
International Quantitative Linguistics Association

I. IQLA-GIAT Summer School in Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data Summer School (2nd Edition)

This summer GIAT (Interdisciplinary Text Analysis Group - www.giat.org) in collaboration with the International Quantitative Linguistics Association (www.iqla.org) and the Department of Computational Linguistics (Computerlinguistik und Digital Humanities) of the University of Trier (www.uni-trier.de) will organize the 2nd Edition of the IQLA-GIAT Summer School in Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data at the University of Padua, Italy, from September 21 to September 25, 2015.

The participants selected for the IQLA-GIAT Summer School have the opportunity to develop the necessary expertise to exploit integrated approaches to text analysis for a better understanding of the role played by theoretical issues, expected results and data and software selection.

Teaching activities will raise questions that can be answered thanks to quantitative methods implemented within a text analysis framework and other procedures that may be used to identify and compare the characteristics of texts. The aim is to

discuss with students, young researchers and scholars of different disciplines strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of quantitative methods for text analysis.

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School is characterized by three main elements:

- a general part devoted to quantitative linguistics;
- a special session addressed to the problem of “measuring style” (style and computational stylistics is the main topic of 2015 edition, in the first edition of 2013 the main topic was authorship attribution)
- several lab-sessions dedicated to computer-aided analysis of textual data.

The main objectives of the IQLA-GIAT summer school are:

- sharing information on software, corpora, relevant literature and research results;
- promoting a dialogue among different disciplines on actual research issues;

- developing innovative analytical tools and integrated research methods;
- introducing students and young researchers to new strains of research and applications;
- sharing state-of-the-art knowledge in:
 1. Corpora and textual data collection
 2. Quantitative linguistics
 3. Computational stylistics
 4. Content mapping and data visualization
 5. Computer-aided analysis of textual data

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School is open to 20 participants including researchers, scholars and postgraduate students. The deadline for the application is Monday 10th August 2015.

All courses are in English. Teaching activities include lectures and lab sessions, as well as tutorials illustrating software tools. The teaching staff includes researchers and experts from different European Universities: Toulouse II (France), Trier (Germany), Athens (Greece), Neuchatel (Switzerland), Kraców (Poland), Padova and Trieste (Italy).

The IQLA-GIAT Summer School is a project funded by the University of Padova (www.unipd.it), coordinated by prof. Arjuna Tuzzi (University of Padova).

Further information regarding the application procedure course schedule, deadlines and other useful information can be found in the following link:

http://www.giat.org/?page_id=11&lang=en

II. Seminar on Quantitative Linguistics

A regular Seminar on Quantitative Linguistics has been organized in Bratislava since autumn 2014 under the lead of Ján Mačutek. The seminar takes place every two weeks at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the Comenius University in Bratislava. Participants include scientists and PhD students from the following institutions: Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics (Comenius University), Ludovit Stur Institute of Linguistics (Slovak Academy of Sciences), Institute of Informatics (Slovak Academy of Sciences), and Institute of Musicology (Slovak Academy of Sciences). Occasionally, guest lectures are presented.

III. Distinction for the research of our Council Member Ramon Ferrer-i-Cancho

The article **Ferrer-i-Cancho, R. (2014). A stronger null hypothesis for crossing dependencies. *Europhysics Letters* 108 (5), 58003. [doi: 10.1209/0295-5075/108/580 03]** has been selected by the Editorial Board members of *Europhysics Letters* among their personal highlights from the articles produced in 2014.

This is not intended to be a definitive list of best articles, but rather a sampling of the journal's recent content that includes letters covering important new research, in topical areas, that the Board found particularly insightful and useful. All of the articles included in this collection will be free to read until 31 December 2015.

The full list of selected articles is available at:

IV. New Journal “Mathematical Linguistics”

The *Mathematical Linguistics (ML)* (Editor-in-Chief: Tayebeh Mosavi Miangah PhD, Payame Noor University) is an open access and peer-reviewed journal publishing scientific research on the computational and mathematical characteristics of language and text. It offers readers a great orientation, discussing the most recent findings of the field and covering a rich array of topics among which the most prominent ones are statistical and corpus-based approaches to the analysis of text and speech. The present journal aims to provide the readers with the most recent and reliable sources of information on last developments in the field.

