



McGill

C e n t r e f o r

Intelligent Machines

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Newsletter

Conference Update

The 12th International Conference of Pattern Recognition was held from October 9 to October 13, in Jerusalem, a historical, archeological, religious and beautiful city in Israel. Five people from CIM (Frank Ferrie, Martin Levine, Steve Zucker, Tal Arbel and Kenong Wu) attended the conference. Prof. Zucker gave a wonderful representation of the paper, *"Curve-like sets, normal complexity and representation"*, by Benoit Dubuc and Steve Zucker. His talk attracted at least 150 people. Tal gave an excellent presentation of the paper, *"Recognizing volumetric objects in the presence of uncertainty"*, by Tal Arbel, Peter Whaite and Frank Ferrie. She received many congratulations from both CIM members and the general audience. Two posters entitled *"Shape approximation: From multiview range images to parametric geons"* by Kenong Wu and Martin Levine and *"Exploring with a foveated robot eye system"* by Thierry Baron, Martin Levine and Y. Yeshurun were also presented. The contents and appearance of our posters attracted crowds of people. I even had to make an appointment with a graduate student because I was so busy talking to other people when he approached me.

On the social side, we all had a stroll around the Old City; joined a reception in the Israel Museum and went south for a Bedouin Feast in the desert and watch the unforgettable sound and light show in the historical area of Masada. Unfortunately, the bus on which Tal and I were travelling got stuck for an hour and a half on the way. When we got to the desert, we just had time for a very brief Bedouin Feast. Tal was also sick that night because of the food. After the final session, Frank, Tal, Wu and several other professors had a lovely meal in a typical Middle Eastern restaurant. After the conference, Prof. Levine and Prof. Zucker returned to

Montreal. Frank went on a 3-day tour to Northern Israel and then to Palermo, Italy. Tal joined her relatives in Haifa, Herzliyah and Tel Aviv. She is proud to have returned from her trip in one piece, and will avoid buses altogether for the next little while. I was supposed to come back directly to Montreal. However, I was sent to Tel Aviv because the airplane was over-booked. Therefore, I had a free one-day tour in Tel Aviv which included a walk on the sandy Mediterranean beach, an overnight stay in a 5-star hotel, long-distance calls to my wife and English television with Hebrew subtitles. On my return trip, Swissair put me in business class for compensation! All in all, Israel is a marvelous place and I would like to visit it again.

Submitted by Kenong Wu and Tal Arbel



CIM Holiday PartyHo, Ho, Ho

The 1994 Annual CIM Holiday Party will be held on Wed. Dec. 7th. Due to cuts to Santa Claus' budget and a drastic increase in catering costs, the party will take on a different format. We would like to hold it at the Poon Kai Restaurant on La Gauchetière in Chinatown (easily accessible by metro). The cost will be \$11.75 per person, half price for children under 10, for an all you can eat Chinese Buffet, tax and service incl. A cash bar is

also available. However, despite the recession, Santa has promised to attend the party and bring treats for the children as well as some door prizes.

In order to proceed with these plans, we would greatly appreciate your feedback on both the idea, the place and your participation as soon as possible (no deposit required). Also, please let me know if you would like to help with either decorations and/or entertainment. *For info and comments please contact Santa's helper at kathleen@cim.*



NEWS AND EVENTS

Hats off to:

Prof. Martin D. Levine has been elected a FELLOW of the International Association for Pattern Recognition for contributions to computer vision and biomedical image processing and outstanding leadership in the International Association for Pattern Recognition. The award was presented at the International Conference on Pattern Recognition on October 12, 1994 in Jerusalem, Israel.

Congratulations to Prof. George Zames who just celebrated 20 years of service to McGill University and the Department of Electrical Engineering.

At the IEEE International Conference on Robotics & Automation held in San Diego in May, three ex-Cimites presented outstanding papers. Robert Rohling (M.Eng. Jan 94) won the Anton Philips Best Student Paper Award for his paper entitled "Modelling & parameter estimation of the human index finger" co-authored by Prof. J. Hollerbach. Two of the 10 semifinalists for this same award were Paul Henri (M.Eng. April 94), for his paper "An analytical & experimental investigation of a jet pipe control-led electropneumatic actuator" also co-authored by Prof. J. Hollerbach, and Ali Nahvi (M.Eng. Oct. 94) for his paper "Closed-loop kinematic calibration of a parallel-drive shoulder joint" co-authored by Profs. V. Hayward and J. Hollerbach.

Congratulations to all three of them and our best wishes as they continue their work at the University of Utah.

