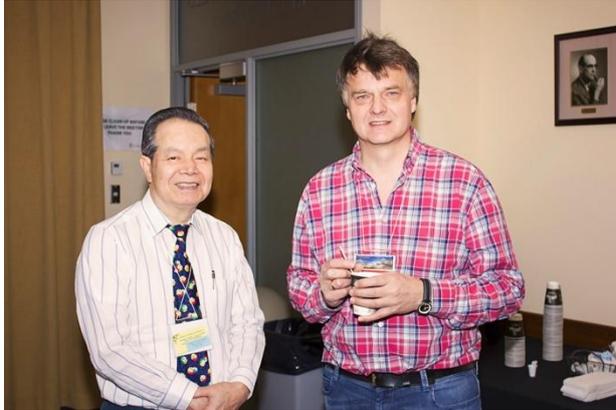


ANNPR 2014 Report:

The sixth IAPR TC3 Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks in Pattern Recognition, ANNPR 2014, was held at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, October 6-8, 2014. The workshop was organized by Prof. Ching Suen (Concordia University, Canada), Dr. Neamat El Gayar (Cairo/Concordia University) and Dr. Friedhelm Schwenker (Ulm University, Germany).



ANNPR 2014 in Montreal/Canada follows the success of the ANNPR workshops held in Florence (Italy, 2003), Ulm (Germany, 2006), Paris (France, 2008), Cairo (Egypt, 2010) and Trento (Italy, 2012).



The series of ANNPR workshops have acted as a major forum for international researchers and practitioners working in all areas of neural network- and machine learning-based pattern recognition to present and discuss their latest research, results, and ideas in these areas.

The ANNPR 2014 was sponsored by the Technical Committee on Neural Networks and Computational Intelligence (TC3) of the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR). The scope of TC3 includes computational intelligence approaches, evolutionary computing and artificial neural networks and their pattern recognition applications.

For the ANNPR 2014, a total of 37 papers were submitted from which 24 high-quality papers were selected for oral presentation. Papers presented original research in neural networks, machine learning and pattern recognition focusing on both theoretical and applied aspects.

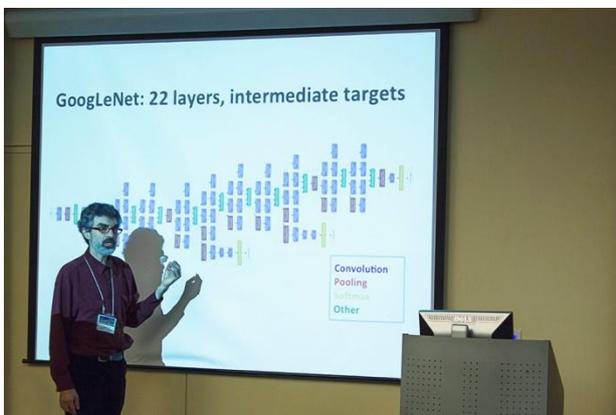


The 2014 ANNPR Proceedings was published in the Springer LNCS/LNAI series. Participants from different part of the world (Europe, Asia, North America and Africa) attended the workshop.



During three days, the attendees presented their papers organized in multiple focused sessions on *Learning and Architectures*, *Ensembles*, *Support Vector Machines*, *Character Recognition* and *Image Processing*. For each session the allotted time was 25 minutes for paper presentation and discussion. The attending researchers were very interested and had plenty of questions and suggestions. The discussions often extended to breaks and lunches.

Additionally three enriching invited talks were given during the program. The invited talk „Large Margin Distribution Learning“ by Prof. Zhi-Hua Zhou (Nanjing University, China) presented recent results and theoretical evidence showing the superiority of large margin distribution learning for algorithm design compared to large margin learning.



Prof. Dr. Yoshua Bengio (University of Montreal, Canada) gave an inspiring talk on ‘Deep Learning’; summarizing the advances and breakthroughs in this topic and outlining the major challenges still ahead of researchers.



On the third day, Dr. J. Michael Herrmann (University of Edinburgh, UK) gave a talk entitled ‘Active Learning in Biologically Inspired Robotics’, where he demonstrated several theoretical and practical aspects of guided self-organization and how pattern formation can improve learning capabilities in critical systems.





The participants enjoyed a friendly welcome reception on the 11th floor of Concordia University Sir George Williams Campus overlooking downtown Montreal. Both the dean the faculty of Engineering and Computer Science at Concordia University and the Chair of the Computer Science and Software Engineering Department attended the reception and were pleased to welcome the ANNPR participants.

On the second day the attendees enjoyed a nice walk through the streets of Montreal where they finally reached the destination of the conference banquet at the Vieux-Port Steakhouse in Old Montreal. The participants

enjoyed the good food in a welcoming and warm atmosphere. Little awards were distributed and the sponsors and organizing team were dearly acknowledged.

