



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS
Bloomington

To: IEEE Intellectual Property Rights, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08855
Cc: IEEE Computer Society, 1730 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
Cc: Prof. Francesco Paolo La Mantia, Preside, Facoltà di Ingegneria,
Università degli Studi di Palermo, Viale delle Scienze - Edificio 8, 90128 Palermo, Italy
Cc: Prof. Francesco Beltrame, Direttore, Dipartimento ICT, CNR,
Piazzale Aldo Moro 7, 00185 Roma, Italy

October 30, 2007

Dear Sir,

I regret to report several egregious episodes of **plagiarism** of which we are victims. Our work has been blatantly plagiarized in at least six papers published by:

- Giuseppe Lo Re, Dipartimento di Ingegneria Informatica, Università degli Studi di Palermo
- Salvatore Gaglio, Istituto di Calcolo e Reti ad Alte Prestazioni, CNR, Palermo
- Alfonso Urso, Istituto di Calcolo e Reti ad Alte Prestazioni, CNR, Palermo
- Luca Gatani, Dipartimento di Ingegneria Informatica, Università degli Studi di Palermo

These unscrupulous individuals stole our ideas wholesale from papers that they found on our homepages. Gatani *et al.* published the very same ideas, algorithms, and identical evaluation as ours. There is no original contribution in these papers beyond what has been plagiarized from our work. Many sentences, paragraphs, and figures are copied verbatim from our papers, without quotes or acknowledgments. These papers even plagiarize each other! According to IEEE Guidelines, the misconduct in these papers ranges between Level One and Level Three.

Giuseppe Lo Re did send an "explanation/apology," however his account is neither credible nor relevant. The problem here is not just a missing reference (which turned out to be a fake reference to a non-existing paper), as he alleges, nor can it be attributed to oversight by an unnamed graduate student, whom he attempts to blame. Mr. Lo Re's lies are only further proof of plagiarism, bad faith, and academic dishonesty.

These incidents are very upsetting. They cause tangible, quantifiable damage to the careers of honest, hard-working researchers (two of the victims are graduate students). Citations that should go to our original contributions are going instead to perpetrators of plagiarism. Such dishonest conduct must be publicly acknowledged.

Several of the offending papers were published by the IEEE Computer Society, or by Springer LNCS as proceedings of conferences sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society. Therefore we ask that IEEE conducts a review and, if a decision is made that plagiarism did occur, that corrective actions be taken according to the guidelines for handling misconduct, section 8.2.4 of the IEEE PSPB Operations Manual.

Investigations have already been carried out by Dr. Mark Mandelbaum, ACM Director of Publications, and by Dr. Vincent Shen, President of IW3C2. Both have concluded that plagiarism did occur. The offending papers that were cross-listed in the ACM Portal have been removed and notices of plagiarism has been posted in their place.

All the details about these episodes of plagiarism (including a timeline; copies or relevant correspondence with ICCSA conference chair, ACM director of publications, IW3C2 president, and Mr. Lo Re; links to our original papers; and copies of the offending papers with plagiarized sections highlighted) are available on this Website:

<http://homer.informatics.indiana.edu/~nan/6S/plagiarism/>

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Filippo Menczer
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Complex Networks Lagrange Laboratory
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