (honest) self-evaluation of what has been completed over the time spent.
- Templates for the dissertation structure (Word) and (LaTeX) are available on the main Project page here.

Summary

- The project module runs for over **THREE** months (June, July, August), has a 60 credit weighting (effectively **four** taught modules) and is expected to involve on average **37.5 hours work per week**.
- This is a *significant* undertaking.
- The work you carry out on the project may be the first (and possibly depending on future career intentions, only) occasion when you are involved with a significant scale task of this nature.
- You should also, however, recognise that involvement with an academic supervisor is seen as a much more equal interaction: feel free to put forward ideas if these seem good to you.