Lecture Notes in Computer Science 2825

Edited by G. Goos, J. Hartmanis, and J. van Leeuwen

Springer
Berlin
Heidelberg
New York
Hong Kong
London
Milan
Paris
Tokyo

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Spatial Information Theory

Foundations of Geographic Information Science

International Conference, COSIT 2003
Kartause Ittingen, Switzerland, September 24-28, 2003
Proceedings

Springer

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Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for

Bibliographic information published by Die Deutsche Bibliothek
Die Deutsche Bibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data is available in the Internet at <http://dnb.ddb.de>.

CR Subject Classification (1998): E.1, I.2, F.1, H.2.8, H.1, J.2

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN 3-540-20148-3 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York
a member of BertelsmannSpringer Science+Business Media GmbH

http://www.springer.de

Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Olgun Computergrafik
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 10953631 06/3142 5 4 3 2 1 0

Preface

COSIT, the series of Conferences on Spatial Information Theory, has been around for more than ten years. Its hallmarks are a fruitful interdisciplinary dialogue between computational and human perspectives on spatio-temporal information and a thorough review process that selects the best papers while giving all authors detailed feedback on how to develop their work. A clear profile of the COSIT community has emerged from the series of conference proceedings, all published as Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science, and from the permanent web site at http://www.cosit.info, containing links to the conference web sites and proceedings, a history and program of the series, an impact study, interviews with participants, and pictures.

The proceedings of this sixth conference provide ample evidence that COSIT is healthy and maturing, while retaining its youth. Out of the 61 submissions, the program committee selected 26 papers for presentation, in discussions based on at least three double-blind reviews and one or more meta-review from PC members for each paper. Classical COSIT themes, such as spatial reasoning (about distances and directions, regions and shapes) or vagueness are being further refined; topics like wayfinding and landmarks are boosted by new synergies between cognitive and computational approaches; and the study of ontologies for space and time, a subject since the first COSIT, is gaining more depth. COSIT is adding new teams and talents every time: out of the 54 authors of accepted papers this year, 32 (or 59%) had never before published a COSIT paper!

Around the paper sessions, two keynote addresses, tutorials, a pre-conference workshop, an interactive poster session, a doctoral colloquium, and social events turned this year's conference into yet another highlight of the series. Following the cherished COSIT tradition of cloistered meeting places, the conference was held at Kartause Ittingen in Switzerland, a wonderful site that no doubt inspired participants to embark on work for the next meeting in 2005.

We thank the many people who made COSIT 2003 such a success: all those who submitted work and participated at the meeting, the reviewers, the program committee, the local organizing committee, and the staff of Kartause Ittingen. Thanks

September 2003

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