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A Message from the President

Dear members of the EUSFLAT Society,

During these first five months of the new Board, we had to fix the legal issues associated to the change of responsibilities. The previous Board has been extremely helpful, and the EUSFLAT Secretary is preparing a detailed guide-document to be given to future Boards about these tedious procedures.

There are actually two main problems this Board has given special attention since our election in Lisbon.

First, the situation of our Mathware & Soft Computing Journal, with respect the ISI Journal Citation Index. Mathware & Soft Computing was submitted to ISI on February 2008, and a minimum of three consecutive issues of the journal must be reviewed to perform an evaluation. We have sent for review five issues (from XV-1 to XVI-2), and we have requested a decision in last December. Now we are waiting for the ISI decision. ISI hasn't got a time limit for taking a decision, but we hope that two years and 5 issues will be enough. Anyway, I would also like to take this opportunity to make a call to all EUSFLAT members to consider submission of your work to our Journal.

Secondly, as a main background limitation, we must acknowledge that there are a lot of European researchers working on the theory and applications of Fuzzy Logic that do not join EUSFLAT. As a EUSFLAT member, you should have received a kind call to invite your colleagues to join our association. Increasing membership should give EUSFLAT more appropriate presence in the scientific field, both in size and distribution between countries, and at the same time it will provide more funds for EUSFLAT management and projects, student grants in particular. Please make extensive this invitation to your colleagues, or ask me by e-mail to formally invite them to join EUSFLAT, and do not forget to renew your own subscription to EUSFLAT!

The EUSFLAT forum is also about to be launched, and we are working towards an agreement with one scientific journal in order to be able to propose special issues, perhaps associated to our biannual EUSFLAT meeting or other EUSFLAT endorsed conferences. We have also established formal contacts with other Associations within IFSA to interchange discounts in our respective conferences, at the same time that we promote EUSFLAT. We hope all these initiatives, and others to come, will help EUSFLAT members in their research and show others the advantages of joining our association.

I also can announce that the next EUSFLAT meeting will be held in the beautiful town of Aix-les-Bains, France, third week of July 2011. Keep these dates free in your agenda!

Please do not forget to send news and informative collaborations about your academic activities to this EUSFLAT Newsletter. Some local initiatives can be taken into account by our colleagues and their public announcement helps our visibility.

All the best for this incoming year 2010,

Javier Montero
EUSFLAT President

Mathware & Soft Computing (needs your contribution)

Mathware & Soft Computing needs your contribution as authors. We are looking for a general range of contributions according to our scope, and we are now inviting papers for next issues. Please consider submitting your papers to Mathware. The scope of the journal is the theory and applications of Fuzzy Logic and Soft Computing. Original research papers on these fields are published every issue. Moreover, "state of the art" contributions and short notes are also published. This scope includes

- * Fuzzy Set theory and Fuzzy Systems,
- * Approximate Reasoning,
- * Evolutionary algorithms and genetic programming,
- * Neural science and neural net systems,
- * non-classical Logic,
- * Possibilistic Reasoning

For more information on the journal and detailed author guidelines, please see <http://ic.ugr.es/Mathware>

EUSFLAT Forum (our community's new arena)

We would like to announce that the EUSFLAT Forum will be launched SOON. From EUSFLAT homepage we will be able to access the forum with a username and a password. You will receive an email explaining how to access and how to manage within the Forum.

The main objective of this forum is to have open discussions and polls on topics of interest among members of EUSFLAT and also with other researchers interested in our topics.

We consider that the Forum can be a good tool for discussing new problems and establishing interesting debates in a simple, fast and dynamic way.

Seminar on New Trends on Intelligent Systems (student activity)

The Seminar is conceived as a workshop in our Master-PhD Program in Computer Science ("Soft Computing and Intelligent Systems"). It is scheduled during two days, with four invited talks. Each invited talk lasts for approximately one hour plus 20 minutes of questions and discussion. There will also be a final roundtable where lecturers participate in a discussion on current topics related to the future of Intelligent Systems, or the implications in our society.

The expected audience is Master students, who have finished five years of studies in Computer Science, and Ph.D. students, who are involved in our Ph.D. Program. Additionally, professors and researches coming from several places of Spain, also attend to the Seminar. It is held in a big auditorium, with a participation of about 100 persons each day.

