

The (IM)2 Newsletter (IM)2 appears at the IST 2003 Event in Milan, (IM)2 web site re-designed, new visitors at ICSI.

Souvenirs from the second (IM)2 Summer Institute, which took place in Crans-Montana on October 6, 7 and 8, 2003.

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Editor: Jean-Albert Ferrez
www.im2.ch/nl nl@im2.ch



The (IM)2 Newsletter

Every month the (IM)2 Newsletter brings you the latest and hottest scientific and administrative news about the (IM)2 NCCR and related topics

IST Event in Milan

Thanks to its related european projects M4 and AML, (IM)2 was present at the «IST 2003: The Opportunities Ahead» Event (see details at europa.eu.int/information_society/istevent/2003) which took place during SMAU 2003 in Milan early October. SMAU is a very large computer technology trade show attracting several hundred thousand visitors.

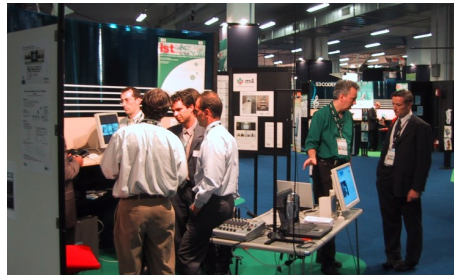


(IM)2 Director Prof. Hervé Boulard presenting ongoing research in the area of multimodal meeting information processing.

The IST Event featured a conference covering all aspects of the IST priority and an exhibition hall where projects could showcase their developments. The M4/(IM)2 booth had the SMA (see backpage) as well as a 360° camera developed at the Brno University of Technology.



The IDIAP team in Milan: Mike Flynn, Hervé Boulard, Pierre Wellner (missing: Olivier Masson).



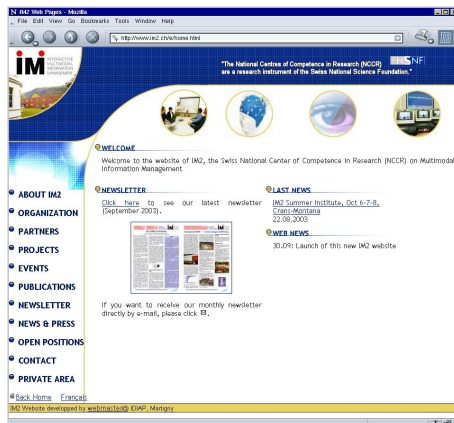
The booth in the IST Event exhibition area.

The new (IM)2 web site

Online since early 2002, the official (IM)2 web site www.im2.ch is the major entry point to the NCCR. It gives an overview of the project's origins, goals, structure, partners and achievements. It also offers links to projects and partners web sites.

After a year and a half of existence, the site has just been completely restyled and augmented. Aside from a smoother navigation, one of the main additions is the consolidated list of all (IM)2 publications across all Individual Projects. The usual sections such as events, open positions, and the previous issues of the newsletter are of course still there. Last but not least, the site is now also available in French, with other languages to follow.

The new (IM)2 web site was created by our webmaster Thierry Collado, webmaster@im2.ch. Feel free to send him any comment or additional material which should appear on www.im2.ch. Later this year, the private part of the site will also be upgraded to make document exchange and archiving more efficient.



The new (IM)2 home page at www.im2.ch.

New Swiss visitors at ICSI

Two new Swiss visitors benefit from the exchange program set up between (IM)2 and ICSI, Berkeley. Sébastien Coquoz from EPFL will spend 6 months there this fall, while Dr Vincenzo Pallota, also from EPFL, benefits from the fellowship announced this year and will spend the whole year in 2004 at ICSI.

Events

NCCR Site Visit 30–31.10.03

On October 30 and 31, IDIAP will host the second Site Visit of the (IM)2 NCCR. The Review Panel will focus this year on the scientific achievements of the NCCR teams now that all projects have reached their cruising speed. Although based on the annual progress report, the review will focus on oral and poster presentations and discussions between the panel members and young scientists and IP heads.

