

SICSA DVF Report: Professor Edgar Chávez, CICESE, Ensenada, Mexico

Professor Chávez visited Scotland between 27th November and 7th December 2017 with financial assistance from the SICSA DVF fund. As he was already travelling within Europe it was a perfect opportunity to host him in Scotland for these 10 days. During the period he stayed with Professor Richard Connor of Strathclyde, and worked also with Dr Marc Roper there. He visited St Andrews with Prof Connor for the two days 5th and 6th December, all working together with Prof Al Dearle and Dr Graham Kirby.

He gave public seminars at Strathclyde on 29th November, and at St Andrews on 5th December, both seminars being advertised well in advance to all SICSA institutions.

At Strathclyde he worked with Prof Connor on a new lightweight indexing mechanism for metric spaces; a topic they had discussed in outline in October at the SISAP conference, building on one of Prof Connor's earlier publications in the domain. This work progressed well, and in fact Prof Connor has now visited Ensenada in Mexico to progress the ideas further; a research paper is in preparation on the topic. He also worked with Dr Roper and Prof Connor on the analysis of satellite imagery, a topic which has subsequently been awarded a KTP project with the local company Bird.i Ltd.

At St Andrews his seminar led to a long discussion about metric indexing and how this could be applied to a specific problem domain of matching historical records. Prof Dearle and Dr Kirby learned a great deal about metric indexing, and indeed a further paper is in preparation by Profs Dearle and Connor as a direct result of this discussion. It is expected that both of the papers mentioned will be submitted to the SISAP conference, of which Prof Chávez is a steering group member, the most prestigious international conference dedicated to the subject of similarity search.

Richard Connor