

# SIAM Student Chapter Prague: Final Report 2023/2024

July 22, 2024

*This document serves for internal purposes of the Chapter only and should be perceived as an overview of the Chapter activities in the past year extending the information filled out in the Final Report online form provided by SIAM.*

## Report on Chapter elections

On June 26, 2024 Chapter members elected the following officers to serve term from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

President:	<a href="#">Jakub Cach</a>
Vice President:	<a href="#">Martin Vejvoda</a>
Secretary:	<a href="#">Barbora Hálková</a>
Treasurer:	<a href="#">Lucie Wintrová</a>
Webmaster:	<a href="#">Matěj Vais</a>

## Chapter highlights

### SIAM Christmas Chess Tournament

Date: December 21, 2023

Attendance: 38

The SIAM Christmas Chess Tournament was a resounding success on our faculty, bringing together students and professors for a day of strategic battles and festive cheer. The event was filled with intense matches, showcasing impressive skills and sportsmanship. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to engage with one another in a friendly yet competitive environment, enhancing the holiday spirit. In the next year, we would like to extend our reach and invite whole Charles University.

Links to additional event information:

- [Event at our webpage](#)
- [Final standings](#)

### Meeting with alumni - Martin Myšička

Date: November 10, 2023

Attendance: 90

The SIAM Student Chapter in Prague hosted an engaging meeting with Martin Myšička, an alumnus of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at Charles University. Myšička, a theoretical physicist, actor, and the artistic director of Dejvice Theatre, shared his multifaceted journey and experiences. The event provided a unique opportunity for attendees to gain insights into the intersections of science and the arts, and to be inspired by Myšička's diverse career path. The discussion was enriching and fostered a deeper appreciation for the versatility of academic and artistic pursuits. This was our event with the greatest attendance this year, attracting 50 people in person and 40 online. We should organize similar event next year, as it is great advertisement for our Chapter.

Link to additional event information:

- [Event at our webpage](#)

## Report on other Chapter activities

### How to become a real scientist from a struggling PhD student?

Date: April 17, 2024

Attendance: 35 in person + 40 online

Our Chapter invited Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb, a distinguished Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Cambridge, to give an inspiring online lecture tailored for PhD and Master's students facing research challenges. Carola shared her journey from struggling PhD student to successful scientist, offering valuable insights and encouragement to aspiring researchers. The lecture included a dynamic Q&A session, allowing attendees to receive personalized advice on their academic paths. The lecture (excluding the Q&A session) has been recorded, and it is now publicly available on our [YouTube channel](#).

We highly recommend organizing similar events in the future, as they provide significant opportunities for growth and advancement in academic careers for young researchers. Moreover, such lectures may raise awareness of our Chapter in general.

### I'm gonna write it in $\LaTeX$ !

Date: December 2, 2023

Attendance: 40

The Chapter organized a one-day workshop focused on  $\LaTeX$  typesetting and its use in writing mathematical texts, in particular, a bachelor thesis or a lab report. We helped the students become familiar with the basics of  $\LaTeX$  and introduced them to the template for the bachelor's thesis provided by the Faculty.

Changes in the character and structure of the course we made in the two last years seemed to improve this workshop, thus we kept all of them – the workshop was held online; both students and lecturers worked in an online editor Overleaf; and we focused on general typesetting in  $\LaTeX$  instead of focusing on writing a bachelor's thesis.

### How to Git good - a Git tutorial for beginners

Date: November 24, 2023

Attendance: 25

Our chapter organized a three-hour workshop focused on Git workflow and its application in everyday professional collaboration. We assisted participants in becoming familiar with the fundamentals of Git technology, including creating repositories, pushing/pulling, branching, and merging.

This was a brand-new event for our Chapter, and we hope to make it a regular occurrence. Special thanks go to Mgr. Vojtěch Srdečný from the Informatics section, who prepared the materials and delivered this inaugural lecture.

### Modelling trip

Date: May 8, 2023

Attendance: 25

SIAM SC organized a traditional modelling trip. Every age category, from first-year undergraduate students to doctoral students and professors, participated. This time, the route was from Mnichovice through Klokočná to Říčany. We concluded our trip at a pub in Říčany, which is the city with the best quality of life in Czech Republic.

### SIAM meeting for young modelling students

Date: March 26, 2024

Attendance: 12

For the past few years, we have struggled to attract undergraduate students to our chapter. We noticed that our current activities are either not attractive to them or are too advanced in topic. Hence, this year we decided to organize an ad-hoc meeting for undergraduate modelling students. The aim was to help them connect with each other and also to introduce our chapter to them. Although there was no academic value added, the meeting with pizza served as a great icebreaker. We should realize that purely academic-oriented events are insufficient in this regard.

Additionally, we observed that undergraduate students are mostly interested in seeking advice about their troubles and listening to short stories about older students. Therefore, we should maintain this free format. For the next year, we should prepare a brief showcase of examples covering various modeling topics that undergraduate students can consider for their master's studies and future careers.

### **SIAM Summer Semester Meeting**

Date: February 27, 2024

Attendance: 6

For the past few years, we have faced challenges in attracting graduate students to our chapter in significant numbers. We have observed that our current activities do not appeal to them, as they often cite being busy. Therefore, this year, we decided to organize a meeting specifically for graduate and soon-to-graduate modeling/numerics students, aiming to introduce our chapter to them. Although the meeting did not offer academic value, the presence of pizza acted as a great icebreaker. This highlighted the importance of incorporating social elements into our events, as purely academic-oriented activities may not suffice. However, we only managed to attract students who were already familiar with us and/or our chapter. Moving forward, we need to reconsider the concept, timing, and advertising strategy of such event to ensure broader participation.

### **SIAM SC seminar**

Since the foundation of the Student Chapter at Charles University, we have organized a regular seminar with the aim of offering talks that are widely accessible to both students and teachers. Most of the speakers are PhD students who try to introduce their field of research to an audience which is not particularly familiar with the subject. The seminars are supposed to be held in a friendly atmosphere, with beverages and pizza served at the beginning. Ample time for formal and casual discussions is reserved during the seminar.

This year, we had the capacity to organize only one event, which was held in-person in Karlín.

*Big consequences of small molecules* (Christoph Allolio, Ph.D.)

Date: December 8, 2023

Attendance: 5

### **Day of Doctoral Students**

Date: June 3, 2024

Attendance: 20

Each year, the mathematical section of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, organizes a Day of Doctoral Students – a conference where PhD students present their research to a broad audience. Specially, all graduate students as well as faculty members from various mathematical departments are invited to participate and learn about the research of our PhD students. There were 25-minute presentations of PhD students of mathematics and our Chapter assisted with the organization.

### **Business meeting**

Date: June 26, 2023

Attendance: 10

We first reviewed and evaluated the activities of the Chapter in the past year and discussed the future development of the Chapter. Then, we briefly mentioned the courses we would like to organize in the next

academic year, for example, meeting with alumni or science-important people with great social impact. Finally, we elected a new committee that shall serve in the academic year 2024/2025.