The review panel has been appointed by the SNSF. Members are Dr Phil Janson (SNSF, Chairman), Prof. Marco Baggiolini (SNSF), Dr Giordano Bruno Beretta (Hewlett Packard Laboratories, Palo Alto, USA), Prof. Shih-Fu Chang (Columbia University, New York, USA), Prof. Beat Hirsbrunner (SNSF), Prof. Mari Ostendorf (University of Washington, Seattle, USA), Prof. Steve Renals (University of Sheffield, UK), Prof. Gerhard Rigoll (Technische Universität München, D).

Prof. Ramesh Jain (Georgia Tech, Atlanta, USA) and Prof. Dan Jurafsky (University of Colorado, Boulder, USA) have agreed to join the panel, while we regret the resignation of Dr Andrew William Senior.

NIPS Workshop 12–13.12.03

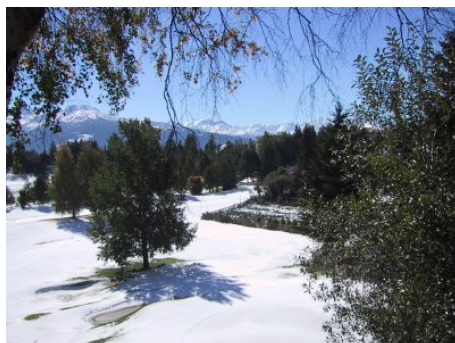
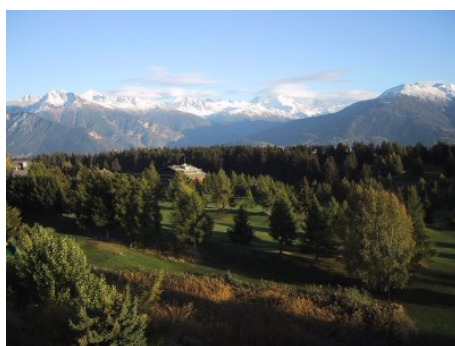
As part of the 2003 Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) Conference (www.nips.cc), a workshop titled **Machine Learning Meets the User Interface**, is being organized on December 12 or 13th, 2003, in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada by John Shawe-Taylor, University of Southampton, and John C. Platt, Microsoft Research. Full details of the call can be found at research.microsoft.com/workshops/MLUI03.

The second (IM)2 Summer Workshop

On October 6, 7 and 8, 2003, more than one hundred (IM)2 participants gathered in Crans-Montana for the second annual workshop. The program featured an invited talk, a dozen talks by the various (IM)2 teams, three dozen posters showcasing the work of most of the (IM)2 PhD students, as well as short (IM)2 and related project descriptions. Last but not least, the program left a lot of time for informal discussions.

Several IPs have organised workshops in 2003, but it was the first occasion to have participants from the whole network together again. After last year's workshop in Martigny, it was decided to move the workshop to a different place. Crans-Montana's "Le Regent" conference center offered the perfect infrastructure. However, the weather completely contradicted the event's title since when we left Crans-Montana on Wednesday, it was covered with 10cm of fresh snow.

The invited talk by Prof. Andy Hopper, University of Cambridge, www.lce.eng.cam.ac.uk/~hopper, on **Generating, Interpreting, and Using Location Information** opened the workshop, stressed on the industrial relevance and feasibility of the research activities, and raised interesting concerns about the actual implications of (IM)2-related research on everyday life, in particular regarding privacy issues. The (IM)2 Summer Institute will be organised again next year. Based on the experiences and feedback, it will probably feature less talks, one day for tutorials, and... maybe even take place in Summer.



A Summer Institute in beautiful surroundings, but in rather winter-like conditions!



Talks, posters and... demos

While talks and posters made up most of the program, some rather concrete results were also showcased. The picture below shows the Smart Microphone Array (SMA) built by HEVs in the framework of the (IM)2.RTMAP white paper project and on which IDIAP's sound source localisation and speech segmentation have been implemented in realtime. Four people can talk freely around the table, including overlapping speech, but each headphone will only have the sound of one speaker.



The Smart Microphone Array (SMA): the eight-microphone circular array, and in the back, the DSP-based real time processing unit.

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