

Announcements

Computing Reviews Seeks Reviewers

Computing Reviews, the monthly review journal of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), needs volunteer reviewers qualified to write critical reviews of the current computer science literature. *AJCL* readers who are interested in receiving review assignments and in critically evaluating the important books, papers, and other publications whose subject matter is common to both computer science and computational linguistics are invited to contact:

Art Blum, Executive Editor
Computing Reviews
ACM
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 265-6300

Second Annual Cognitive Science Meeting

An international conference sponsored by the Cognitive Science Society will begin on Monday night, June 16, 1980, and run through Thursday morning, June 19, on the campus of Yale University. The conference will include major addresses, panel discussions, and short papers authored or sponsored by members of the Society.

The four major addresses will be:

The Cultural Part of Cognition
Roy D'Andrade, *Anthropology, UC-San Diego*

Some Problems with Ungenerated Language
Charles Fillmore, *Linguistics, UC-Berkeley*

The Geography of Conceptual Space
John Ross, *Linguistics, MIT*

Comparative Cognitive Science
in Humans and Animals
Thomas Bever, *Psychology, Columbia*

The three panel discussions will be:

Coherence in Conversation
Roger Schank, *Chairman*
Gene Charniak, Wendy Lehnert,
Ray Perrault, and Emmanuel Schegloff

Mental Imagery and Reading
Allan Collins, *Chairman*
Robert Abelson, Wallace Chafe,
Stephen Kosslyn, and Allan Lesgold

Cognitive Science Methodology
Earl Hunt, *Chairman*
William Brewer, Edward Feigenbaum,
Walter Kintsch, and Marvin Minsky

For further information contact:

Ms. Patti Oronzo
Department of Computer Science
Box 2158 Yale Station
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
(203) 436-0606

Second International Conference on Data Bases in the Humanities and Social Sciences

As a sequel to the meeting held at Dartmouth College in 1979, the Faculty of Informatics of the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid is organizing the Second International Conference on Data Bases in the Humanities and Social Sciences to be held in Madrid on June 16-19, 1980. The aims of the conference are to provide an opportunity for professional contact and discussion of a major interdisciplinary question: how the redefinition of objectives and methods in the humanities and social sciences contributes to the exchange of ideas and information among the humanities, social sciences, and computer science.

The papers contributed reflect the range of principles and methods currently adopted in essentially non-numerical data bases. Also represented are studies of pedagogical applications, social implications, and potential changes in these disciplines as a consequence of their adoption of computer-based technology. Opportunity will be provided to demonstrate both local and remote systems on the PDP-11.

For further information contact:

Professor E. Garcia Camarero
Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Bases de Datos en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales
Facultad de Informatica
Carretera de Valencia, Km. 7
Madrid-31, SPAIN

AISB-80 Conference in Amsterdam

AISB-80, the fourth conference to be organized by the Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour, will be held in Amsterdam, July 1-4, 1980. Both long and short papers will be presented, and a conference proceedings will be published.

Some of the papers to be presented are:

Resolving Linguistic Ambiguities
B.K. Boguraev, *Cambridge, England*

Analysing English Text: A Non-Deterministic Approach with Limited Memory
A.W.S. Cater, *Cambridge, England*

A Rather Intelligent Language Teacher
S. Cerri and J. Breuker, *Pisa, Italy*

Automatic Analysis of Italian

G. Ferrari, *Pisa, Italy*

Some Problems in Early Noun Phrase Interpretation

C.S. Mellish, *Edinburgh, Scotland*

Parsing English Text

A. Ramsay, *Edinburgh, Scotland*

Understanding English Descriptions of Programs

A. Ramsay, *Edinburgh, Scotland*

An Algorithmic Account of English Main Clause
Constructions

M. Steedman, *Warwick, England*

Questions about the conference should be addressed to:

Dr. Bob Wielinga

Psychology Laboratory

Weesperplein 8

Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS

First Annual National Conference on Artificial Intelligence

The First Annual National Conference on Artificial Intelligence will be held at Stanford University, in Palo Alto, California, on August 19-21, 1980. The conference is sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence in cooperation with the Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM/SIGART). Topics will include knowledge representation, knowledge acquisition, cognitive modeling, problem solving and search, natural language, program synthesis and understanding, AI languages and software, mathematical and theoretical foundations, vision, robotics, theorem proving, applications, specialized systems, and game playing.

A one-day tutorial program exploring the current state of the art of artificial intelligence will be held on Monday, August 18. The tutorial program consists of two full-day sessions and one evening session. The topics and lecturers for these tutorials are:

Knowledge Engineering:

Tools and Techniques for AI Systems

Dr. Mark Stefik, *Xerox PARC*

Prof. Doug Lenat, *Stanford University*

Natural Language Understanding Systems

Dr. Gary Hendrix, *SRI International*

Prof. Wendy Lehnert, *Yale University*

Technology Watch:

An AI Tutorial for R&D Managers

Prof. Edward Feigenbaum, *Stanford University*

Prof. Raj Reddy, *Carnegie-Mellon University*

Another conference first is an Artificial Intelligence Trade Fair to be held in Stanford's Tresidder Union August 19-21. Leading AI research groups and manufacturers will be demonstrating AI and other computer hardware and software. Principal AI book publishers will also be invited to participate in the Trade Fair.

