

Interest Group on Algorithmic Foundations of Information Technology

IGAFIT

2nd Meeting

Brief summary

September 7, 2014

Institute of Computer Science, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland

Present: Artur Czumaj (University of Warwick), Fabrizio Grandoni (IDSIA University of Lugano), Monika Henzinger (University of Vienna), Giuseppe F. Italiano (University of Rome “Tor Vergata”), Stefano Leonardi (Sapienza University of Rome), Aleksander Mądry (EPFL), Alberto Marchetti-Spaccamela (Sapienza University of Rome), Ulrich Meyer (Goethe University Frankfurt), Harald Räcke (TU Munich), Piotr Sankowski (University of Warsaw), Ola Svensson (EPFL), Dorothea Wagner (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)

1. Proposal to establish the European Post-Doctoral Institute in Algorithms with COFUND

Piotr presented Kurt Mehlhorn’s proposal of a COFUND project to establish the *European Post-Doctoral Institute in Algorithms* (EPIA), coordinated by Kurt Mehlhorn and MPI in Saarbrücken.

2. Other funding opportunities

Piotr presented further funding opportunities in Horizon 2020. Most interesting EU initiatives included: COST Action, FET-Proactive, FET-Open, COFUND, and ITN.

- **COST Action** (http://www.cost.eu/participate/open_call, with expected deadline in spring 2015).
- **FET-Proactive** – *Towards Exascale High Performance Computing* (H2020-FETHPC-2014; Topic: *HPC Core Technologies, Programming Environments and Algorithms for Extreme Parallelism and Extreme Data Applications*). Call <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2202-fethpc-1-2014.html>, with deadline on November 25, 2014).
- **FET-Open** (call <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-fetopen-2014-2015-ria.html>, with deadlines on September 30, 2014 and March 31, 2015).
- **COFUND** (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding of regional, national and international (postdoctoral) fellowship programmes (COFUND-FP); deadline on October 2, 2014)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie **Innovative Training Networks** (ITN), with deadline on January 13, 2015. There are two specific programs that may be of our interest:
 - *European Joint Doctorates (EJD)* (call <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/10056-msca-itn-2015-ejd.html>)
 - *European Training Networks (ETN)* (call <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/10055-msca-itn-2015-etn.html>)

IGAFIT members have been encouraged to seek EC funding to support inter-European research activities in algorithms.

3. Discussion on Visibility Working Group recommendations

Piotr presented a summary of findings of the Visibility Working Group, consisting of Kurt Mehlhorn, Peter Wiedmayer, and Piotr Sankowski.

IGAFIT will consider and discuss the idea of establishing a scientific prize for best PhD thesis or best PhD student or early career researcher in the area of algorithms.

It has been agreed that efforts should be made to improve information about IGAFIT through enhancing the information available at the IGAFIT web page at <http://igafit.mimuw.edu.pl/>. Further efforts ought to be made to collect on [IGAFIT web page](#) information about scientific events related to algorithms, e.g., summer schools, interesting seminars, or workshops.

To support lobbying activities, IGAFIT will work towards preparing some materials about the impact of algorithms, following the ideas of Theory Matters (<http://thmatters.wordpress.com/>), including Vision Nuggets (<http://thmatters.wordpress.com/vision-nuggets/>).

4. Discussion on Networking Working Group recommendations

Aleksander presented a summary of findings of the Networking Working Group, consisting of Artur Czumaj, Amos Fiat, Aleksander Mądry, Uli Meyer.

It has been agreed that IGAFIT will establish the *Highlights of Algorithms Conference*.

It has been agreed that the next IGAFIT meeting in 2015 will also include a scientific component (research talks).

5. Discussion on Conference Working Group recommendations

Monika presented a summary of findings of the Conference Working Group, consisting of Hannah Bast, Monika Henzinger, Christian Sohler, Mikkel Thorup.

It has been agreed that IGAFIT members will present during the ESA business meeting some of the ideas proposed by the Working Group and discussed during the meeting, most importantly, the *rolling deadline* submission system.

IGAFIT will coordinate the strategy of bringing SODA'2017 to Europe.

IGAFIT will prepare a plan to bring STOC and FOCS to Europe too. It was mentioned that one should not only make efforts to bring the conferences to Europe, but also to show the support by ensuring a strong European attendance during these conferences.

6. Proposition of the Statute of IGAFIT

Artur described the plans for the statute of IGAFIT. This was followed by a brief discussion of the need of such statute and its key features. It has been agreed that the official management structure should be flat and there will be no membership fees (for now).