At the Fall Convocation which was held on Nov. 2 Doctoral Degrees were conferred on Michael Langer and Michel Pelletier (Honours), while Duncan Baird (Honours), Anthony Botzas (Honours), Michel Doyon, David Lamb and Hamid Vaezi received their Master Degrees. Congratulations and best of luck to all of them!

The 23rd ASME Design Technical Conference was held in Minneapolis from Sept. 11 to 14. Profs. Angeles and Zsombor-Murray, as well as Luc Baron, Abbas Fattah and Farzam Ranjbaran, attended the conference and presented six papers on parallel manipulators and mechanical optimization.

A research project on forestry robotics has been initiated at McGill by Prof E. Papadopoulos who is collaborating with CRIM, Université de Laval and two forestry companies, Denharco and Autolog. The project is funded by MICST Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, as part of the Synergie program. Two graduate students, Bin Mu and Soumen Sarkkar, and Réal Frenette, a research engineer, are working with Prof. Papadopoulos on the modelling and control of articulated forestry machines, including the manipulator and electronic subsystem.

Welcome to:

Yves Bérubé-Lauzière is a student of Prof. Hayward. He did most of his studies (i.e. Bachelors and Masters) in mathematical physics at the UdeM. He spent the last year in Bonn, Germany studying Mathematics. He loves to travel and has an interest in languages. He enjoyed learning German so much that he plans to take up Spanish next year. As hobbies, he likes cycling, hiking and cross-country skiing. Yves has a message for anyone here who speaks German and would like "ein bisschen quatschen, dann kannst Du mich etwas

e-mail-lieren, ich wuerde mich darauf freuen." .
Yves's office is at 2020.

House for Rent

Furnished house to rent, Lower Westmount, early February to end of May. Would consider a January starting date. 3 bedrooms, plus den and finished basement. Rental to be negotiated. For info please contact belanger@cim.mcgill.ca.



CIM Bowling Competition

CIM's 2nd Open Gathering of Hardened Warriors (also known as the CIM Bowling Tournament) was held last month, and once again competition was so fierce that only a few other lanes were occupied at the time of the tournament. This time there were 8 alley-masters engaged in battle, up by a factor of 2 from the first gathering! They must have heard about the revelry at the post-tournament party last time. Unfortunately, this time the awards ceremony amounted to watching Ahmed Helmy balance beer bottles on his nose while drinking their contents – entertainment budget cuts, you know.

Awards for this round were:

- Highest Total Bowling Score and still Undisputed and Undefeated Bowling Champion of the World: *Robert Lucyshyn*
- The Second Highest Score and "Missed-it-by-That-Much" prize: *Farzam Ranjbaran*
- Bowling Style resulting in the Highest Ball Speed: *Irene Cartier*
- Highest Score without Showing up for the Tournament: *Marc Bolduc*, with 0
- Most Strategic Use of Gulleys: *Abbas Fattah*

- The "Why can't I bowl like last time?" award: *Ferhan Bulca*
- Best Attempt at a Feed-Forward Bowling Ball Delivery: *Kyung Sang Cho*
- Highest Number of Different Bowling Balls Used during the Tournament: *Kourosh Etemadi Zanganeh*

Stay tuned to motd for the next exciting (?) tournament announcement!

Submitted by *Paul Mackenzie*

McGill Music Lovers

Don't forget that the McGill Faculty of Music offers free concerts on a continuing basis: students, faculty and guest musicians all contribute their talents to cover a wide range of classical-music tastes.

November Schedule:

Mon. 7th: Jorge Suarez, doctoral recital, piano works by Mather, Hambraeus and Rea – 20h00, Pollack Hall

Wed. 9th: Terrence Edwards, master's recital, piano works by Haydn, Beethoven and Chopin – 20h00, Pollack Hall

Thurs. 10th: Gryphon Trio (piano, violin and cello) part of the CBC/McGill concert series – 19h30, Pollack Hall (doors open at 19h00)

Fri. 11th: Dan Coughlan, honours recital, piano works by Mozart, Beethoven and Cherney – 20h00, Pollack Hall

Mon. 14th: Jennifer Raine, Master's recital, trombone with Hugh Cawker, piano works by Handel, Martin, Mozart and Weinsweig – 20h00, Pollack Hall.

Articles & ideas are welcome. Please send them by e-mail to the editor. Deadline for publication is the 7th of every month.

