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Towards a Synthesis of Multimedia and Intelligent Tutoring Systems

A dissertation presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Science in Computer Science at Massey
University
Palmerston North, New Zealand.

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1998

Abstract

Multimedia is being used almost in every field. This study is about the use of multimedia in the area of intelligent tutoring systems. This project studies the advantages and disadvantages of interactive multimedia and intelligent tutoring systems, and analyses the ways of combining these technologies in search of an interesting, learnable, flexible, compelling and technology-enhanced educational tool.

Educational packages need to be evaluated for effectiveness. When it comes to computer-based instruction, technical concerns such as multimedia effects are taken seriously and there is not enough emphasis on its educational value. There is not much concern about the appropriateness of the instruction method to the computer medium. This research proposes a framework for evaluating educational packages which include a number of issues.

Several pieces of educational software were evaluated using this framework and *Diagnosis for crop protection*, a multimedia software package that aids in teaching the process of diagnosing crop problems, was selected for modification, as a practical application of the theoretical work.

We studied different multimedia system development models and methodologies. We also analysed the cognitive issues and intelligent features that enhance the learnability.

Finally, the appropriate intelligent features and other factors that could enhance *Diagnosis for crop protection* to be a more 'active knowledge constructing' environment have been identified. The current version of *Diagnosis for crop protection* was represented using an appropriate methodology and the proposed changes were described in detail.

Acknowledgments

First of all, I am eternally grateful to my uncle Stanny Emmanuel, for his moral and financial support in everything to initiate my masterate degree. I would like to acknowledge New Zealand government and the NZODA postgraduate scholarship office for sponsoring the second year of my program.

Next, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ray Kemp, my supervisor, for helping me find some suitable area for my research, excellent supervision, valuable ideas and very prompt reviews. I really enjoyed working with you.

I would like to thank Terry Stewart, for granting permission to use *Diagnosis* and for being helpful in a totally unfamiliar subject area of plant pathology. Thanks to Alex Doyle-Bolecivic, who kindly lent a few packages for studying.

Thanks also due to Computer Science department staff and postgrad students, who provided a nice environment for me to work. I would love to thank all my friends and flat mates for their friendship, encouragement, letters and emails. I absolutely enjoyed the funny things we did together.

A very big thank you for my parents and grand mother for their love and prayers. Thanks to my loving brothers and sister for all what they are. Finally, thanks to Raymond for his love and for constantly being there for me all the time. I am very proud of you all.

Without you all, this dissertation would not be the same.

Thank you very much.

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