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# NEWS FROM LATIN AMERICA

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BY

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In this issue I present a report of Latincrypt 2010 by Orr Dunkelman, a Summer School in Argentina, the Alberto Mendelzon Workshop on Foundations of Data Management in Chile, ITW 2011 in Brazil, and a special issue of the Journal of Memetic Computing. At the end I present a list of the main events in Theoretical Computer Science to be held in Latin America in the following months.

## **Report of Latincrypt 2010 (by Orr Dunkelman).**

Latincrypt 2010 was held in the lovely city of Puebla, in Puebla state, Mexico, during August 8–11. This was the first international venue in Latin America dedicated just solely to the exciting topic of cryptology and information security. It was the first in a series of Latincrypt conferences that will be held every second year. The scientific program committee was chaired by Michel Abdalla and Paulo S.L.M. Barreto, and at the end of its review process, 19 out of the 62 submissions, were accepted and presented. While the program chairs made sure that the scientific quality would match international standards, the local organizers, headed by Francisco Rodríguez-Henríquez and Miguel Angel León-Chávez, worked endlessly to assure all visitors that the first Latincrypt would be a memorable occasion. Now, that the conference has ended, it is obvious that they succeed in their task, and all visitors, coming from 17 countries, agreed that the conference's social

program was amongst the best. Being the first venue in a series of planned events is usually hard, as the reputation of the event still does not exist. However, the 62 submissions, received from 22 countries, showed that there is a great demand for such a venue dedicated to cryptology and information security in Latin America. This fact was also supported by the participation of 85 researchers, students, as well as people from industry and government agencies, from many countries in Latin America, France, United States, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Turkey, Israel, Japan, and Canada.

Finally, the Latincrypt steering committee, composed of Ricardo Dahab, Alejandro Hevia, Julio López, Daniel Panario, Francisco Rodríguez-Henríquez, and Alfredo Viola, has announced that the next Latincrypt will be held in Chile. We are all eagerly waiting for the event to take place in 2012.

## 18th Summer School on Computer Science

The 18th Summer School on Computer Science is an event designed to provide comprehensive presentations of some of the latest trends in various areas of Computer Science. It is also aimed at providing advanced undergraduate students, graduate students and young researchers the opportunity to interact with peers from other places in Argentina and Latin America, and promote their collaboration. Since its first edition in 1994 the school has offered over 80 courses on various subjects of Computer Science, many of which are related to Theoretical Computer Science and Formal Methods. The Summer School is organized in a yearly basis, and takes place in February, in the campus of the National University of Rio Cuarto, Rio Cuarto, Cordoba, Argentina.

The upcoming edition of the Summer School on Computer Science RIO 2011 will be held from the 14th of February 2011 until the 19th of February 2011. Courses are normally composed of five lectures, each of 2.5 hours and taught from Monday to Friday during the week of the school. The audience of the school is typically composed of advanced undergraduate students, PhD students and researchers in Computer Science, mostly from various places in Argentina, but also with attendants from other places in Latin America. The program of the upcoming edition of the school includes the following courses:

*Model Checking Continuous-Time Markov Models: From Theory to Practice* by Joost-Pieter Katoen (Germany).

*Automated Test Generation and Repair* by Darko Marinov (USA).

*Dependable Distributed Computing* by Lorenzo Alvisi (USA).

*Automated Program Analysis: From Theory to Practice* (course to be taught in Spanish) by Diego Garbervetsky and Guido de Caso (Argentina).

*Development of NCL Applications for Digital TV* (course to be taught in Spanish) by Federico Balaguer (Argentina).

*Foundations and Basic Principles of Software Engineering applied to Project Management* (course to be taught in Spanish) by Álvaro Ruiz de Mendarozqueta (Argentina).

At <http://felipe.dc.exa.unrc.edu.ar/rio>, you may find more information of the event (in Spanish).

## **The Alberto Mendelzon Workshop on Foundations of Data Management.**

The “Alberto Mendelzon International Workshop on Foundations of Data Management” (AMW 2011) will be held in Santiago, Chile, on May 9-12, 2011. This will be the third open version of the workshop, fourth in total. This is an initiative of the Latin American community of researchers in data management, to which our friend, colleague and mentor Alberto so greatly contributed. In this way we expect to create a periodical Latin America-based venue for high level research in the fundamental aspects of the area. This is a way to honor the memory of Alberto, and to boost and solidify the research in the region. This event, as the previous ones, encourages the participation of Latin American graduate students and develops some activities specially designed for them.

The Invited Speakers are Marcelo Arenas (PUC, Chile), Hector Garcia-Molina (Stanford) and Georg Gottlob (Oxford), while the Program Chairs are Pablo Barcelo (University of Chile) and Val Tannen (University of Pennsylvania). The local organizers are Claudio Gutierrez (U. de Chile) and Jorge Perez (PUC, Chile).

For more information you may visit <http://db.ing.puc.cl/amw2011/>.

## **IEEE Information Theory Workshop (ITW 2011).**

The 2011 IEEE Information Theory Workshop (ITW 2011) will take place on October 16-20, 2011 in Paraty, Brazil. Paraty is a quaint historical village, founded in 1597, located on the Brazilian coast, at about equal distances from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. It was the port from where gold was shipped to Portugal, during Brazil gold rush. The buildings and streets of Paraty have retained their colonial atmosphere and so have its beautiful surroundings with exuberant tropical forest and islands which provide excellent opportunities for easily accessible tours. The intimate town environment is conducive to rich exchanges among workshop participants. In addition to oral and poster technical sessions, the Workshop will feature keynote presentations, special sessions and panel discussions. In addition to regular intercity bus service (4 hour trip), transfers will be arranged from and to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro airports.

In <http://www.fee.unicamp.br/itw2011/>, it can be found more information of the event.

## **Special Issue of the Journal of Memetic Computing.**

The aim of this special issue is to reflect the most recent advances in the field. Memetic algorithms are optimization, search, and learning techniques in which problem knowledge is intensely and clearly embedded into the algorithm itself. In many cases this means combining two algorithms in some way, inserting one local search algorithm into a higher level one, or using problem knowledge to define new operators, variables encoding or fitness/quality functions. Contributions are expected in the areas of operations research, management sciences, computer science, mathematics, and any potential area of application. The deadline for submissions is September 30, 2010. For more information you may visit the web page <http://meetings2.informs.org/BuenosAires2010/publications.html>.

## **Regional Events**

- October 11 - 13, 2010, Los Cabos, Mexico: SPIRE 2010 (Symposium on String Processing and Information Retrieval).  
<http://spire2010.natix.org/>.
- February 14 - February 19, 2011, Río Cuarto, Argentina: 18th Summer School on Computer Science.  
<http://felipe.dc.exa.unrc.edu.ar/rio>.
- March 28 - April 1, 2011, Bariloche, Argentina: LAGOS'11 (Latin-American Algorithms, Graphs and Optimization Symposium).  
<http://www-2.dc.uba.ar/lagos2011/>.
- May 9 - May 12, 2011, Santiago de Chile, Chile: The Alberto Mendelzon Workshop on Foundations of Data Management.  
<http://db.ing.puc.cl/amw2011/>.
- October 16 - October 20, 2011, Paraty, Brazil: ITW 2011 (IEEE Information Theory Workshop)  
<http://www.fee.unicamp.br/itw2011/>.