Preface to the CLTM-CLTD 2021 Special Issue

The scientific development of Computer Science is growing in Latin America. Accordingly, there are numerous accredited graduate programs that currently offer both M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

To encourage the development of high level master and doctoral programs, the Latin American Center for Informatics Studies (CLEI), within the framework of its annual conference, has held the Latin American Master Thesis Contest (CLTM) since 1993 and the Doctoral Thesis Contest (CLTD) since 2016. The objective of CLTM and CLTD is to identify and promote the best master and doctoral theses in Informatics, Computer Sciences, or other related areas, from Latin American universities members of CLEI, in any of the disciplinary areas defined in the computing curricula established by the IEEE / ACM.

In this second special issue we offered the opportunity to publish in CLEI Electronic Journal the summary of the selected best thesis in CLTM 2021 and CLTD 2021, including those that won the awards. Accordingly, we invited 3 authors from CLTM, and 6 authors corresponding to the 3 winners of CLTD and 3 from Doctoral thesis that reached very high evaluation. Finally, we have had a great number of positive responses from CLTD (i.e., 4 authors) who naturally continue to pursue a research career. The thesis summaries integrating this special issue are:

- Jesús Guillermo Falcón Cardona, "New Findings on Indicator-based Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithms: A Brief Summary". Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional (CINESTAV-IPN), México. 2nd prize CLTD 2021
- Bernardo Bentes Gatto, Waldir S. S. Júnior & Eulanda M. dos Santos, "Pattern-set Representations using Linear, Shallow and Tensor Subspaces". Universidade Federal do Amazonas (UFAM), Brasil. 3rd prize CLTD 2021
- Luis Chiruzzo & Dina Wonsever, "Statistical Deep Parsing for Spanish: Abridged Version". Instituto de Computación, Universidad de la República, Uruguay. Selected Doctoral Thesis
- Juan Miguel Bajo, Claudio Delrieux & Gustavo Patow, "A Comprehensive Method for Liquid-to-Solid Interactions". Universidad Nacional del Sur & CONICET, Argentina. Selected Doctoral Thesis.

We would like to thank and congratulate the authors, with their corresponding advisors, hoping they could take a protagonism in the CLEI community in the near future.

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We encourage postgraduate students of university members of CLEI to participate in the CLTM and CLTD contents and we hope to improve the visibility of relevant theses from our region.

Hope you enjoy the read!

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