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## AUGMENTED IDEAS

As every knowledgeable researcher understands, inspired ideas published in a Journal are meant for a wider dissemination. But how should we treat the dissemination and the reuse of algorithms and programs? And how should we cope with ideas that are traceable, that are well-known among practitioners, but that have not yet been published? Although these questions are still difficult to answer, it seems that there is a tendency to deal with them in a manner which is different from that of ten years ago.

Indeed, the question on publications is not so difficult. Obviously, when drawing on ideas from published articles appropriate references should be made to the source. Such behaviour should also be the case when the ideas are not published, but nevertheless traceable. Sometimes this is done by personal communication, sometimes by simply giving credit in the text, and nowadays we see references to home pages and Internet addresses. Of course, such reference behaviour presupposes a thorough knowledge of the research field and a tempered ambition. There is a grey area between what is permitted, and what is plagiarism. Sometimes, the problem of the grey area is resolved through the originator publishing his/her ideas.

The Editorial Board is therefore pleased with Bob Hyatt's contribution. So far, the ideas behind Dynamic Tree Splitting (DTS) have not been published in such a lucid way. The ideas have been around since Hyatt's Ph.D. thesis in 1988. Meanwhile, they have been augmented and are now presented forthrightly with new experiments, showing their merit and the power of shared-memory computers. This might solve a particular question on publications. It does not solve all the questions above and, in particular, it does not give any clue to the other problems. The best we can do is to make these problems explicit.

In the previous issue Chrilly Donninger embarked upon the algorithmic question by challenging the ICCA tournament rules. He referred to the discussion of entering a cloned program into the 1989 World Microcomputer Chess Championship. At that time, entering a cloned program was absolutely not permitted. However, today we have Donninger's contribution to the computer-chess community, called NIMZO-3, containing tools which allow the user to modify substantially NIMZO-3's search process, its opening book and its knowledge base (e.g., the heuristics used). So, can one buy NIMZO-3, change it at home, and enter any tournament? "Yes", Donninger said, – he even encouraged such behaviour – "as long as such a user does not deny the NIMZO roots."

The question posed above theoretically has been partially answered in recent practice. In the 14<sup>th</sup> WMCC (Jakarta, 1996), the Indonesian program GUNDA-1 participated, and in the 16<sup>th</sup> Open Dutch Computer-Chess Championship (Leiden, 1996) the program RAJAH was entered. Both programs were based on Hyatt's world-wide available code of the program CRAFTY. Since both teams gave due credit to CRAFTY as their original source, it is comparable to using ideas from articles while giving appropriate reference. Nevertheless, the question remains to what extent can we prolong the similarity of publications and programs. For articles, we do not allow plagiarism. For algorithms and programs I believe we are in a state of flux. Yet, the researcher who is the originator of the ideas should always be given pride of place.

In these particular cases it is peculiar that Bob Hyatt plays a role in both. However, there is no reason for him to complain. The ideas on EPVS and DTS are always credited to him and now they are in the open. His merits for CRAFTY are recognized by his end users and by the ICCA through the Novag Award.

To conclude, we shift to a closely-related topic, viz. the considerable acceleration of the dissemination of information, algorithms and programs by Internet access. Technical, financial and scientific problems are encountered when an Association starts communicating with its members via Internet. The ICCA is currently investigating how to deal with these problems. There are many ideas, many solutions, but we are searching for a good solution in which the ICCA and its Journal will flourish.

Jaap van den Herik

*ICCA Journal* readers may be interested to know that information on our publications is now available on the Internet. Our homepage can be reached by <http://www.cs.unimaas.nl/icca/iccainfo.htm>

A complete list of all articles, notes and literature reviews published in the *ICCA Journal* is available on the Internet at [http://www.cs.unimaas.nl/uitverwyk/icca\\_j\\_toc.htm](http://www.cs.unimaas.nl/uitverwyk/icca_j_toc.htm)

Dr. Herschberg's rejoinder to the laudatory tributes in the March issue will be published in the next issue under the title "A Brief History of the Future ICCA".