

Preface

The 13th International Conference on Intelligent Tutoring Systems, ITS 2016, was held in Zagreb, Croatia, during June 7–10, 2016.

The theme of the conference was: “Adaptive Learning in Real World Contexts.” It stressed the need for devising learning systems that can adapt adequately to users, furnishing them with the knowledge they are seeking in real-world contexts, namely, systems that are effectively usable in everyday learning situations, such as courses in schools or training programs in companies, but also in informal situations, such as *Web- or App-provided help* in using new technologies. The above theme encouraged conference participants to think about this educational need in our increasingly complex everyday world.

The call for scientific papers solicited work presenting substantive new research results in using advanced computer technologies and interdisciplinary research for enabling, supporting, and enhancing human learning. A posters track was also organized, providing an interactive forum for authors to present research prototypes to conference participants, as well as work in progress.

The international Program Committee consisted of 102 leading members of the intelligent tutoring systems community (34 senior and 68 regular) as well as highly promising younger researchers. The Program Committee chairs were Alessandro Micarelli from Roma Tre University, Italy, and John Stamper from Carnegie Mellon University, USA.

Scientific papers were reviewed by three reviewers (one of whom was senior) through a double-blind process. Only 15 % of submitted papers were accepted as full papers, about 27 % were accepted as short papers, and just over 30 % were accepted as posters. These rates show that ITS 2016 was a rather selective, high-quality conference. We believe that the chosen full papers describe some very significant research and the short papers some very interesting new ideas, while the posters present research in progress that deserves close attention.

In the review process we generally respected the reviewers’ evaluations, especially those made by the senior reviewers. Only in special cases did we depart from the latter’s recommendations, and only to upgrade the papers involved.

A separate young researchers’ track provided a forum in which PhD students could present and discuss their work during its early stages, meet peers with related interests, and work with more senior members of the field (mentors). The young researchers’ track chairs were Darina Dicheva from Winston-Salem State University, USA, and Toby Dragon from Ithaca College, USA. This track received 11 submissions, of which three were accepted as papers and four as posters.

The management of the review process and the preparation of the proceedings were handled through EasyChair.

The ITS 2016 program also included the following workshops and tutorial selected by the workshop chairs, Stephen E. Fancsali from Carnegie Learning, Pittsburgh, USA, and Tsukasa Hirashima from Hiroshima University, Japan.

Workshops:

- First International Workshop on Supporting Dynamic Cognitive Affective and Metacognitive Processes (SD-CAM) by Jason M. Harley and Claude Frasson.
- 2nd International Workshop on Social Computing in Digital Education (SocialEdu 2016) by Andrew Koster, Tiago Thompsen Primo, Rosa Maria Vicari, Takao Terano and Fernando Koch.
- First International Workshop on Intelligent Mentoring Systems (IMS 2016) by Amali Weerasinghe, Vania Dimitrova, Lydia Lau and Antonija Mitrovic.
- 2nd International Workshop on Affect, Meta-Affect, Data and Learning (AMADL 2016) by Benedict du Boulay.
- Building ITS Bridges Across Frontiers by Stefan Trausan-Matu, Stefano Cerri and Mihai Dascalu.
- 5th Workshop on Intelligent Support for Learning in Groups (ISLG 2016) by Jennifer Olsen, Erin Walker, Roberto Martinwz- Maldonado, Ilya Goldin and Jihie Kim.

Tutorial:

- Educational Data Analysis Using LearnSphere (Ran Liu, Michael Eagle, Philip Pavlik, John Stamper)

In addition to the aforementioned contributors, we would also like to thank all the authors, the members of the Program Committee and the external reviewers, the Steering Committee and in particular its chair, Claude Frasson.

We are also thankful to our conference scientific sponsors for their support, and in particular Springer for sponsoring the Best Paper Award and NSF (National Science Foundation) for funding the YRT. Last but not least, we would like to salute the Institute of Intelligent Systems under the auspices of which this conference was held.

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