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Bridging the Geographic Information Sciences

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Preface

The Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe (AGILE) was established in 1998 to promote academic teaching and research on GIS at the European level. Since then, the annual AGILE conference has gradually become the leading GIScience conference in Europe. It provides a multidisciplinary forum for scientific knowledge production and dissemination. From that perspective, it can be regarded as a full successor of the preceding EGIS (European Conference on Geographical Information Systems) and JECC (Joint European Conferences and Collaboration) conferences, which dominated the European GI-conference scene during the nineties.

For the sixth consecutive year, the AGILE conference promoted the edition of a book with the collection of scientific contributions that were submitted as full papers. Those papers went through a competitive review process. The 15th AGILE conference call for full papers of original and unpublished fundamental scientific research resulted in 46 submissions, of which 24 were accepted for publication in this volume after a thorough selection and review process.

The papers submitted to the Program Committee can be considered to contribute to GIScience developments and to the success of the 15th AGILE conference which takes place in Avignon, France, under the title 'Bridging the Geographic Information Sciences'. As the bridges of Avignon and the Gard which have crossed the History, as the painter Van Gogh who travelled from the Netherlands to South of France, this year's conference emphasizes that geoinformation science, geomatics and spatial analysis are sciences where different disciplines, epistemologies and scientific cultures meet. We think that the papers included in this volume nicely reflect these different fields, and we hope and are convinced that this will stimulate scientific discussions during the conference.

Indeed, the scientific papers published in this volume cover a wide diversity of GIScience related themes, including: Spatio-temporal Data Modeling and Visualisation; Spatial Data Infrastructures; Geo Web Services and Geo Semantic Web; Modelling and Management of Uncertainty; Spatio-temporal Data Quality and Metadata; Mobility of Persons, Objects and Systems, Transports and Flows; Spatial Analysis, Geostatistics, and

Geo Information Retrieval; Modelling and Spatial Analysis of Urban Dynamics, Urban GIS; GIS and Spatial Analysis for Global Change Modelling, Impact on Space; and Geographic Information Science: links with other disciplines and citizens.

Organizing the program of an international conference and editing a volume of scientific papers requires time, effort and support. It would not have been possible without the contributions of many individuals and organizations. We would like to thank the authors for their high-quality contributions, which are invaluable for an edited volume. Moreover, we would like to thank the reviewers for their difficult tasks to evaluate the proposals and select those contributions that are really worthwhile for inclusion in this book. The double-blind review process, by demanding at least 3 reviewers per submission, ensures high scientific quality of the selected papers. In addition, we would like to thank the AGILE Council and members for their active support in making this volume a valuable publication in the field of Geoinformation Sciences and this conference a successful event. Many thanks also to Jagannath Aryal and Julio Rojas-Mora who spent a long time to check the English quality and verify the Springer format of the articles.

We would also like to thank several partners for their kind contribution to this conference:

- Université d'Avignon et des Pays de Vaucluse, ESRI, IGN-France, CNRS & GDR MAGIS, Région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, Transaction in GIS, Geoconcept, for their sponsoring;
- Springer Publishers for their willingness – already for the sixth time – to publish these contributions in their academic series Springer Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography;
- Softconf (<http://www.softconf.com>) for their useful START server to manage the review process and the relationship between committees and authors and their very efficient post-sales service responsiveness.

Jérôme Gensel, Didier Josselin and Danny Vandenbroucke (Editors)

February 2012

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Contents

Part I Spatio (Temporal) Data Modeling and Visualisation

- 1 Usability of Spatio-Temporal Uncertainty
Visualisation Methods** 3
Hansi Senaratne, Lydia Gerharz, Edzer Pebesma
and Angela Schwering
- 2 Line Simplification in the Presence of Non-Planar
Topological Relationships** 25
Padraig Corcoran, Peter Mooney and Michela Bertolotto
- 3 Critical Remarks on the Use of Conceptual Schemas in Geospatial
Data Modelling—A Schema Translation Perspective** 43
Tatjana Kutzner and Andreas Donaubauer

