The (IM)2 Newsletter

Bi-directional exchanges

In addition to the visitor exchange program with ICSI which allowed four young (IM)2 students and researchers to spend 6 to 12 months in Berkeley, (IM)2 is also attracting foreign students and researchers in Switzerland.

IDIAP recently hosted Marios Athineos, a PD student at Columbia University (Prof. Dan Ellis), for a 3 month exchange under the supervision of Prof. Hynek Hermansky. Marios is now at IBM Research.

Fabio Valente, currently a PhD student at Eurecom, France, will come to IDIAP to accomplish the last two years of his PhD in the framework of (IM)2.

In addition to these individual initiatives, the student exchange program of the AMI project is offering further opportunities for European students to visit IDIAP, see www.amiproject.org/edu.php for more details.

(IM)2 alumni

After an initial time which saw many many new positions funded by (IM)2, the NCCR is now in a relatively stable phase. However, this does not mean there are no new people, since several students or postdocs have now reached the end of their “(IM)2 time” and have gone on to new challenges. (IM)2 partners are encouraged to keep contact with their alumni. To facilitate this initiative, a special section on the (IM)2 web site will be opened soon.

So far, and considering only former IDIAP members, we already have Dr Datong Chen and Dr Todd Stephenson, both postdoc at CMU, Dr Conrad Sanderson, Research Fellow at University of Adelaide to name but a few.

A new webmaster

After five years of activity at IDIAP, Thierry Collado has left the Institute to tackle new professional challenges. Our new webmaster, Vincent Spano, has taken over the supervision of the (IM)2 public and private web sites. Vincent has over five years of experience in software and web development. He can be reached at webmaster@im2.ch.

A new (IM)2.SA sub-project

Prof. Roland Siegwart, EPFL, will lead a new sub-project within (IM)2.SA on “Geometric - Topological Environment Mapping” aiming at investigating new means of representing and understanding environments and situations by means of a mobile robot platform and of multi-modal sensory inputs. In the first year, the focus will be on the autonomous generation of a geometric 3D map and the extraction of key elements available at meeting places, e.g. tables, doors or backboards. In this phase, a laser range finder and probably a depth camera will be the main sensors. In the second year, the representation and tracking of dynamic objects (e.g. people, moving furniture) and additional information coming for other modalities (camera, sound) will be integrated to a topological representation of the meeting room.

A new CTI project

IDIAP was granted a new CTI project in collaboration with Infonia, a Geneva-based company active in the Information Management domain (www.infonia.com). Infonia provides systems allowing big organizations to access and use effectively the huge amount of documents they both produce internally and obtain from outside. The project has essentially two goals: the first is the improvement of the technologies currently at the disposition of Infonia. The second is the transfer of knowledge and know-how related to the latest developments in this domain.

The activities will concentrate on texts and images with the aim of integrating both kinds of information in a single framework. This will be useful in application contexts involving documents containing not only text, but also pictures. The CTI project will benefit from the competences developed at IDIAP in the IM2.IIR and IM2.SA framework.

Events

First International Workshop on Multimodal Interaction and Related Machine Learning Algorithms (MLMI’04) 21–23.6.04

The first Workshop on Multimodal Interaction and Related Machine Learning Algorithms, a joint initiative of the AMI, PASCAL, (IM)2 and M4 projects, will be held in Martigny and organized by IDIAP on June 21–23. See www.idiap.ch/events/workshop-mlmi04 for the latest news. Deadline for registration: 10 June 2004.

(IM)2 Surprise week 16–20.8.04

(IM)2 PhD students: please bookmark the week from August 16 to August 20 as we are planning a special event for you. Full details will be announced and discussed at MLMI’04, during the (IM)2 special afternoon.

Comptoire Suisse 23.9.04

During the “journée des professionnels de l’audio, vidéo et multimédia”, a one-day event as part of the yearly Comptoire Suisse in Lausanne, IDIAP will present the latest trends in Multimedia information management and multimodal interfaces resulting from the research activities in the (IM)2 NCCR.

Foire du Valais 4.10.04

Monday, October 4, will be IDIAP’s day at the Foire du Valais. The Institute will demonstrate its activities and projects to the public through a series of presentations. The final program will be announced later.

SNSF Site Visit 18–19.11.04

The third annual Site Visit of the SNSF Review Panel will take place on November 18 and 19, 2004.

SIAB meeting 10–11.2.05

Next year’s International Scientific and Industrial Advisory Boards meeting will be held on February 10 and 11, 2005.
Joint AMI / PASCAL / (IM)2 / M4 Workshop on Multimodal Interaction and Related Machine Learning Algorithms

Centre du Parc (www.hotelduparc.ch), Martigny, Switzerland, 21–23 June 2004

Workshop Program

Monday, June 21
07h30 Registration
08h30 TBA, by Bill Buxton, Buxton Design
09h15 Oral session: HCI & applications
10h15 Coffee Break
11h00 A Programming Model for Next Generation Multimodal Applications, by Rafah Hosn, IBM Research
11h45 Oral session: Structuring & interaction
12h45 Lunch Break
14h00 Confidence Measures in Speech Recognition, by Stephen Cox, University of East Anglia
14h45 Oral session: Speech processing
15h45 Coffee Break
16h30 Poster sessions 1 and 2
18h00 End of the day

Tuesday, June 22
08h30 Immersive Conferencing Directions at FX Palo Alto Laboratory, by Jonathan Foote, FX Palo Alto Laboratory
09h15 Mats Ljungqvist, EC
09h35 Oral session: Interaction & teleconferencing
10h15 Coffee Break
11h00 S-SEER: A Multimodal Office Activity Recognition System with Selective Perception, by Nuria Oliver, Microsoft Research
11h45 Oral session: Multimodal processing
12h45 Lunch Break

Wednesday, June 23
08h30 Piecing together the emotion jigsaw, by Roddy Cowie, Queen’s University, Belfast
09h15 Oral session: Emotion & tracking
10h15 Coffee Break
11h00 Artificial Companions, by Yorick Wilks, Sheffield University
11h45 Oral session: Speech processing
12h45 End of the Workshop

Check the web page for updates!

Workshop Sponsors

The MLMI’04 workshop is organised in the framework of the AMI, PASCAL, (IM)2 and M4 projects to foster collaboration and exchanges among participants. Significant financial support from AMI, PASCAL, (IM)2 allowed the workshop registration to remain free, thus facilitating access to the event for all members and in particular PhD students. The Workshop Committee would like to thank the AMI, PASCAL, (IM)2 and M4 projects, as well as their respective funding agencies (The European Commission, the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Federal Office for Science and Education) for their support.

www.idiap.ch/events/workshop-mlmi04