

Editorial

Dear Readers:

What follows is a selection of 10 papers (out of 106) originally published in the ITI (Information Technology Interfaces) 2005 Conference Proceedings.

We tried, as usual, to satisfy two major criteria during the selection process: to select those papers receiving high ratings from both international referees, and, in the spirit of “interfaces”, we tried to cover as many topical areas as possible. Also, we seem to be “interfacing” well with young scholars/researchers. As you will notice, there are three student papers included in this group of 10 papers, two of which received golden and silver awards from the ITI Committee / Conference participants.

Out of 13 conference topics, seven are represented by at least one paper. This will give you a sense of the scope of the intra- and interdisciplinary communication and ICT interfacing that occurred in Cavtat/Dubrovnik this past year, and perhaps pique your curiosity enough to join us for the ITI Conference this coming June 2006.

The order of papers follows the Proceedings topic order, starting with an invited paper, followed by a paper presented at this year’s Special Session and ending with two papers from the “Theory of Computing and Computing Methodologies” topic.

The first paper was from a work by our invited speaker, Ralf Steinberger (et.al.) on searching the Internet in a variety of most interesting and exciting new ways: “Navigating multilingual news collections using automatically extracted information”. This paper was included not only for its intrinsic interest/value, but also because it was a product of the European Commission — Joint Research Centre (a major interface opportunity); and because it opens the door to a new and growing topic area for this coming year’s ITI Conference — “Language Technologies”. (Special thanks, incidentally, to Damir Boras from the University of Zagreb for initially suggesting this new topical area during the regular meeting of the International Program Committee in Cavtat/Dubrovnik, June 2005.)

“Grids” were a primary topic and opportunity for interfaces among IT centered researchers, users, and educators this past season. The Special Session topic “High Performance Computing, Networking, and Grids” was well represented by David Bell and Simone A. Ludwig’s paper “Grid service discovery in the financial markets sector” and also won best student paper golden award. The paper details the performance of a semantic search system/procedure in the financial (banking) markets space.

Krešimir Fertalj’s (et.al.) paper (under the topic “Databases, Data Warehousing, and Information Systems”) attempts to demonstrate one way to use IT technology to select among alternative ERP (Enterprise-wide Resource Planning) software product offerings. It proposes a set of questions to ask so as to help rate alternatives and make the “best” decision — in the Croatian market especially.

“Data Mining, Statistics and Biometrics” is the topic under which the Jozef Stefan Institute (Slovenia) paper by Marko Grobelnik and Dunja Mladenić can be found: “Simple classification into large topic ontology of web documents”. Their approach gives us an interesting, simple, and reliable way to handle large topic ontology efficiently by providing it with enriched data.

A second item under the above topic offers “Interval estimate for specific points in polynomial regression”. The Košmelj K., A. Blejec, and A. Cedilnik paper is a study/research essay on the density function of the ratio of jointly normal variables (in an agricultural experiment on maize).

The “Information Society” topic included two items: Pavle Sicherl presents us with a novel way (S-time-distance) to view information society indicator data. The technique is applied to such indicator as PC per 100 inhabitants and Internet users per capita. The other paper under the same topic “Computer-aided document indexing system” by Mladen Kolar (et.al.) uses the controlling influence of the EUROVOC thesaurus to aid in handling Croatian language documents in a more efficient and accurate manner.

The next topic “Modeling, Simulation and Optimization” has one paper by Branko Kaučić “Approximative terrain guarding with given number of guards”. The author offers an improvement on several well known heuristic techniques for maximizing guarded area by a fixed maximal number of guards.

Two papers are included under the topic “Theory of Computing and Computing Methodologies”. The first one (by Matko Botinčan) is about verifying important safety and liveness properties of the Lampert’s Bakery algorithm written in AsmL specification language. The second is about “Component-based development process and component lifecycle” by Ivica Crnkovic (et.al.). The paper addresses the major differences found when comparing component-based with non-component-based software development processes (in a case study format).

Again, we hope that you’ll find our selection of articles informative, interesting, and inspiring. ITI 2005 has again this year provided a broad scientific program and promoted stimulating professional interaction that attracted participants from 33 different countries and six continents. We will continue the Best Student Paper Competition, with great prizes, encouraging young scholars/researchers from around the world to submit their papers for Competition.

Finally, if you have an idea on how to improve our performance, the CIT article selection process, or quality of the publication in general, contact us at cit@srce.hr.

Thank you again for your subscription and involvement.

*Vesna Lužar-Stiffler
Robert Manger
Charles Stiffler*