The seminar is addressed to Master students. Therefore, the talks are mainly focused on topics at the Master level such as current trends, research challenges, state of the art, industry applications, etc. The idea is that the Seminar is not a very specialized research conference, but a forum where a Master student could find an overview and challenges of some interesting research fields.

The seminar will take place at University of **Granada (Spain)** on **February 18 and 19, 2010**. The Seventh Edition lecturers are:

Ajith Abraham - Director - Machine Intelligence Research Labs (MIR Labs)- Auburn, Washington, USA
Engineering Hybrid Intelligent Systems: Architectures, Perspectives and Challenges

Stefan Decker - National University of Ireland - Director of the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI)
Towards Networked Knowledge

Vipin Kumar - University of Minnesota, USA
Anomaly and Change Detection in Time series Data

Alessandro Saffiotti - AASS Mobile Robotics Lab - University of Örebro, Sweden
The Ecological Approach to Autonomous Robotics

Former Lecturers (by alphabetical order):

Ricardo Baeza-Yates, Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier, Carlos Coello, Pedro Domingos, Didier Dubois, Robert Fuller, Toshio Fukuda, Janusz Kacprzyk, James Keller, Laszlo Koczy, Rudolf Kruse, Mounia Lalmas, Christian Lemaitre, Jay Liebowitz, Vincenzo Loia, Anders L. Madsen, Marcelo Madeiros, Javier Montero, Enrico Motta, Witold Pedrycz, Henri Prade, Da Ruan, Enrique H. Ruspini, Philippe Smets, Enric Trillas, Xindong Wu and Ronald Yager

MORE INFORMATION ON: <http://docto-si.ugr.es/seminario>

Report on FuzzyMAD 2009 (an example: local and dynamic)

The FuzzyMAD encounter was launched in 2008 with the objective of creating a collaborative framework for researchers working in Madrid and having interests, both academic and industrial, in Fuzzy Logic and its applications. The main argument for FuzzyMAD was to offer a periodical intensive short meeting compatible with our jobs in Madrid, as well as a permanent shared communication network. The leader of each research team attending FuzzyMAD 2008, held in November 23, 2008, made a short presentation of their activities, in the spirit of establishing potential links with other research groups. Two acknowledged researchers with wide experience in promoting fuzzy research teams were invited in for the first FuzzyMAD encounter: Francesc Esteva (CSIC, Bellaterra, Spain) and Miguel Delgado (University of Granada, Spain). The second FuzzyMAD 2009 encounter was held in December 3, 2009, with a different format: some young researchers were invited to present the state of their work in the same open spirit, but at the same time research groups were asked to show their main achievements and projection by means of posters, to be discussed while enjoying a buffet lunch. This time our invited speaker was Antonio Gonzalez, Director of the "Soft Computing and Intelligence Systems" Master at the University of Granada. Five hours of intense communication, from 11:00 to 16:00, for 50 researchers coming from the most relevant research institutions located in Madrid, ending with a productive final session to discuss future joint projects and initiatives that may help our research.

ISCAMI 2010 (only student conference endorsed by EUSFLAT)

11th International Student Conference on Applied Mathematics and Informatics is organized by KMDG Faculty of Civil Engineering, Slovak University of Technology, and IRAFM, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic, in Bratislava in the period May 20-23, 2010. Recall that ISCAM was a traditional student conference in applied mathematics. ISCAMI took over a tradition of ISCAM and extended it with informatics and various applications. The main purpose of ISCAMI is to bring together young researchers and students and to give them an opportunity to present their achievements and ideas in the area of applied mathematics, informatics and various applications. For more details on ISCAMI 2010 we recommend: <http://www.math.sk/iscami/>

Radko Mesiar (Slovak University of Technology) and Vilém Novák (IRAFM, University of Ostrava), general chairpersons of ISCAMI 2010.

Report from BISC (an active EUSFLAT group)

BISC Program is the world-leading center for basic and applied research in soft computing.

The principal constituents of soft computing (SC) are fuzzy logic (FL), neural network theory (NN) and probabilistic reasoning (PR), with the latter subsuming belief networks, evolutionary computing including DNA computing, chaos theory and parts of learning theory.

