Editorial

Dear Readers:

We are pleased to introduce to you a selection of papers (out of 100+) originally published in the ITI (Information Technology Interfaces) 2004 Conference Proceedings. As usual, in our paper selection process we tried to satisfy two criteria: to publish the papers that received high ratings from both international referees, and, in the spirit of "interfaces", to cover most of the ITI topical areas. Out of the 13 broad Conference topics, 10 are represented by at least one paper. We hope that the thirteen papers we finally chose to publish will give you the flavor of this year's intra- and interdisciplinary communication and ICT interfacing that took place in Cavtat/Dubrovnik this year, and that they will make you interested and curious enough to join us at ITI 2005.

The order of papers follows the Proceedings topic order, starting with papers presented at this year's Special Session and ending with a paper from the most theoretical topic "Theory of Computing and Computing Methodologies".

In line with ITI's vision of continuously providing interface opportunities among various emerging/growing fields of research, this year's special session was titled "ITI in the Century of the Gene: Challenges and Opportunities". Our selection includes two interesting papers from this topic: an article by Nikola Štambuk, et.al. on a new binary algorithm for the prediction of α and β protein folding types from RNA, DNA and amino acid sequences; and another by Nino Margetic, on a high-throughput, large-scale SNP genotyping facility.

The next article, authored by Marina Čičin-Šain et.al., offers a comprehensive overview of the issues related to business reengineering within logistics systems. In another paper under the same "Computing in Business and Finance" topic, Guido Menkhaus and Urs Frei address a grammar-based transformation approach to legacy systems and applications integration problems.

In the paper presented under the "Databases, Data Warehousing and Information Systems" topic, Sašo Greiner et.al. introduce an extension of the Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP) paradigm to distributed enterprise web-based information systems based on the J2EE platform.

Under the "Data Mining, Statistics and Biometrics" topic, the article by Vesna Lužar-Stiffler and Charles Stiffler examines a series of graphical tools for visualizing and improving the interpretability of classification tree ensembles.

From the papers reported under the "Human Interfaces and Interaction" topic, we selected the one authored by Fernando Ferri and Maurizio Rafanelli, that proposes a novel approach to the resolution of ambiguities in query interpretation for Geographical Pictorial Query Languages. . . , another attempt to improve interpretability as seen in the prior articles.

The next two papers represent conference contributions to the "ICT in Higher Education" topic. The paper by Heinz Lothar Grob et.al. describes a case study of an open source Learning Management System lifecycle in an educational setting. The other article under the same topic, authored by Jasna Kuljis, presents the author's experiences in using Java and BluesJ in teaching an introductory object-oriented programming course.

The paper by Priti Adeshara (reported under the "Information Society" topic) describes results of a survey designed to provide insight into the readiness of small and medium-sized enterprises for accepting e-government services in the UK.

Again this year, the "Modeling, Simulation, and Optimization" topic attracted many contributions. We decided to select the article by Tomislav Rozman et.al. that introduces the idea of bringing together different process modeling standards, using process concept mapping into Petri Nets, and incorporating the usage of process patterns.

In the twelfth article, our selection from the "Networking, Middleware and Distributed Platforms" topic, authors Igor Čavrak et.al. propose a cost-reductive communication schema for distributed multi-agent environments containing mobile agents.

The closing paper by Matko Botinčan (presented under the "Theory of Computing and Computing Methodologies" topic) describes a generic C++ library of classes and functions for solving path problems in a general way.

We hope that you'll find our selection of articles informative, interesting, and inspiring. ITI 2004 has again this year provided a broad scientific program and promoted stimulating professional interaction that attracted participants from 28 different countries and four continents. New this year, Best Student Paper Competition, with great prizes, has encouraged a number of young scholars/researchers (from 8 different countries) 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.

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