ML specifically publishes papers on:

- Discussion of all aspects of language and linguistics including the areas of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, lexicography, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language learning and teaching as far as they use mathematical methods in their linguistic analyses.
- Report on applications of methods and models of mathematical linguistics to various problems of natural language processing including machine translation, information retrieval, data mining, speech synthesis, optical character recognition (OCR), automatic text summarization, speech recognition, among others.

- Different aspects of using corpus linguistics in all applied linguistic levels.

More information on this new journal can be found at the following link: <http://www.amljournal.ir/>.

The current Call for Papers can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/1Cmof26>

V. Just published: *Sequences in Language and Text* (Eds. George Mikros & Ján Mačutek)

On April 2015 the volume *Sequences in Language and Text* edited by George Mikros (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Ján Mačutek, Comenius University) was published in the Series *Quantitative Linguistics* of the publishing house De Gruyter.

This volume is the first collection of original research in the area of the quantitative analysis of sequentially organized linguistic data.

Linguistic sequences are extremely useful textual structures in almost all areas of Language Technology. Character and word n-grams are by far the most successful features in text classification tasks such as authorship identification, text categorization, genre classification, sentiment analysis etc. Furthermore character linguistic sequences are the basis for linguistic modeling and subsequent applications such as speech recognition, language identification etc.

In addition to the above language technology oriented research, the present volume aims to give insight to the theoretical value of linguistic sequences. Sequences in texts can be produced by a number of different factors, either

external to the linguistic system or by its own grammatical structure. This volume hosts contributions which will analyze linguistic sequences using quantitative methods under the synergetic theoretical framework that can explain their role in the linguistic system.

The contributions in this volume are:

- Gabriel Altmann, *Introduction*
- Sergey N. Andreev and Vadim V. Borisov *Linguistic Analysis Based on Fuzzy Similarity Models*
- François Bavaud, Christelle Cocco, Aris Xanthos, *Textual navigation and autocorrelation*
- Martina Benešová & Radek Čech, *Menzerath-Altmann law versus random model*
- Radek Čech, *Text length and the lambda frequency structure of a text*
- Reinhard Köhler, *Linguistic Motifs*
- Reinhard Köhler and Arjuna Tuzzi, *Linguistic Modelling of Sequential Phenomena: The role of laws*
- Ján Mačutek and George K. Mikros, *Menzerath-Altmann Law for Word Length Motifs*
- Jiří Milička, *Is the Distribution of L-Motifs Inherited from the Word Length Distribution?*
- Adam Pawłowski and Maciej Eder, *Sequential Structures in "Dalimil's Chronicle": Quantitative analysis of style variation*
- Taraka Rama and Lars Borin, *Comparative Evaluation of String*

Similarity Measures for Automatic Language Classification

- Vassiliki Rentoumi, Anastasia Krithara, Nikos Tzanos, *Predicting Sales Trends. Can sentiment analysis on social media help?*
- Andrij Rovenchak, *Where Alice Meets Little Prince: Another approach to study language relationships*
- Peter Zörnig, *A Probabilistic Model for the Arc Length in Quantitative Linguistics*

More information about this volume can be found in the publisher's site: <http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/429153>

VI. New publications from RAM-Verlag

1. *Glottometrics 31*, 2015. Table of contents available at : <http://www.ram-verlag.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/glo31abstracts.pdf>
This issue contains also the complete bibliography of the first 30 volumes of *Glottometrics*. You can find it also at the following link: <http://www.ram-verlag.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/biblioglo-1-30.pdf>
2. Karl-Heinz Best *Studien zur Geschichte der Quantitativen Linguistik*, 2015, III +158 pp. [Studies in Quantitative Linguistics 19]. Contents available at the following link: <http://www.ram-verlag.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/studies19cont.pdf>

VII. Announcement – Call for “news”

We kindly ask all IQLA members to inform secretary@iqla.org about recent or new projects, publications, conferences, personal news, etc., in QL and related research fields. It is planned to publish this information on the IQLA web pages and in the next available IQLA newsletter, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2015.

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