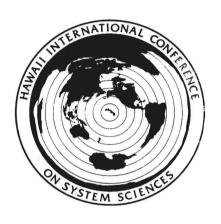
PROCEEDINGS of the
TWENTIETH HAWAII
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
SYSTEM SCIENCES
1987

Vol.3

PROCEEDINGS of the

TWENTIETH HAWAII INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SYSTEM SCIENCES 1987



VOLUME III

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS SPECIAL TOPICS

RALPH R. GRAMS University of Florida RALPH H. SPRAGUE, JR. University of Hawaii at Manoa

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PREFACE TO THE PROCEEDINGS

This volume is one of three that comprise the Proceedings of the Twentieth Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS) held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii on January 6-9, 1987. The conference is an annual presentation of refereed papers in the information and system sciences to provide a forum for the interchange of ideas, advances and applications among the academicians and practitioners. HICSS is sponsored by the University of Hawaii and the University of SW Louisiana, in cooperation with the ACM, and the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Computational Medicine. The Twentieth conference emphasized developments in the areas of software, architecture, decision support systems and knowledge-based systems, healthcare systems, and special topics. Our most sincere thanks to all those paper presenters, attendees, coordinators, chairpersons, referees, and administrative support people who made the conference a success.

Bruce D. Shriver Ralph H. Sprague, Jr. Conference Co-Chairmen

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AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED SYSTEMS

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D. Fura University of Michigan P. Licker University of Calgary	D. Fura		P. Licker	

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	J. Linn	Institute for Defense Analysis	D. Rau	Purdue University
	M. Mantei	University of Michigan	N. Ranganathan	New York University
	T. Marrietta	Texas A & M University	E. Reinkensmeyer	NCR Corporation
	J. Marsden	University of Kentucky	L. Richter	Zurich University
	J. McDonald	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	M. Sami	Milan Polytechnic
	N. Melone	Carnegie-Mellon University	T. Sanders	Harris
	V. Milutinovic	Purdue University	A. Senn	Texas A & M University
	C. Mogab	Microwave Semiconductor	S. Schocken	New York University
	,	Corporation	B. Shane	Oregon State University
	D. Monroe	University of Wisconsin-	A. Silbey	Gould
	10 10 10 10	Milwaukee	A. Speckhard	International Meta Systems, Inc.
	M. Morgan	Magnavox	R. Srikanth	New York University
	W. Moyers	RCA	T. Stohr	New York University
	W. Muhanna	University of Wisconsin	L. Tomasetta	Vitesse
	M. Namordi	GE	W. Toy	AT&T Bell Laboratories
	M. Naused	Mayo Foundation	O. Tufte	Honeywell
	S. Neumann	Tel Aviv University	B. Wah	University of Illinois
	V. Nguyen	IBM Corporation	S. Weber	University of Arizona
6	R. Niederland	McDonnell Douglas	R. Wedig	Carnegie-Mellon University
	J. Nunamaker	University of Arizona	G. Widemeyer	University of Southern California
	D. O'Leary	University of Southern California	C. Wiseman	Columbia University
	K. Ottenstein	Michigan Technological Institute	W. Wisseman	Texas Instruments
	D. Paradice	University of Maryland	L. Young	Drexel University
	K. Perry	IBM Corporation	W. Wehrs	University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse
	R. Pick	University of Cincinnati	A. Whinston	Purdue University
	D. Pingry	University of Arizona	M. Yoder	Purdue University
	D. Power	University of Maryland	H. T. Yuanh	Texas Instruments
	T. Pauchant	University of Southern California		

INTRODUCTION

The Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences is pleased to offer this proceedings in the Healthcare Systems Track. This year marks the 20th anniversary of HICSS, and this program highlights the process of technology transfer for the business and healthcare sectors. We are pleased to have Drs. Mason and Applegate who will be presenting a combined seminar and tutorial program on an executive support system for hospital strategic planning. This joint venture represents our first attempt to integrate the activities of the healthcare systems track and the decision support and knowledge based systems program.

Carrying on with the traditional subjects in the healthcare field, this year's program includes papers in medical image analysis, radiology, medical genetics and the computer, and medical decision support systems. We also have a series of presentations on hospital systems which cover corporate development, as well as the traditional areas of hospital data processing and many of the personnel and hardware problems related to this complex environment. Along with these areas of applied research, we also have a biomedical applications program that deals with topics such as cardiovascular physiology, as well as specialized techniques in robotics and physiologic monitoring.

I hope that this 20th anniversary proceedings will provide you with new concepts and ideas and, as a participant, you will find opportunities for growth and development during this intensive three-day conference.

Ralph R. Grams

REFEREES

The quality of the papers published in the Proceedings of HICSS is the result of many hours of careful review by independent referees. We acknowledge and thank the following people for serving as referees for the Twentieth Annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences.

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IMAGE COMPRESSION FOR MEDICAL IMAGING SYSTEMS

Marcus E. Glenn The MITRE Corporation 7525 Colshire Drive McLean, Virginia 22102

Abstract-

Over the past 15 years, the field of radiology has grown in scope significantly from the relatively simple x-ray to computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and nuclear imaging. The development of these various types of modalities, along with the ability to digitize x-ray films to a satisfactory resolution, engendered the concept of a Digital Imaging Network/Picture Archiving and Communications Systems (DIN/PACS). This system, as the name implies, deals with the transmission and storage of digital medical images.

The physical size of typical dig images, in terms of the number of bytes of data one image contains, is large; e.g., a 1024 x 1024 image with 8 bits of data per pixel contains a megabyte of data. Given that a DIN/PACS will transmit many such images over a network, sometimes over low-capacity phone lines to remote sites, and that large numbers of images will need to be stored over a long period of time as part of the medical records for patients, the need for image compression arises to alleviate these large demands for image data storage and transmission capacity.

This paper discusses image compression in terms of the information theory upon which it is based. The two basic categories of algorithms for implementing image compression are presented along with considerations for image quality and accuracy, which are of primary importance to the medical imaging community.

1. INTRODUCTION

The field of radiology began with the illumination of some region of the human anatomy with x-rays and the capture of the resulting image upon a photographic film. During the past decade, the field has expanded to a variety of modalities as a result of an increase in computer assisted image generation and image enhancement techniques. X-ray films will eventually be replaced with a medium that allows for a direct digital image generation. The recently developed image modalities also yield digital representations of images due to the digital nature of the image generation technique.

The advent of medical images in a digital format

raises the question of using image compression to reduce the amount of data needed to represent an image without sacrificing the integrity of the reconstructed image.

There are two main applications when image compression is beneficial for medical imaging systems:

- (1) the storage of medical images, either for archival or short-term storage
- (2) the transmission of medical images over a network or long distance communications link.

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