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Preface

The papers in this volume were presented at the 10th International Conference on Algorithmic Aspects of Information and Management (AAIM 2014), held during July 8–11, 2014, at Harbour Centre, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. It was the first time for the AAIM conference series to be held in Canada. The topics covered most areas in discrete algorithms and their applications.

Submissions to the conference were handled electronically. A total of 45 papers were submitted, of which 30 were accepted. The papers were evaluated by an international Program Committee overseen by the Program Committee co-chairs: Qianping Gu, Pavol Hell, and Boting Yang. The Program Committee consists of Hee-Kap Ahn, Binay Bhattacharya, Anthony Bonato, Zhi-zhong Chen, Leizhen Cai, Francis Chin, Chuangyin Dang, Xiaotie Deng, Ding-Zhu Du, Michael Fellows, Bin Fu, Gena Hahn, Kazuo Iwama, David Kirkpatrick, Guohui Lin, Tian Liu, Tom McCormick, Daniel Paulusma, Lorna Stewart, Xuehou Tan, Dimitrios Thilikos, Takeshi Tokuyama, Lusheng Wang, Peter Widmayer, Jinhui Xu, Yinfeng Xu, Guochuan Zhang, Kaizhong Zhang, Xiao Zhou, and Binhai Zhu. It is expected that most of the accepted papers will appear in a more complete form in scientific journals.

The submitted papers were from 16 countries/regions: Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, UK, and USA. Each paper was evaluated by at least three Program Committee members, assisted in some cases by sub-reviewers. In addition to the 30 selected papers, the conference also included two invited talks, one by Ming Li on “Approximating Semantics,” and the other by Christos H. Papadimitriou on “Computational Insights and the Theory of Evolution.”

We thank everyone who made the meeting a success, the invited speakers, the authors, the Program Committee members and external reviewers (listed in the proceedings). Finally, we thank Simon Fraser University for their support and the local organizers and colleagues for their assistance.

April 2014

Qianping Gu
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Invited Talks

Computational Insights and the Theory of Evolution

Chrisos H. Papadimitriou

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Covertly computational ideas have influenced the Theory of Evolution from the very start. This talk is about recent work on Evolution that was inspired and informed by computational insights. Considerations about the performance of genetic algorithms led to a novel theory of the role of sex in Evolution based on the concept of mixability, while the equations describing the evolution of a species can be reinterpreted as a repeated game between genes played through the multiplicative updates algorithm. Finally, a theorem on Boolean functions helps us understand better Waddington's genetic assimilation as well as mechanisms for the emergence of novelty in Life.

Approximating Semantics

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Latent search engines and question-answering (QA) engines fundamentally depend on our intuitive notion of semantics and semantic distance. However, such a semantic distance is likely undefinable, certainly un-computable, and often blindly approximated. Can we develop a theoretical framework for this area?

I will describe a theory, using the well-defined information distance, to approximate the elusive semantic distance such that it is mathematically proven that our approximation is “better than” any computable approximation of the intuitive concept of semantic distance. Although information distance itself is obviously also not computable, it does allow a natural approximation by compression. We will then describe a natural language encoding system to implement our theory followed by experiments on a QA system.

