

Report on the Second International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation, and Robotics

Joaquim Filipe

■ The Second International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation, and Robotics (ICINCO 2005) was held in Barcelona on September 14–17, 2005, organized by INSTICC in cooperation with the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. This conference was built on the success achieved in its first edition, in 2004, and aims at representing a major forum to debate technical advances presented by researchers and developers, both from academia and industry, working in the conference areas. Informatics applications are pervasive in many areas of control, automation, and robotics, and it seems necessary to emphasize and explore this interdisciplinary potential.

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In the program of this conference were included oral presentations (full papers and short papers) and posters, organized in three simultaneous tracks: “Intelligent Control Systems and Optimization,” “Robotics and Automation,” and “Systems Modeling, Signal Processing, and Control.” Furthermore, ICINCO 2005 included


three satellite workshops and six plenary keynote lectures, given by internationally recognized researchers.

The first keynote lecture was presented by one of most well known researchers in the area of modern cybernetics, Kevin Warwick (Reading University, UK). We were also grateful for the presence of other distinguished researchers such as Erik Sandewall (Linköping University, Sweden), Alberto Sanfeliu (Institute of Robotics and Industrial Informatics, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain) who has been scientific coordinator of numerous research projects in Europe, Paolo Rocchi (IBM, ITS Research and Development, Italy), Janan Zaytoon (CRESTIC, URCA, France) and M. Palaniswamy (University of Melbourne, Australia).

The three satellite workshops had a large attendance, and the proceedings were published as three independent books, each with its own ISBN. These workshops, although quite specialized, have covered areas of great interest for the conference delegates, namely: “Multiagent System Robotics” (MARS), “Biosignal Processing and Classification” (BPC), and “Artificial Neural Networks and Intelligent Information Processing” (ANNIIP). ICINCO 2005 received 386 paper submissions, not including submissions for the workshops, from more than 50 different countries, in all continents. To evaluate each submission, a double-blind paper review was performed by the program committee.

The review process has involved a team of 224 academic researchers who are experts in at least one of the conference topic areas. Each and every one of the members of the ICINCO international program committee holds a Ph.D. degree in an area related to the conference topics and, in many cases, is a leader in her/his field of research.

Finally, only 229 papers were accepted for publication in the proceedings and for presentation at the conference; of these, 166 papers were selected for oral presentation (67 full papers and 99 short papers) and 63 papers were accepted for poster presentation. The global acceptance ratio was less than 60 percent, and the full paper acceptance ratio was 17 percent.



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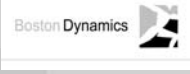
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Finally, a short list of about 30 papers has been selected to be included in a book that will be published by Springer-Verlag with the best papers of ICINCO 2005.

In order to promote the development of research and professional networks, the conference included in its social program a workshops dinner on the evening of September 13 (Tuesday) and a conference dinner on the evening of September 17 (Friday). Both events were well attended and received vibrant approval from the participants.

Commitment to high quality standards is a major aspect of ICINCO that organizers will strive to maintain, including the quality of the keynote lectures, the number and quality of the workshops, and the paper acceptance ratios. Next year ICINCO 2006 will be

held in Setúbal, Portugal, from 1 August through 5 August, 2006. I look forward to seeing the sustained growth of the ICINCO scientific and professional community in the next edition of this conference.



Joaquim B. Filipe is a coordinator professor in the Department of Systems and Informatics of the School of Technology of the Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal (EST-Setúbal) and also the president of the Institute

for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control, and Communications. He holds an M.Sc. degree awarded by the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, in 1984, an MBA degree awarded by the New University of Lisbon in 1995, and a Ph.D. degree awarded by the School of Computing of Staffordshire University, UK, in 2001.

His primary areas of research are situated in the Informatics field, especially in artificial intelligence and multiagent system applications with an emphasis on the study of social issues in activity coordination, especially in agent-based organizational modeling and simulation, where he has been actively involved in several national and international R&D projects. He has published more than 50 technical papers in the areas of artificial intelligence, agents, and organizational modeling. He has edited 18 books, and he is a member of the editorial board of seven journals. He has also served as a member of the program committee or as a member of the organizing committee in more than 30 conferences.