

Announcements

Computer Modeling of Linguistic Theory: An Announcement and a Call for Papers

The ACL is sponsoring three sessions on "Computer Modeling of Linguistic Theory" in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America which will be held in New York City at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, December 28-30, 1981.

The specific objective is to address a number of ideas — some old, some new — that have been gaining the attention of both theoretical and computational linguists alike. These ideas include new models for grammars and new strategies for parsing, motivated by the goal of relating grammatical competence and performance in a principled way. People from both linguistics and computational linguistics are becoming conversant with augmented transition networks, lexical functional grammars, phrase structure grammars, Montague grammars, and transformational grammars, and beginning to explore their implications for each other.

To further this dialogue, the ACL, with the cooperation of the LSA, is soliciting two sessions of contributed papers and planning a panel session on the computer modeling of linguistic theory. To submit a paper for consideration in the contributed paper sessions, send abstracts of two to eight pages by August 21 to either:

Stan Petrick
IBM T.J. Watson Research Center
P.O. Box 218
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

or: Terry Langendoen
CUNY Graduate Center
33 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036

AISB School on Artificial Intelligence Skills

The AISB School on Artificial Intelligence Skills will be held in Milton Keynes, September 21-25, 1981. This Autumn school is designed for both industrial and academic participants. Industrial participants will have the opportunity to acquire the skills associated with applying AI techniques to real world-problems. Academic research scientists will be able to learn about recent AI developments and enhance their programming and communication skills. The school will have places for 55 residential participants and will provide lectures, tutorials, workshops and 24-hour access to computing facilities.

Lecture topics will include computer vision, computational linguistics, expert systems, robotics, AI programming languages, hardware for AI, and psychological modelling. Late-night programming classes will be conducted for novices with little or no programming experience, and experts who wish to extend their LISP or PROLOG skills. There will be a set of workshops for industrial participants focussing on case studies of AI applications. A parallel series of workshops on research methods will cover experimental design, paper and thesis writing, and seminar presentation skills.

For further information, contact:

Mrs. Olwyn Wilson
AISB School Administrator
Institute of Educational Technology
Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, ENGLAND

NATO Symposium on Artificial and Human Intelligence

A Symposium on Artificial and Human Intelligence, sponsored by the Human Factors Subcommittee of NATO, will be held at the Chateau de Chapeau Cornu near Lyon, France, October 26-30, 1981. The two major topic areas to be addressed are: (1) the structure of memory, the representation of the problem, and the knowledge and belief base available to the problem-solver — key issues in both human and machine intelligence; and (2) the structure of language and the role that languages play in problem solving. Other areas of interest include inductive, deductive, and analog thinking, roles in research of expert systems, benchmarks and yardstick problems, constraints of complexity and computability, and priorities in AI research.

Further information may be obtained from the conference director:

Dr. Alick Elithorn
The Royal Free Hospital
Pond Street
London NW3 2QG, ENGLAND

Cognitive Studies at Essex

The University of Essex has founded a Cognitive Studies Centre to encourage joint research between the Departments of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering Science, Language and Linguistics, Mathematics and Philosophy. The first Director of the Centre is Mr. J. Doran of the Department of Computer Science.

The Centre invites applications from suitably qualified graduates interested in study leading to Ph.D.,

M.Phil. and M.Sc./M.A. degrees by dissertation. Students will be attached to the Centre and registered in the department of their choice. Study will be by supervised research, but students may be required to attend courses in relevant aspects of Cognitive Science during their initial year of study.

Alternatively, graduates preferring a taught M.Sc. with a smaller dissertation may be attached to the Centre and admitted to the Cognitive Studies option of the M.Sc. Computer Studies scheme offered by the Department of Computer Science.

All students have access to the University's excellent computing facilities based upon a DEC System-10.

Applications for entry and requests for further information should be addressed to the Director of Studies for the Centre:

Professor Yorick Wilks
Department of Language and Linguistics
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester CO4 3SQ, ENGLAND

Post-Graduate Studies in Linguistics at Essex

The Department of Language and Linguistics at the University of Essex offers one-year M.A. degrees in Theoretical Linguistics, and Phonetics, as well as a nine-month M.A. in Applied Linguistics. They also offer a Diploma and a number of Certificates in aspects of Applied Linguistics.

Research interests of the academic staff include Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Phonology, Experimental Phonetics, Semantics, Lexicography, Computational Linguistics and Artificial Intelligence. They invite applicants for Ph.D. and M.Phil. degrees in these and other topics, and for appropriate topics offer an M.Sc. in Cognitive Studies in conjunction with the Cognitive Studies Centre at the University. [See announcement above.] The Department has extensive laboratory and computational facilities.