Table of Contents

Contributed Papers

Local Event Boundary Detection with Unreliable Sensors: Analysis of the Majority Vote Scheme	1
<i>Peter Brass, Hyeon-Suk Na, and Chan-Su Shin</i>	
On the Exact Block Cover Problem	13
<i>Haitao Jiang, Bing Su, Mingyu Xiao, Yinfeng Xu, Farong Zhong, and Binhai Zhu</i>	
Minimax Regret k-sink Location Problem in Dynamic Path Networks	23
<i>Guanqun Ni, Yinfeng Xu, and Yucheng Dong</i>	
Competitive Algorithms for Unbounded One-Way Trading	32
<i>Francis Y.L. Chin, Bin Fu, Minghui Jiang, Hing-Fung Ting, and Yong Zhang</i>	
The Complexity of Degree Anonymization by Vertex Addition	44
<i>Robert Bredereck, Vincent Froese, Sepp Hartung, André Nichterlein, Rolf Niedermeier, and Nimrod Talmon</i>	
Makespan Minimization on Multiple Machines Subject to Machine Unavailability and Total Completion Time Constraints	56
<i>Yumei Huo</i>	
Edge-Clique Covers of the Tensor Product	66
<i>Wing-Kai Hon, Ton Kloks, Hsiang-Hsuan Liu, and Yue-Li Wang</i>	
Protein Name Recognition Based on Dictionary Mining and Heuristics	75
<i>Shian-Hua Lin, Shao-Hong Ding, and Wei-Sheng Zeng</i>	
A Facility Coloring Problem in 1-D	88
<i>Sandip Das, Anil Maheshwari, Ayan Nandy, and Michiel Smid</i>	
Approximation Algorithms for Packing Element-Disjoint Steiner Trees on Bounded Terminal Nodes	100
<i>Daiki Hoshika and Eiji Miyano</i>	
The Garden Hose Complexity for the Equality Function	112
<i>Well Y. Chiu, Mario Szegedy, Chengu Wang, and Yixin Xu</i>	
Finding Robust Minimum Cuts	124
<i>Barbara Geissmann and Rastislav Šrámek</i>	

A Hybrid Genetic Algorithm for Solving the Unsplittable Multicommodity Flow Problem: The Maritime Surveillance Case	137
<i>Hela Masri, Saoussen Krichen, and Adel Guitouni</i>	
Multiple Sink Location Problems in Dynamic Path Networks	149
<i>Yuya Higashikawa, Mordecai J. Golin, and Naoki Katoh</i>	
Narrowing the Complexity Gap for Colouring (C_s, P_t) -Free Graphs	162
<i>Shenwei Huang, Matthew Johnson, and Daniël Paulusma</i>	
New Lower Bounds on Broadcast Function	174
<i>Hayk Grigoryan and Hovhannes A. Harutyunyan</i>	
Efficient Memoization for Approximate Function Evaluation over Sequence Arguments	185
<i>Tamal Biswas and Kenneth W. Regan</i>	
Partially Dynamic Single-Source Shortest Paths on Digraphs with Positive Weights	197
<i>Wei Ding and Guohui Lin</i>	
Obtaining Split Graphs by Edge Contraction	208
<i>Chengwei Guo and Leizhen Cai</i>	
Parameterized Complexity of Connected Induced Subgraph Problems	219
<i>Leizhen Cai and Junjie Ye</i>	
Semi-online Hierarchical Load Balancing Problem with Bounded Processing Times	231
<i>Taibo Luo and Yinfeng Xu</i>	
Restricted Bipartite Graphs: Comparison and Hardness Results	241
<i>Tian Liu</i>	
The Research on Controlling the Iteration of Quantum-Inspired Evolutionary Algorithms for Artificial Neural Networks	253
<i>Fengmao Lv, Guowu Yang, Shuangbao Wang, and Fuyou Fan</i>	
On P_3 -Convexity of Graphs with Bounded Degree	263
<i>Lucia Draque Penso, Fábio Protti, Dieter Rautenbach, and Uéverton S. Souza</i>	
The Competitive Diffusion Game in Classes of Graphs	275
<i>Elham Roshanbin</i>	
A New Linear Kernel for Undirected Planar Feedback Vertex Set: Smaller and Simpler	288
<i>Mingyu Xiao</i>	

Clustering Performance of 3-Dimensional Hilbert Curves	299
<i>H.K. Dai and H.C. Su</i>	
Broadcast Networks with Near Optimal Cost	312
<i>Hovhannes A. Harutyunyan</i>	
An Optimal Context for Information Retrieval	323
<i>Rabeb Mbarek, Mohamed Tmar, and Hawete Hattab</i>	
An Auction-Bargaining Model for Initial Emission Permits	331
<i>Lili Ding, Xiaoling Wang, and Wanglin Kang</i>	
Author Index	341