Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2015-2016

**Course**

**Biomedical Acoustics (E022030)**

- Valid as from the academic year 2015-2016

**Lecturers in academic year 2016-2017**

- Botteldooren, Dick
- Verhulst, Sarah

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2016-2017**

- A (semester 2)
  - Lecture: 30.0 h
  - Self-reliant study activities: 17.5 h
  - Demonstration: 5.0 h
  - Seminar: 5.0 h

**Offered in the following programmes in 2016-2017**

- Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering: 6 A credits
- International Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering: 6 A credits
- Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering: 6 A credits
- Master of Science in Engineering Physics: 6 A credits

**Teaching languages**

- English

**Keywords**

- Acoustics, sound, diagnostic ultrasound, therapeutic ultrasound, human auditory system

**Position of the course**

- Enhance physical insight in a number of advanced acoustical phenomena, particularly in the context of classical and innovative biomedical applications where acoustics play a crucial role.
- Develop skills required to analyse and design acoustical systems focusing on biomedical applications:
  - Diagnostic ultrasound imaging (commonly known as echography): widely used in clinical practice for a huge range of imaging applications such as foetal imaging, cardiovascular screening, etc...
  - Therapeutic ultrasound: using the beneficial biological effects of ultrasound for medical treatment, with a wide range of applications going from cancer treatment to physiotherapy, and resolving kidney stones
  - The human hearing system: hearing protection devices, hearing aids, advanced hearing diagnostic equipment

The topics treated are chosen to cover all basic problems that an engineer can face during this process.

**Contents**

1. Physical basis:
   - Generic description of acoustic waves: Conservation laws and acoustic waves
   - Sound in fluidum: Linear acoustics, macro-acoustics and shock waves, moving fluidum, influence of viscosity and heat conduction, moving fluidum, cavitation and bubbles
   - Sound in solids and soft tissue: Dispersive media, anisotropic media
   - Coupled media: Surface impedance, fluid loading and radiation efficiency, surface

(Approved)
waves, porous materials

2. Application oriented:
   • Diagnostic ultrasound: image acquisition techniques scattering of ultrasound waves
     in biological media
   • Therapeutic ultrasound: hyperthermia and high-intensity focused ultrasound (cancer
     treatment), lithotripsy (mechanically resolving kidney stones), drug delivery bubbles
   • Human auditory system: outer and middle ear acoustics, inner ear dynamics,
     otoacoustic emission, neural sound processing

Initial competences
   Basis wave physics

Final competences
   1 Students understand the acoustical phenomena that underly biomedical applications.
      In particular en thorough understanding in acoustic waves, eigenmodes, diffraction,
      scattering, interference, dispersion and distortion.
   2 Students can formulate wave equations and boundary conditions for a wide variety of
      acoustical phenomena including equivalent impedances and can solve these
      equations analytically for simple situations. They can identify and use the best
      available numerical techniques to solve wave equations including dispersion, non-
      linearity and anisotropy.
   3 Students have a thorough understanding in diagnostic use of ultrasound: scattering
      in tissue and generation of ultrasonic beams for medical imaging,
   4 Students have a thorough understanding in therapeutic use of ultrasound: physical
      processes leading to heating and medication delivery.
   5 Students have a thorough understanding of the human auditory system and the
      physical processes of medical applications in this area.
   6 Students have obtained the skills to innovate and further develop biomedical
      applications of sound.

Conditions for credit contract
   Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences
   assessment

Conditions for exam contract
   This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods
   Demonstration, lecture, seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods
   During lectures various theoretical concepts will be introduced with a strong focus on
   applications, mainly biomedical in nature.
   Computer simulations are used to demonstrate how the applications can be optimized.
   Exercises are prepared at home and discussed in the group.
   A demonstration of operational medical equipment is foreseen.

Learning materials and price
   Slides, (e-)book chapters, publications

References
   See course material

Course content-related study coaching

Evaluation methods
   end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
   Written examination, open book examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
   Written examination, open book examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
   Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
   examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods
   During examination period: oral open-book exam, written exercise

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During semester: graded project reports, contribution to tasks.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Activities during the semester count for 25%