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CIS: Connect It Strong!



The beginning of a year is a good timing to conclude on what memorable moments have happened in the preceding year. Last summer, I was invited to give talks at the 2023 IEEE CIS Summer School and Summit Forum held at the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) in Shenzhen, China. Several IEEE CIS officers, Editors-in-Chief, and I gathered to introduce CI techniques and their advancements to beginners in the field—mainly undergraduate and master students. Approx-

mately 400 participants engaged in discussions immensely, and the vibe was very vigorous. I was delighted to share my research results on CI for composing music. Attending this summer school was absolutely a pleasant and fulfilling experience in 2023. I do love to see that CI technologies have been getting more attention among students and young scholars, from the level of this event's participation, and look forward to taking part in various activities held by CIS. Speaking of our Society, Professor Yaochu Jin assumes the CIS President for 2024–2025. We first met at a conference dated back in 2004, and participated or worked together in many CIS



(Left to right) Kiyoshi Tanaka, Mengjie Zhang, Chuan-Kang Ting, and Yaochu Jin in a tour of Conimbriga Roman Ruins, Portugal (2004).

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activities for two decades since. CIS is such a platform that brings people with similar research interests together to exchange academic ideas and create opportunities for collaboration. It is definitely worthwhile to join CIS and devote time to, because the sense of achievement and rewarding to work with people having similar passion is humongous. Perhaps someone you meet at a CIS conference today could become the CIS President in 20 years, you never know! LOL!

In Part II of this Special Issue on AI-eXplained (AI-X), readers can interact with four immersive articles by changing parameters or moving objects to explore the AI/CI techniques in the interactive contents on IEEE Xplore. The first article introduces contrastive learning and the effects of its augmentations, features, and parameters. The

second article presents interactive examples to manifest the explainability in fuzzy systems. In the third article, the ideas of fuzzy colors are demonstrated in an interactive way. The fourth article explains Monte-Carlo tree search (MCTS) algorithm via Tic-Tac-Toe, Go, and Sokoban games, where readers can play and learn the concepts of MCTS.

In the *Features*, the first article presents the forward composition propagation algorithm to explain the inner working of feed-forward neural networks by revealing the impact of problem features on neurons. A sparsity-based feature selection is proposed in the second article, considering feature-to-feature, feature-to-label, and label-to-label interactions simultaneously in multi-label classification. In the third article, an efficient Python-based

framework is developed to support the simulation, training, and application of spiking neural networks. The fourth article discusses the privacy concerns in evolutionary computation with respect to the centralized, distributed, and data-driven optimization paradigms.

We hope you find the articles of this issue informative and the online interactive contents inspiring. If you have any suggestions or feedback for this magazine, please do not hesitate to contact me at ckting@cs.nthu.edu.tw.



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