Conference and related inquiries should be directed to:

Louis G. Robinson

AAAI 1980 Conference Coordinator

Stanford University

P.O. Box 3036

Stanford, California 94305

1980 LISP Conference at Stanford

The 1980 LISP Conference, hosted by Stanford University, will be held on the Stanford campus in Palo Alto, California, August 24-27, 1980. Some topics to be included are language and theory, programming aspects, architecture, and applications. In addition to formal sessions, it is expected that there will be demonstrations, including LISP machines. Evening sessions may be established, and informal workshops will be encouraged. On Tuesday evening, August 26, there will be a panel discussion on the topic "What is LISP?"

For further information contact:

John R. Allen

Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

Stanford University

Stanford, California 94305

(415) 497-4971

ACM '80 to be held in Nashville

The Association for Computing Machinery will hold its annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee, October 27-29, 1980. The conference will combine an outstanding technical program with vendor exhibits of products and services which will come into general use during the '80's. These will be complemented with a liberal seasoning of Nashville's principal product - American music. The conference setting will be adjacent to the Grand Ole Opry and to Opryland.

For further information contact:

Charles L. Bradshaw

General Chairman

Box 1980, Station B

Nashville, Tennessee 37235

Other Conferences

The *Fifth Conference on Automated Deduction*, organized by INRIA, will be held in Les Arcs, France, July 8-11, 1980. For further information contact:

INRIA
Service des Relations Extérieures
Domaine de Voluceau - Rocquencourt
B.P. 105
78150 Le Chesnay, FRANCE

A workshop on *Logic Programming* and closely related topics will be held July 14-16 in Budapest, sponsored by the von Neumann computer science society. [See *AJCL* 6,1, pg. 53.] For further information contact:

Sten-Ake Tärnlund
Department of Computer Science
University of Stockholm
106 91 Stockholm, SWEDEN

The Institute of Informatics of Warsaw University is organizing the *First International Workshop on Natural Communication with Computers*, to take place September 9-12, 1980, in Warsaw, Poland. [See *AJCL* 6,1, pg. 52.] Further information can be obtained from the Workshop Secretariat:

Miss Ludmila Rózańska
Institute of Informatics
Warsaw University
PKiN pok. 850
00-950 Warsaw, POLAND

IFIP Congress '80, sponsored by IFIP, will be held in Kyoto, Japan, and Melbourne, Australia, October 6-17, 1980. For further information contact:

IFIP Congress '80
G.P.O. Box 880G
Melbourne, Victoria
AUSTRALIA 3001

An *International Congress on Applied Systems Research and Cybernetics*, sponsored by The School of Computer Science, University of Windsor, and four societies, will be held in Acapulco, Mexico, December 12-15, 1980. The main theme of the Congress is "The quality of life and how to improve it." The Congress will include a session on Computers and the Humanities. For further information contact:

Dr. George E. Lasker
Congress President
School of Computer Science
University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4 CANADA

The 1981 *Office Automation Conference*, sponsored by AFIPS, will be held in Houston, Texas, March 23-25, 1981. For further information contact:

Ms. Carol Sturgeon
AFIPS - OAC
Suite 800
1815 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

The *Fifth International Conference on Computers and the Humanities*, sponsored by the Association for Computers and the Humanities, will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in May 1981. For further information contact:

Professor Joseph Raben
Computers and the Humanities
Queens College, CUNY
Flushing, New York 11367

Abstracts of Current* Literature
Making Preferences More Active

Yorick Wilks

Department of Language and Linguistics
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
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Artificial Intelligence 11 (1978), 197-223.

The paper discusses the incorporation of richer semantic structures into the Preference Semantics system: they are called *pseudo-texts* and capture something of the information expressed in one type of frame proposed by Minsky (q.v.). However, they are in a format, and subject to rules of inference, consistent with earlier accounts of this system of language analysis and understanding. Their use is discussed in connection with the phenomenon of *extended* use: sentences where the semantic preferences are broken. It is argued that such situations are the norm and not the exception in normal language use, and that a language understanding system must give some *general* treatment of them. A notion of *sense projection* is proposed, leading on to an alteration of semantic formulas (word sense representations) in the face of unexpected context by drawing information from the pseudo texts. A possible implementation is described, based on a new semantic parser for the Preference Semantics system, which would cope with extended use by the methods suggested and answer questions *about the process of analysis itself*. It is argued that this would be a good context in which to place a lan-

* Editor's note: The abstracts in this issue are not as "current" as I would like, but, because we did not publish the *Journal* in 1979, there is still much material to get caught up on.