

StringMasters @ McMaster — SAM'07

3–6 July 2007

How beautiful it is to do nothing, then rest afterward.

— Spanish proverb

Situated next to the sprawling Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) and the picturesque town of Dundas, Ontario, McMaster University in the summertime could, admittedly only with a large leap of the imagination, be compared to Andalusia: flowers everywhere, ravines and small streams, tranquillity on an underpopulated student-deprived campus, profs transmogrified from pedants into peasants.

In keeping with this relaxed atmosphere, the Algorithms Research Group in the Department of Computing & Software (C&S) at McMaster proposes bringing together a selection of “StringMasters” — *Die Meisterstringer* in German translation — and their students to work on string processing problems of current interest, especially those that relate to applications in data compression, data mining, computational biology, and musicology. Our discussions might well produce a *string quartette* — papers relevant to each of these four areas!

The meeting is timed to take place the week before this year’s Symposium on Combinatorial Pattern Matching (CPM) — the most hallowed of StringMaster reunions — to be held 9–11 July at the University of Western Ontario:

<http://www.csd.uwo.ca/CPM2007/>

The headquarters of SAM'07 will be the Information Technology Building (ITB) that houses C&S. Depending on numbers, 2–4 classrooms in ITB will be made available for morning and afternoon meetings throughout the week. There will be no presentations — except perhaps *ad hoc* problem-related ones —, just working sessions interspersed with generous recesses for coffee and meals.

We are not *high-strung*. The mood is relaxed, the pace leisurely, but still the intent is serious: to spend time among colleagues and friends exploring fundamental problems of our research discipline. For example:

- * the efficient construction and use of compressed/succinct data structures for string processing;

- * methods for computing repetitions in strings that avoid the use of suffix arrays/trees;
- * discovery of a sharp upper bound on the maximum number of maximal periodicities that a string can contain;
- * the design of new algorithms on strings that are in some sense “indeterminate”;
- * more space- and time-efficient Lempel-Ziv factorization of strings.

Proposals for other areas of study are solicited!

Participants

Whoever fronts up. String neophytes particularly welcome. The fundamentals of string processing are not so abstruse and convoluted that the neophyte will find himself unable to participate. For the student or computer scientist interested in finding out what stringology is all about, SAM’07 could be an opportunity — nobody will be asked to play *second fiddle*, we will all be *first stringers*!

Registration

None. But ***PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING!***

Schedule

Beginning Tuesday 3 July we meet daily at 9:30 a.m in ITB-101 (on the ground floor by the main entrance) to sort out the day’s programme.

Monday 2 July is a holiday celebrating Canada’s national day — for those who arrive early an informal programme will be arranged.

Accommodation

For information about accommodation on the McMaster campus:

<http://housing.mcmaster.ca/confs/SUMGUESTRATES.htm>

The Visitors Inn is a good local hotel situated less than a mile from the university:

<http://www.visitorsinn.com/>, reservations@visitorsinn.com

Their special McMaster rate is CDN\$89 per night.

Somewhat more posh, somewhat more expensive (CDN\$109 McMaster rate), and about twice as far from McMaster is Staybridge Suites — for information google “Staybridge Suites” \cap Hamilton-Downtown.

Eating & Drinking

There are numerous restaurants, widely differing in menu, atmosphere and price within a few minutes' walk of our headquarters — all provide adequate fuel for research progress.

Getting Here

You can fly to Toronto (Pearson International) airport from anywhere in the world — McMaster is about an hour and a CDN\$100 taxi ride away. But just this year Hamilton airport has gone international, and it is less than half the distance and half the cost from McMaster. From Europe to Hamilton airport there are many budget flights available.

Excursions

McMaster is not far from a great many waterfalls, of which Niagara is the most famous but not necessarily the most attractive. There are many other sights to see: the RBG mentioned above, vineyards (yes, Canadian wine is sometimes drinkable!), Niagara-on-the-Lake with its annual summer George Bernard Shaw festival, the Big City (Toronto, or T.O. as we call it). As with all other activities at SAM'07, participants are encouraged to do their own thing.

IMPORTANT!

Please pass this announcement on to anyone you think may be interested.

Best regards.

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