Kai Polsterer: “We will revolutionize data access.”

Kai Polsterer (MSc) holds a PhD from the University of Heidelberg, Germany. He is the head of a research group at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg, Germany. His research focuses on the development of innovative technologies for the analysis and visualization of astronomical data, with a particular emphasis on machine learning and data science.

In October 2018, the programming competition “Mathematics and Robotics” was organized at the Ernst-Siemens-Gymnasium in Kornwestheim (Baden-Württemberg). 28 high-school students from grades 9–11 learned to program robots that interact with their environments. HITSter, the student club of the Max Planck Institute for Informatics, organized this event with the support of Fraunhofer HITS. In total, 60 students participated in the competition.

Kai Polsterer noted: “In addition to the programming competition, there was also a presentation by Steffen Petz from the topic of robotics and this year’s robotics project. The students were able to see how robots are built and how they work.”

One of the main goals of the competition was to give high-school students a taste of computer science and to encourage them to pursue a career in the field. “We want to show them that computer science is not just about programming, but also about developing innovative technologies that can be used in various fields,” said Kai Polsterer.

The competition was divided into two categories: the first category was open to all high-school students, while the second category was only open to students who had previously participated in the programming competition. The winners were announced on December 1, 2018.

Kai Polsterer stated: “We are very pleased with the turnout of students and the quality of their projects. We believe that this competition will help to raise awareness of the importance of computer science and encourage more students to consider it as a future career.”