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REAL-NET Network-Wide Events

- **ONLINE WORKSHOP/SUMMER SCHOOL and CROSS ITNs WORKSHOP**
18-21th May 2020
- **MINI-SYMPOSIUM ON INTRODUCTION TO MACHINE LEARNING**
7-8th Sep 2020

REAL-NET IN COVID-19 TIME

Please find out how the REAL-NET project reacted to the sudden COVID-19 pandemic (Page 4).

9th March 2020

Our Project's coordinator, Prof. Sergei K. Turitsyn, is presenting REAL-NET at OFC2020

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

for our ESR1(Mohammad) and ESR6 (Diogo)

Find out more at page

REAL-NET NETWORK-WIDE EVENTS

REAL-NET ONLINE WORKSHOP/SUMMER SCHOOL

18-21th May 2020

Completely virtual and online

REAL-NET together with the ITNs **ONFIRE** and **WON** has organised an online workshop/summer school and outreach events on May 18 – 21th, 2020. Taking advantage of IT technologies, these events have been full virtual and online.

The jointly event has been co-located with IEEE 24th International Conference on Optical Networks Design and Modelling (INDM 2020).

Huge list of interesting talks from people all over the world, from both industry and academia, such as:

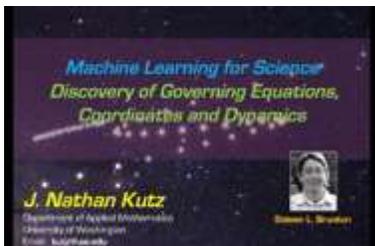
- Erik Agrell, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, “**Iterative configuration in elastic optical network**”
- Xiaoliang Chen, UC Davis, USA, “**Towards Self-Driving Optical Networking with Reinforcement Learning and Knowledge Transferring**”
- Juan Pedro Fernandez-Placios, Telefónica, Spain, “**Towards an Open Networking Architecture**”
- Francesco Paolucci, CNIT, “**Telemetry in Disaggregated Optical Networks**”

The cross-ITNs workshop has the objective to “Explore opportunities for joint collaborations among ESRs”.

MINI SYMPOSIUM ON INTRODUCTION TO MACHINE LEARNING

7-8th September 2020

Completely virtual and online



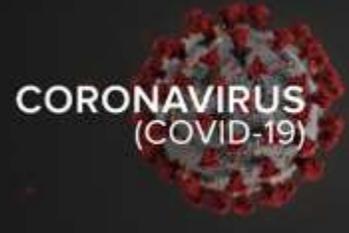
The 7th and 8th of September 2020 via Webex, REAL-NET together with other ITNs coordinated by AiPT, MOCCA, FONTE and WON, co-organised the mini-symposium on introduction to machine learning.

The aim of this mini-symposium was to facilitate all ESRs high-level discussions on research challenges on machine learning in optical communications, which even included a practical session organized by Assoc. Prof. Darko Zibar (DTU Fotonik). Speakers from Denmark, UK, France and USA, and from academia and industry, joined the event, resulting in very interesting talks for our fellows.

Around 40 participants joined the symposium and among them around 28 ESRs from the 4 ITNs, with additions from local students and young researchers, asking engaging questions.

Being the **chairmen** of the sessions and helping organizing the Q&A session, **Pedro** and **Mohammad**, ESR2 and 1 of REAL-NET.

REAL-NET in COVID-19 time



The unexpected outbreak of **COVID-19** began in December 2019. Since then a **challenging time** has started for everyone. The coronavirus has impacted the lives of people around the world. We could never have imagined the shape of the world today.

Travel restrictions and new rules on large public gathering have forced a lot of events to be cancelled or postponed. The only way to keep organize meeting and training activities has been holding online events.

Even though we have faced some unavoidable delays, the REAL-NET team has been able to quickly adapt to the new situation. For quite a number of weeks the ESRs were not able to enter their laboratories and offices. Nonetheless the students were able to continue working on their research from home. The participation and commitment of the team has not diminished. Still today, to ensure the well-being of people to going back to work, new operating decision-making principles and rules have been instituted. It will take some time to go back to “normal”.

While there are many aspects of in-person events that can't be replicated in digital form, the virtual gathering also presents distinct opportunities that could prove beneficial for the project over the long run. For example, online conferencing allows individuals to attend events in case they are prevented from attending in person due to visa issues, travel costs, or other reasons. In other words, the new online format increases accessibility and inclusion by reducing barriers to participation.

OUTREACH & SOCIAL MEDIA

Mohammad (ESR1) and **Diogo** (ESR6) participated at the Outreach event on the 21st May 2020, where they shared their PhD experience with MSc students. The event, held virtually due to the COVID-19 restrictions, has been jointly organised by REAL-NET, ONFIRE and WON (@EtnWon) and co-located within the IEEE 24th International Conference on Optical Networks Design and Modelling (ONDM 2020).



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