

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

This last issue of 2008 has been co-edited by Hugo Fuks, the previous editor, and by myself, as newly appointed editor-in-chief. In my first letter to our audience, I take the opportunity to reinforce the major goal of JBCS, which has always been the publishing of relevant original research contributions in all Computer Science areas.

The scientific community, acting both as authors and reviewers, play a crucial role in raising the quality of the journal. Therefore, we are particularly grateful to all the authors who submitted their contributions in 2008, and also to our reviewers, whose careful work deserves a special acknowledgment. Moreover, we do hope the scientific community will continue to contribute to JBCS and increase the citation of its papers in their publications.

This issue of volume 14 includes four papers on very appealing topics in Computer Science.

The first paper, by Mariá Nascimento and Franklina Toledo, addresses a variation of a classical production optimization problem, the multi-plant capacitated lot-sizing problem. Their solution extends and adapts a methodology formerly adopted to solve this problem, employing an adaptive greedy search procedure with setup carry-over. They report experiments where significant improvement of the solution value for this problem was achieved, with a low increase in computational time.

The second paper, on machine learning and natural language processing, is by Ruy Milidiú, Cícero Santos and Julio Duarte. They employ Entropy Guided Transformation Learning models to three tasks in Portuguese language processing, namely part-of-speech tagging, noun-phrase chunking and named-entity recognition, obtaining competitive learning performance on different corpora.

The paper by Aldo von Wangenheim, Rafael Bertoldi, Daniel Abdala, Michael Richter, Lutz Priese and Frank Schmitt deals with image segmentation of natural color scenes. They propose a two-step approach using a hierarchical region-growing algorithm followed by a gradient-based region-growing post-segmentation. Their solution is compared, regarding segmentation quality and processing times, to other segmentation approaches, with good results.

Finally, the paper by Vagner Sacramento, Markus Endler and Clarisse de Souza, addresses the critical issue of preserving user privacy in location-based mobile application services. They propose a privacy service which allows users to interactively define and manage their personal privacy policy related to context information. They evaluate their proposal by conducting qualitative studies with typical users, in their particular social and cultural contexts.

It is also timely to remind that JBCS issues are back at SciELO (the *Scientific Eletronic Library Online*) for online access, which ensures greater visibility to the journal and its papers. Hopefully, this is the first of a series of actions seeking to reinforce the role of JBCS as a major Brazilian vehicle for publishing scientific research on computer science.

Finally, I would like to express my personal gratitude to Hugo Fuks and to Carla Freitas, administrative director of SBC, for their willingness to share their views on different matters and their prompt assistance in many operational issues, which made possible a smooth transition between editorships.

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