



Business Meeting

Monday, 29 August 2011, 17:00-18:00
MIE, Oslo, NO

MINUTES

Participants: Alexander Horsch (DE, WG Chair), Vytenis Punys (LT, WG Co-Chair); Henning Müller (CH), Nils Daniel Forkert (DE), Michael Shifrin (RU), Lukas Gorzelniak (DE), Chen Chen (DE)

TOP 1: Report on recent activities

- WG chair Alexander Horsch reported from the last CARS conference in Berlin, June 2011, where EFMI WG MIP has organized its 3rd CADdemo@CARS workshop for demonstration of computer-aided diagnosis prototypes. This time the event had four demonstrations compared to twelve in 2010 in Geneva, but included a very interesting panel discussion with highly recognized experts in the field.
- The interaction on the WG mailing list has been moderate and could definitely be more intense. However, some requests for information from colleagues on specific problems related to medical image processing got successful response that helped by establishing useful contacts.
- Recent activities had mainly focused on electronic communication, i.e. virtual collaboration, rather than physical meetings, and on the support of the CARS conference. Still the participation of image processing groups in MIE conferences is very limited, and therefore it is not easy for the WG MIP to recruit enough participants in events related to this field at MIE.

TOP 2: Discussion of the panel at MIE 2011

- The panel on “Patient Empowerment and High-Tech Imaging and Biosignal-Based Procedures – Contradiction or Challenge?”, organized as a joint activity together with IMIA WG Biomedical Pattern Recognition (BPR) chaired by Luca Mainardi, held just before this business meeting, was considered a success.
- The 15 participants entered a lively discussion about the topic of the panel after initial statements presented by the panellists Alexander Horsch, Henning Müller and Michael Marschollek. Luca Mainardi unfortunately had to cancel his participation; his statement was presented by A. Horsch based on slides from L. Mainardi, introducing the view of IMIA WG BPR.
- It was decided to go for publishing of the results of the panel. The options shall be explored as soon as possible.

TOP 3: Discussion of the CADdemo@CARS workshops

- Pros and cons of the three CADdemo@CARS workshops organized by the WG in 2009 (Berlin), 2010 (Geneva) and 2011 (Berlin) were debated.



- The CADdemo@CARS workshops as such are considered a good initiative of the WG, which is reflected by the participation (especially in the first two) and the overall positive feedback of the participants. They create good visibility of EFMI and the WG at CARS, are a good platform for researchers.
- However, harmonization with the CAD track at the conference has not worked out. Especially it was not possible, yet, to get the regular CAD sessions and activities on the same day as the EFMI WG event. Therefore, CAD-interested colleagues cannot attend one day offering all CAD-events. CARS organizers and the chair of the CAD track, Kunio Doi (US), have expressed their support in finding a solution to this problem.
- Another issue is the question whether one year between two such workshops might be too short for the research groups to come up with a reasonable number of new demonstrations. There were also indications based on CARS conference participants' feedback that some CAD groups had come to Berlin (where CARS is organized every second year, while it moves from town to town in the years between) several times before, and now would prefer to join CARS in another location. But we do not know if this had impact on our workshop. Thirty participants this year, four demonstrations and an internationally high-ranked panel of experts are not bad, after all.
- Concluding the discussion, it was decided, NOT to organize a demonstration workshop at CARS 2012, and instead make a decision of a future participation after an intense discussion within the working group.

TOP 4: Future activities at MIE and Medinfo conferences

- The critical mass of participants interested in medical image processing at MIE and Medinfo conferences is considered a problem. Since the field has own international main events such as CARS, MICCAI, SPIE and IEEE conferences, it continues to be sort of a niche at MIE and Medinfo conferences. It takes a lot of efforts to gather significant numbers of participants.
- This year at MIE 2011 the WG MIP organized a panel jointly with IMIA WG BPR. Extending the field to biosignals and adopting the topic of the panel to the conference theme by addressed patient empowerment and patient-centeredness attracted 15 participants. This is not more than a moderate success. However, there was consensus among the business meeting participants that following the example of IMIA WG BPR and opening the field to biosignals would be beneficial for the EFMI WG, as well.
- As a direct consequence of the fact that biosignals have entered the medical informatics arena broadly via themes such as ambient assisted living (AAL) and telehomemonitoring in an ageing society, it was decided to propose a change of the working group and its mission extending the field from imaging to imaging and biosignals. A respective proposal shall be prepared.
- Active participation of WG MIP in MIE 2012 and Medinfo 2013 (which will be in Copenhagen and therefore easy to reach for Europeans) is envisaged.



TOP 5: Personalia

- WG Co-Chair Vytenis Punys (LT) has declared to step back from his role as co-chair of the WG, since his professional focus has changed. But he will stay a member of the WG also in the future.
- WG Chair Alexander Horsch asked WG members to consider taking over a leading role in WG MIP in near future. Having initiated the WG in 2001 at Medinfo in London, and having chaired the WG since then, it is definitely time for a change.
- Nils Daniel Forkert has shown interest in a leading role of the WG. All active WG members are invited to consider a candidature for the role of the WG Chair or a co-chair.

TOP 6: Miscellaneous

- For the proposal of extended working group covering imaging and biosignals, an elegant and original name shall be decided among the WG members. Henning Müller proposed “Pattern recognition in imaging and signal processing”, addressing the same range of topics as IMIA working group. To create more ideas, an email-based brainstorming shall in a first round collect suggestions for the new name. Among all suggestions the WG chairs A. Horsch and T. Wittenberg will select 3 most original candidates for email-based voting among the WG members.
- It was also suggested by Henning Müller that we could create a LinkedIn group with news from time to time. Another platform to feed should be the EFMI Portal. The current members of the WG emailing list should be asked whether they still have interest in staying in the list, and new members should be acquired.
- Next WG business meeting will be decided by electronic communications.

Alexander Horsch, Henning Müller
September 9, 2011