

Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

In this first issue of 2004, continuing last issue, we present five papers chosen among the best papers of four Brazilian conferences held in 2003 and 2004. These papers have been selected by their program committees to be published in the Journal of the Brazilian Computer Society in an extended and reviewed format. I would like to express again my appreciation to the chairs of these conferences as well as their program committees for devoting their time to the selection process.

The first paper, by Arantes et al, present two new algorithms to answer complex similarity queries involving the basic similarity criteria to compare complex objects. It also supports manipulation of lists when the k-Nearest Neighbor query is involved. Experimental results show that the new algorithms have better performance than the composition of the two basic operators - conjunction and disjunction - in all measured aspects.

The second paper, by Silveira, Barbosa and de Souza, tackle the problem of how to help designers build online helps for a computer application. They present a method for building online helps based on design models according to a Semiotic Engineering approach. The third paper, by Sampaio and Courtiat, presents a method for the formal design of Interactive Multimedia Documents based on the formal description technique RT-LOTOS. They also show how this method can be applied for the automatic translation of SMIL 2.0 documents into RT-LOTOS specifications.

The fourth paper, by Botelho et al, describes a system for the construction of visual maps - or mosaics - and motion estimation for a set of autonomous undersea vehicles. Theoretical concepts associated to the use of the Augmented State Kalman filter are applied to estimate the visual map and the fleet position. The fifth paper, by Wu, da Silva and Márquez, presents an alternative form for the classic Douglas-Pecker algorithm for line simplification to produce a simplified polyline homeomorphic to the original one.

Paulo C. Masiero