Editor: Janet Burghardt (e-mail: jmb@cim.mcgill.ca)

Associate Editors: Paul Mackenzie
Kathleen VanderNoot

Mon. 14th: Heather Howes, flute; Marcel Saint-Cyr, cello; Zabel Manoukian, piano works by Haydn, Gaubert, Damase and Jeppesen - 20h00, Redpath Hall

Wed. 16th & Thurs. 17th: McGill Jazz Ensembles - 20h00, Pollack Hall

Fri. 18th: Tom Williams, violin & viola; Elise Desjardins, piano works by Raum, Schiptizky (premiere) and Grieg - 20h00, Redpath Hall

Mon. 21st: A Tribute to Glenn Gould as a Composer works by Glenn Gould - 20h00, Pollack Hall

Wed. 23rd: McGill Concert Choir John Baboukis, director - 20h00, Pollack Hall

Thurs. 24th: Elizabeth Dolin, cello; Carmen Picard, piano part of the CBC/McGill concert series - 19h30, Pollack Hall (doors open 19h00)

Fri. 25th: McGill Wind Ensemble - 20h00, Pollack Hall

Sat. 26th: A Christmas Concert: McGill Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Women's Chorale and University Chorus - 20h00, Pollack Hall

Sun. 27th: Alan Fraser, piano works by Scriabin, Chopin, Medtner and Liszt - 20h00, Pollack Hall

Sun. 27th: Andrew Laubstein, Artist Diploma Recital, trombone with Olga Gross, piano - 20h00, Redpath Hall

Tues. 29th: McGill Flute Choir- 20h00, Pollack Hall

Wed. 30th: McGill Women's Choir - 20h00, Redpath Hall

Choral concerts:

MUSICA ORBIUM under the direction of Patrick Wedd, a St. Cecilia's Day concert - Britten, Poulenc, Hindemith, Vierne, spirituals - Wed, November 23, 7:30 p.m - Eglise St-Germain (28 Vincent d'Indy, Outremont, metro Edouard Mont-Petit). Freewill offering. *People you know in the choir: Michael Kelly, Anna Lin.*

ANIMA MUSICA under the direction of Andrée Dagenais, Christmas concerts - Buxtehude, Pinkham, Victoria, Guerrero, Renaissance and traditional Christmas music. *When & where:* 1) Friday, December 2nd, 8 p.m., Eglise St-Barthelemy (7137 des Erables, metro Iberville). Freewill offering.

2) Sunday, December 11th, 3 p.m., Musée des Beaux Arts (1379 Sherbrooke W.). Price of admission to museum.

3) Saturday, December 17th, 5 p.m., Church of St-John the Evangelist (137 President Kennedy, corner St-Urbain, metro Place des Arts). Tentative ticket prices \$14, \$9 students & seniors, \$6 children, family and group rates. *People you know in the choir: Pierre Bélanger, Anna Lin.*

For more information, please contact Anna at anlin@cim.mcgill.ca.

L'Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec under the direction of Marie-Claude Desloges - Sat, November 19, 8 pm, Pollack Hall, McGill University. Tickets: \$18, \$13 seniors, \$10 students. *People you know in the choir: Michael Kelly .*

For more information, please contact Michael at kelly@cim.mcgill.ca



CIM TOP TEN

Top Ten snappy replies to stupid questions

⑩Q: "Can you do a quick demo?" A: -- No.

⑨Q: (to someone seated in front of a workstation) "Are you using this workstation?"

A:-- No, I'm working as a freelance antenna and am sitting here because the McConnell building's UHF signals all converge at this point.

⑧Q: "Excuse me, but can I borrow 3 cm of your 25 metres of extra wire?"

A: -- Sorry, but I need every cm so I can make a big ball of wire for my new autonomous robotic cat to play with.

⑦Q: "Do you know where Professor Dudek is?"

A: -- Oh yeah, he's usually quite easy to find... ah ha ha ha ha!

⑥Q: (from a really clued-in reporter looking at CIM's mobile robot) "Is this part of the space program?"

A: -- Why, certainly. We use these sonar sensors as solar power arrays and these wheels double as a handy-dandy warp drive.

⑤Q: "Hey Peter, do you know anything about UNIX?"

A:-- No, I'm still too dedicated to DOS 2.0 to bother with something like that.

④A: "Want to go out for lunch with us, Anna?"

A:-- Gee, let me see. You've only asked me 16 quadrillion times and I've said no each time... Hmmmm, see a pattern forming?

③Q: "Was I driving too fast?"

A: -- Not at all, Ahmed; all those other cars you left in the dust were actually driving backwards.

②Q: "Should I close the lab door if there is no one in the lab?"

A:-- Oh no, leaving it open encourages the much-valued entrepreneurial spirit in the slightly-used computer equipment market.

①Q: "Should I put comments in my C code?"

A: -- Naw, programs are way too easy to read already. Heck, just program the darn thing in binary.

Submitted by Paul Mackenzie