More details of these programs are in the booklet *Language and Linguistics at Essex*, available from:

The Chairman
Department of Language and Linguistics
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester CO4 3SQ, ENGLAND

LISH: A New Department In Toulouse

The "Laboratoire d'Informatique pour les Sciences de l'Homme" has opened a new department in Toulouse: "Analyse informatique et linguistique du raison-

nement dans les sciences de l'homme." The members of this department are: Marie-France Bastianelli, Andree Borillo, Mario Borillo, Jean-Paul Cheylan, Françoise Desbordes/Cheyland, Luis Farinas Del Cerro, Colette Ravinet, and Jacques Virbel. Their address is:

LISH/CNRS
Universite de Toulouse Le Mirail
109 bis, rue Vauquelin
31058 Toulouse Cedex FRANCE
(61) 40.12.22

Other Conferences

The *Fourth Annual International SIGIR Conference* will be held at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, California, from May 31 to June 2, 1981, sponsored by ACM SIGIR in cooperation with ASIS and hosted by the School of Library and Information Studies of the University of California. For further information contact:

Dr. Jessie Herr
Research Libraries Group
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

The *Third Annual Meeting of the Society for Scholarly Publishing* will be held at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn in San Francisco, California, June 1-3, 1981. Further information may be obtained from:

Elizabeth C. Fake
Society for Scholarly Publishing
2000 Florida Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 638-5970

The *Symposium on Text Manipulation*, sponsored jointly by the ACM Special Interest Groups on Programming Languages and Office Automation, will be held June 8-10, 1981, in Portland, Oregon. [See *AJCL* 6:3-4, pg. 194.] The conference chairman is:

Paul Abrahams
ACM Symposium on Text Manipulation
P.O. Box 161
Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342

The *Seventh Conference of the Canadian Man-Computer Communication Society*, sponsored by the Canadian Man-CCS and the Canadian Image Processing and Pattern Recognition Society, will be held in Waterloo, Ontario, June 10-12, 1981. For further information contact:

Dr. K. Booth
Department of Computer Science
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1, CANADA

The *Third Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* will be held in Berkeley, California, August 19-21, 1981. Information about the meeting can be obtained from:

Robert Wilensky
Computer Science Division
Department of EECS
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720

The *Seventh International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence* will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, August 24-28, 1981. [See *AJCL* 6:3-4, pg. 194.]

Questions about the technical program should be addressed to:

Roger C. Schank
Program Chairman, IJCAI-81
Department of Computer Science
Box 2158 Yale Station
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
(203) 436-0606

General questions about the conference may be addressed to:

Pat Hayes
General Chairman, IJCAI-81
Department of Computer Science
Mathematical Sciences Building
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York 14627

The *1981 Annual Conference of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science* will be held at Wivenhoe House at the University of Essex, September 18-20, 1981. [See *AJCL* 6:3-4, pg. 194.] Further details of the conference may be obtained from:

Liaison Officer
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester CO4 3SQ, Essex, ENGLAND

The *1981 ACM Annual Conference* will be held at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, California, November 9-11, 1981. [See *AJCL* 6:3-4, pg. 194.] For further information contact:

Mrs. A.C. Toni Shelter
Xerox Corporation, A3-49
701 South Aviation Boulevard
El Segundo, California 90245
(213) 679-4511 x1968

Abstracts of Current Literature

The Transformational Question Answering (TQA) System: Description, Operating Experience, and Implications

Fred J. Damerau
Mathematical Sciences Department
IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598
Research Report RC 8287, May 1980.

This paper sketches the structure of the TQA system with some examples, discusses some of the results of running the system in a user site during the year 1978, and outlines a few of the implications of a natural language query system for larger and more diverse data bases. It is apparent that a number of problems remain to be solved, but it also seems likely that a useful system can be constructed for some domains.

Design for an Intelligent Office System

Janet L. Kolodner
Department of Computer Science
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
IBM Research Report RC 8385, July 1980.

This paper addresses the problem of designing an intelligent office system to help principals (managerial, administrative, or professional level office workers) with their work. A system is described which would use normative models of semi-routine office procedures to anticipate the user's next steps, to provide him automatically with files, documents, and forms he needs to complete a task, and to perform automated subtasks at the correct times. A number of intelligent functions that would perform some of the tasks secretaries generally do (scheduling, reminding, filing) are described, along with the knowledge necessary for performing those functions. In addition, an approach to building a more intelligent system which would understand natural language commands given by the user and understand and deal with routine mail is presented.

Memory Organization and Search Processes for Narratives

Michael G. Dyer and Wendy G. Lehnert
Department of Computer Science
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
Research Report 175, April 1980.

BORIS represents the first system to integrate the knowledge-based inference techniques of scripts, plans, goals, and themes, within a single narrative understanding program. This report discusses techniques used by BORIS for memory representation and memo-