The objective of the BISC associate program is to encourage close cooperation between the industrial, government, and academic communities and the BISC program.

This collaboration includes a faster transfer and exchange of our research results, implementation of focused research on problems of interest to members, increased members' access to publications, students, and faculty, and involvement in research and education through grants to support our activities at BISC program.

Some of the most striking achievements of BISC program are fuzzy reasoning (set and logic), new soft computing algorithms making intelligent, semi-supervised use of large quantities of complex data, uncertainty analysis, perception-based decision analysis, decision making with imprecise probabilities, computing with words, computational theory of perception (CTP), and precisiated natural language (PNL).

Currently, the researchers at BISC are working on implementation of Computing With Words. Decision making under uncertainty is a major problem in industries such as health, finance, control, etc. We are working on building a decision making model where the rules are defined with linguistic terms. This could only be achieved with the implementation of Computing with Words.

Some of the other recent developments of BISC research group are applications of fuzzy learning on pattern recognition for information extraction. The research paper (http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~asli/asli_IJSC.pdf) entitled "A Soft-Link Spectral Model for Link Prediction" by a BISC postdoc Dr. Asli Celikyilmaz, has won the Best Research Paper Award at the International Conference on Semantic Computing (ICSC) in 2009.

The BISC group members are attending different conferences and workshops to collaborate with researchers and scientists in different fields and to familiarize them with the Computing with Words idea. Some of the conferences, workshops and annual meetings that the group members attend are IEEE-Fuzzy, North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society (NAFIPS), IEEE-Semantic Computing, Neural Information Processing Society (NIPS), Advances in Computational Linguistics (ACL), North American ACL (NAACL), etc. As a BISC group, we believe that in coming years, Computing with Words will gain in visibility and acceptance as an important system of computation with information which is described in a natural language.

EUSFLAT Student Grants Program (apply and get yours)

In the past year, the EUSFLAT Student Grants Program has been active as ever. Four student grants were awarded to participants of AGOP 2009, the Fifth Internat. Summer School on Aggregation Operators (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, July 2009). Seven such grants were awarded to participants of IFSA-EUSFLAT 2009, a success rate of 25%. The assignment procedure is transparent and can be consulted at the EUSFLAT website (where the full list of grant holders is made public as well). Organisers of future events who would like to offer EUSFLAT student grants can also find there guidelines on how to apply.

For more information: <http://www.eusflat.org/members/grants.htm>

Or contact: B. De Baets, EUSFLAT Student Grants Responsible

2009 recipients

AGOP 2009: Riera, Juan Vicente (Spain), Jwaid, Tarad (Syria), Manzi, Maddelena (Italy), Merigó Lindahl, José M. (Spain)

IFSA-EUSFLAT 2009: Baetens, Jan (Belgium), Melange, Tom (Belgium), Almeida, Rui Jorge (Netherlands), Paternain, Daniel (Spain), Munárriz, Aránzazu Jurío (Spain), Cintra, Marcos (Brazil)... **EUSFLAT congratulates them!**

If you are reading this... (note from the Editor)

If you are reading this, chances are that somebody has or will too. On behalf of the EUSFLAT board and as editor of the newsletter, I'm inviting you to participate in these publications. Newsletters play a fundamental role in any society and in particular when the community is spread all over the world. It is a vector of information providing a unique opportunity to communicate on topics, which are not spread over other fast-media as are mailing lists or websites.

The EUSFLAT newsletter is published three times a year and provides the opportunity to publish not only announcements but also some more thought material as for instance **PhD thesis abstracts, descriptions of research groups, conference reports, book reviews** or announcements.

Did you read an excellent book? Let other people know! Did you write (or advised) a mind-blowing Ph.D. thesis? Let the world know! Did you organize a conference or workshop? Tell others - who could not attend - what came out of that event. The newsletters are nothing else but the reflection of the dynamics of our exciting community.

To publish anything is very easy, just send us an e-mail to: newsletter@eusflat.org

DEADLINE for the next issue: **April 1st, 2010**

Marcin Detyniecki
EUSFLAT Newsletter Editor

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