Part II Spatial Data Infrastructures, Geo Web Services and Geo Semantic Web

- 4 Towards an Active Directory of Geospatial Web Services** 63
Francisco J. Lopez-Pellicer, Walter Rentería-Agualimpia,
Javier Nogueras-Iso, F. Javier Zarazaga-Soria
and Pedro R. Muro-Medrano
- 5 Spatial Sensor Web for the Prediction of Electric Power
Supply System Behaviour** 81
Miloš Bogdanović, Nataša Veljković and Leonid Stoimenov
- 6 Live Geoinformation with Standardized
Geoprocessing Services** 99
Theodor Foerster, Bastian Baranski and Harald Borsutzky

7	Interlinking Geospatial Information in the Web of Data	119
	Luis M. Vilches-Blázquez, Víctor Saquicela and Oscar Corcho	

Part III Modelling and Management of Uncertainty, Spatio (Temporal) Data Quality and Metadata

8	QualESTIM: Interactive Quality Assessment of Socioeconomic Data Using Outlier Detection	143
	Christine Plumejeaud and Marlène Villanova-Oliver	
9	Distributed Integration of Spatial Data with Different Positional Accuracies	161
	Alberto Belussi and Sara Migliorini	
10	Through a Fuzzy Spatiotemporal Information System for Handling Excavation Data.	179
	Asma Zoghalmi, Cyril de Runz, Herman Akdag and Dominique Pargny	

Part IV Mobility of Persons, Objects and Systems, Transports and Flows

11	Using Weather Information to Improve Route Planning	199
	Paul Litzinger, Gerhard Navratil, Åke Sivertun and Daniela Knorr	
12	Simulation of Laser Attacks against Aircrafts	215
	Václav Talhofer, Teodor Baláž, František Racek, Alois Hofmann and Šárka Hošková-Mayerová	
13	Automated Traffic Route Identification Through the Shared Nearest Neighbour Algorithm	231
	Maribel Yasmina Santos, Joaquim P. Silva, João Moura-Pires and Monica Wachowicz	

Part V Spatial Analysis, Geostatistics, and Geo Information Retrieval

14	Comparing Support Vector Regression and Statistical Linear Regression for Predicting Poverty Incidence in Vietnam	251
	Cornelius Senf and Tobia Lakes	

15 Do Expressive Geographic Queries Lead to Improvement in Retrieval Effectiveness?	267
Damien Palacio, Christian Sallaberry, Guillaume Cabanac, Gilles Hubert and Mauro Gaio	
16 The GP-SET Method: A Spatial and Temporal Probabilistic Model for Geoprospective	287
Stéphane Bourrelly and Christine Voiron-Canicio	
 Part VI Modelling and Spatial Analysis of Urban Dynamics, Urban GIS	
17 Predicting Spatiotemporal Distribution of Transient Occupants in Urban Areas	307
Toshihiro Osaragi and Takeshi Hoshino	
18 Towards Urban Fabrics Characterization Based on Buildings Footprints	327
Rachid Hamaina, Thomas Leduc and Guillaume Moreau	
19 The Use of Point Pattern Statistics in Urban Analysis	347
Ioannis Pissourios, Pery Lafazani, Stavros Spyrellis, Anastasia Christodoulou and Myron Myridis	
 Part VII GIS and Spatial Analysis for Global Change Modelling, Impact on Space	
20 Beach-Dune Morphological Relationships at Youghal Beach, Cork	367
Sarah Kandrot	
21 A New Method for Computing the Drainage Network Based on Raising the Level of an Ocean Surrounding the Terrain	391
Salles V. G. Magalhães, Marcus V. A. Andrade, W. Randolph Franklin and Guilherme C. Pena	

Part VIII Geographic Information Science: Links with other Disciplines and Citizens

22 Geographic Information Science as a Common Cause for Interdisciplinary Research.	411
Thomas Blaschke, Josef Strobl, Lothar Schrott, Robert Marschallinger, Franz Neubauer, Andreas Koch, Euro Beinat, Thomas Heistracher, Siegfried Reich, Michael Leitner and Karl Donert	
23 Enhancing the Quality of Volunteered Geographic Information: A Constraint-Based Approach.	429
Olga Yanenko and Christoph Schlieder	
Index	447