



Rostock, 03.07.2012

## **Guidelines for making a cumulative dissertation at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Rostock**

The PhD regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Rostock, states that several already published or accepted manuscripts may be submitted as a cumulative dissertation if they have a close temporal and factual context, and overall meet the requirements on a dissertation (§ 6 (5)). The following guidelines specify this definition more detailed.

1. A dissertation is cumulative when the results of the thesis are not presented in the form of a continuous text, but in the form of a collection of several manuscripts of scientific papers.
2. A cumulative dissertation must be indicated as such on the front page.
3. A cumulative dissertation must contain at least three manuscripts published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The PhD student must be the first/main author of at least two manuscripts. Further, not yet accepted manuscripts may be part of the dissertation.
4. For manuscripts with multiple authors, the contribution of the PhD student must be described precisely. Her / his contributions to every manuscript must be described in detail, particularly the proportion of drafting of the manuscripts. The contributions must be explained on a separate page. One copy of this page, signed by the candidate and countersigned by the supervisor, goes along with the documents submitted and remains in the file.
5. A cumulative dissertation shall be submitted in bound form, and shall consist of the following parts:

- Cover with the remark that it is a cumulative dissertation
- Table of Contents, and possibly other indexes, e.g. Abbreviations
- Summary of usually at least 20 and a maximum of 40 pages in length, which fulfills the requirements of § 6 (5a and b) of the PhD regulations and shall contain a reference list of citations in the summary, which is not taken into account in the page count
- The statement of the individual contributions to the manuscripts in accordance with paragraph 4 of these guidelines
- Complete manuscripts as part of the main part of the dissertation
- If necessary, annexes, such as further in the original manuscripts not documented data, methods, or further manuscripts.

6. The summary is of particular importance for the assessment of a cumulative dissertation. By the summary the candidate must conclusively demonstrate which contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the pursued research area of the study was achieved by the manuscripts in their entirety.

7. Further requirements:

- At least one of the proposed reviewers must not be a co-author of any of the submitted manuscripts. If there is a possibility for the grade "summa cum laude" at least two of the proposed reviewers must meet this condition.
- For the required publication of the dissertation in electronic form (e.g. DissOnline) in many cases for reasons of copyright, the manuscripts must be replaced by the relevant permanent links (DOI). In any other case the PhD-student needs an agreement with the publishers.

This policy comes into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012. PhD students may request that their dissertation does not follow these guidelines. This is to be requested informally and needs to be confirmed by the Board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

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Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences