

# Summary of Contributions to SERVICE

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November 12, 2000

## Abstract

Currently, I am serving on four departmental committees namely, the post-tenure review committee, the graduate committee, the curriculum committee and the recruiting committee for a joint faculty position with Psychology. From Fall 98 to Spring 2000, I chaired the departmental curriculum committee and helped develop a consensus strategy to modernize the CS 2 course to Java from C++. During this period, I also coordinated WPE for the Systems area, which comprises of almost a third of the faculty members in the department. From Fall 1995 to Spring 1997, I served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department. Key accomplishments included the establishment of a Co-op program and an undergraduate seminar among others. Over last ten years, I have contributed to almost all committees in the department.

For Fall 2000 - Spring 2001 academic year, I am serving on the General Research Advisory Committee (GRAC) to the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota. This committee evaluates faculty research proposals to graduate school grant-in-aid program. In Fall 1997, I organized a panel session for the University wide Digital Technology Summit sponsored by the office of the President of the University of Minnesota. I was an active member of the college and university committees responsible for designing the curriculum for the professional M.S. degree in Computer Engineering, the professional M.S. degree in Software Engineering, the professional M.S. degree in Geographic Information Systems, and the Bachelor degree in Information Networking.

I have been part of several research centers on campus, including the Army Center for High Performance Computing (AHPARC), the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications (IMA), the Center for Transportation Studies, the Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute, and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs. I was in charge of organizing a two-month long Summer Institute for undergraduate students at the AHPARC in Summer 2000. Currently, I am a co-organizer of an IMA workshop to be held in Winter 2001.

I have served the profession in a variety of ways. I have been an Associate Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering for the last five years. I have served in the capacity for last five years. I am also a member of the national curriculum committee for the University Consortium on Geographic Information Systems. I was program chair of the ACM Intl. Conference on Geographic Information Systems in 1996. I also organized a workshop on Battlefield Visualization and Real-time Geographic Information Systems at the Army Research Laboratory (Adelphi, Maryland) in Spring 2000. I regularly review papers for numerous conferences and journals and have served as a panelist for NSF and NASA.

# 1 SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

Over the last ten years I have contributed to almost all of the of committees in the Department of Computer Science, including the WPE committee, the computing committee, the graduate affairs committee, the undergraduate affairs committee and the recruiting committee.

## 1.1 Fall 2000 - Spring 2001

I am currently serving on four crucial departmental committees:

- Post-tenure evaluation committee
- Graduate committee
- Curriculum committee
- Recruiting committee for a joint faculty position with the Department of Psychology.

## 1.2 Fall 1998 - Spring 2000

### 1.2.1 WPE Coordinator - Systems Area

I served as coordinator for WPE for the systems area from Fall 1998 to Spring 2000. The systems area is the largest WPE area in the department, covering a third of the faculty members. Key achievements included

- Developing a consensus strategy for moving our first course (CSci revision of the WPE syllabus in face of the semester conversion.
- Consolidation of the WPE examination schedule from a set of 5 sessions over an entire week into two Friday afternoon sessions.
- Successful negotiation to move compilers to Computer Engineering
- Smooth coordination of a large group of faculty members in the preparation and grading of examination.

### 1.2.2 Chair, Curriculum Committee

I chaired the departmental curriculum committee from Fall 1998 to Spring 2000. As the chair, I provided the leadership in developing the agenda and in forming consensus on strategic issues. The committee, which included half a dozen faculty members and several students, addressed a variety of issues ranging including operational, tactical and long-term strategic issues. This subsection briefly describes key accomplishments and related major issues.

#### **Developing a consensus strategy for moving our first course (CSci 1902) from C++ to Java to mo**

This contentious issue had been discussed in department since the dawn of the internet age (1995-96) with no consensus. It took hard work to understand the needs of all the courses and develop a clear path to Java based curriculum. We accommodated the needs of courses which use the C language.

**Guiding the development of writing intensive courses :** After writing requirements were added for all undergraduate degrees at the University two years ago, each department was asked to create a set of writing intensive courses. I attended two day long workshops organized by the “Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Writing” to understand the requirements for creating writing intensive courses and presented a summary to the committee as well as the faculty. In particular I briefed the head of the department on the resource requirements (special TAs, low student-TA ratio) as well as resource availability (from college and Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Writing). I talked to several faculty members to select four CS courses suitable for conversion to writing intensive courses. We assisted faculty members in the preparation of four proposals for writing intensive courses, three of which were accepted by the University wide committee on writing requirements.

**Developing detailed week by week syllabi for required undergraduate courses to reduce variation a**

We assisted in semester transition by preparing detailed descriptions of the required courses. This was requested by college and university level semester transition groups.

**Comprehensive revision of curriculum:** We started discussion of comprehensive revision of the curriculum to meet the goals of simplifying learning load and teaching load as set by the faculty. I worked hard to obtain a pre-publication copy of the ACM/IEEE-CS Curriculum 2001 to provide a scholastic framework for this effort. I proposed an approach of prioritizing the existing courses instead of creation of completing new courses. This strategy was proposed since the department had completed reorganization of courses in recent past due to semester transition. Previous chair of curriculum committee agreed with this strategy. We also evaluated a proposal from the Department Head to create a new set of courses and drop existing courses. This proposal came too late in my term to be actionable. Next curriculum committee will continue with this issue.

### **1.2.3 External Affairs Committee, Mentoring Junior Faculty, Graduate Admissions**

I was a member of the external affairs committee and helped Prof. Jaideep Srivastava organize an open house for the Department of Computer Science. I participated in preparation of the program, inviting prominent alumni, etc.

I was also a member of the **mentoring committee for Prof. John Weissman** with Prof. Pen Yew. The entire mentoring committee met once last year. In addition, I met with John several times to help him become familiar with the tenure issues as well as the research centers on campus. I am mentoring him in his research to define a project of interest to the Army High Performance Computing Research Center. I also observed one of John’s lectures to provide feedback on his teaching methods and am encouraging him to participate in the Bush Foundation program on Excellence in Teaching.

Even though I was not a part of the departmental graduate committee, I helped **review an extremely large number of graduate admissions files**. This large commitment of time to graduate admission went well beyond the expected service contribution. This is documented in an email from the Head of the Department.

### 1.3 Fall 1995 - Spring 1997 , Director Undergraduate Studies

I served as Director, Undergraduate Studies (DUGS) from Summer 1995-Spring 1997 for the Computer Science Department. Key accomplishments include

- Started the COOP program for Computer Science and recruited over two dozen companies and students to participate in it.
- Started a highly visible WWW-page competition to increase the visibility of the committee among undergraduates, faculty and staff.
- Created undergraduate colloquium to allow technical interaction between undergraduates and industries.
- Streamlined the operation of undergraduate committee by clear division of responsibilities.
- Substantially improved the relationship of the Computer Science department with colleges (I.T. and CLA) with improved staff support. The Head of the Department the the time described these accomplishments in his letter to the College. The text of this letter is enclosed.

Appendix shows text from a letter from Prof. Sameh, Head of the Department who supervised my work as DUGS.

### 1.4 Prior Years

I also served as the departmental Director of Undergraduate Studies during Summer 1994. In this capacity, I organized six orientation sessions for transfer students. In addition, I helped faculty members deal with the special advising needs of undergraduate students and also advised undergraduate students, evaluated petitions, and evaluated transfer credits from other universities.

I served on the computing committee in 1990-91 and participated actively in the formation of a policy on disk quotas for various users. In particular, I provided arguments for not imposing quotas on the disk usages of faculty members due to their dual roles in teaching and research. I also helped the committee compile a list of needed equipment.

I served on the undergraduate studies committee directly in 1991-92, and indirectly in 1990-91. I helped revise the lower division courses by serving on the sub-committee which replaced Pascal by Scheme and C++ in our undergraduate curriculum. To facilitate this bold transition, we designed new courses, Csci 3316 and Csci 3317, to replace the old Csci 3106.

During 1991-92, I helped the committee prepare part of the self evaluation report for an external evaluation committee. During 1993-94, Prof. Barry and I organized a survey to assess the effectiveness of undergraduate advising. We prepared a report and formulated a strategy to improve undergraduate advising.

In addition, I revised the compulsory course on programming languages, Csci 5106, to help Prof. Dan Boley revise the upper division courses. I introduced a new syllabus and a new textbook for this course. The updated syllabus includes many new features of modern languages such as exception handling, concurrency, inheritance, encapsulation and parametrization. I also changed the nature of this course by introducing more problem solving.

I served on the recruiting committee in 1991-92 and 1992-93. During 1991-92, I went over a hundred applications in the systems and languages area to make a short list of ten candidates to be interviewed. I hosted some of the candidates during their interviews. As a host, I arranged for the candidates to meet with various faculty in the systems group and took them to other research centers in the university. Some of the candidates wanted to see the city and know about the social and cultural aspects of the metropolitan area. In the evening, I showed these candidates around the city of Minneapolis and arranged meetings with faculty who could provide relevant information.

I have participated actively in designing new graduate courses. Anand Tripathi, John Riedl and I revised and introduced three new courses, namely, CS 8101, 8102, 8103. This sequence of courses was very successful with an enrollment of over 30 graduate students in each of the courses. I have proposed a new graduate course on Neural Networks with Prof. Slagle, which is being considered by the graduate school for final approval.

I have participated actively in the Written Preliminary Examinations (WPEs) in three old areas (i.e., systems, artificial intelligence, and software engineering). and two new areas (i.e., software systems, artificial intelligence). I selected in-class and take-home examination questions for programming languages, databases, compilers, search algorithms, knowledge representation, neural networks. I have graded the questions in at least one area every year.

## 1.5 Hosting Visiting Researchers (Colloquium Speakers)

I have invited a number of visitors to the university to give colloquiums and meet with faculty and graduate students. These include Prof. Sham Navathe (Cray Distinguished Speaker), Prof. Jia-Wei Han, Prof. K. Y. Whang, Prof. Bruce Berra (IEEE distinguished speaker), Prof. Tadao Ichikawa (Chair IEEE Multimedia TF), and Prof. Vijay Garg. (Univ. of Texas, Austin), In addition, I have helped the colloquium chairs select distinguished visitors such as Prof. Gio Wiederhold and Dr. Laura Haas. As an organizer of a local workshop, I invited Dr. Su-Shing Chen (NSF), Prof. Goldberg (UIUC), Prof. Joideep Ghosh (University of Texas, Austin) and others to the University of Minnesota. I have hosted numerous researchers from the Army Research Office, Computing Devices Intl., Honeywell, the National Weather Service, the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, NSP and other institutions interested in research in Data and Knowledge and Data Engineering.

## 1.6 Other Services

- Helped with curriculum design and the preparation of a proposal to the graduate school for the **professional degree M.S. in Software Engineering**. It is now a successful program that brings in significant revenues to the department every year.
- Helped establish a relationship with the Strategic Research Initiatives group at the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation for the industrial affiliates program. Helped Prof. Papanikopolous to get contacts and research grants from the group.
- Helped formulate the industrial affiliate program with Computing Devices International. Also visited DataMap Inc. and Bell Atlantic for initial contact.
- Participated in the advisory committee on software engineering education in 1993-94.

## 2 SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY

### 2.1 Fall 1999 - Fall 2000

I am serving as a **member of Graduate Research Advisory Committee (GRAC)**, for the Graduate School at the University of Minnesota. This faculty committee reviews proposals for Grant-in-aid awards to faculty members.

In 1999-2001, I am helping Prof. W. Miller, Director of the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) design an IMA workshop series on the Digital Libraries. **I am organizing a workshop on Data Modeling for IMA.** Prof. Miller has also sought my contribution to the workshop series on Geo-sciences in the coming years.

I was the **faculty member in charge of organizing Summer Institute** for the year 2000 at the Army High Performance Computing Research Center. This program selected two dozen sophomore undergraduate students from a vast pool of applicants. The students visited the University of Minnesota for a two month long program exposing them to research program in many areas. Half a dozen faculty members and half a dozen graduate students participated in this program to mentor the undergradaute students.

I also actively participated in a college committee responsible for designing a new program for advanced professional courses for our alumni in 1998-1999. This committee was headed by Prof. Doug Ernie from Electrical Engineering.

I helped Mr. William Craig, the associate director of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), prepare for a **congressional presentations** in both 1998-99 and 1999-2000. These congressional presentations in Washington DC highlighted research accomplishments of Geographic Information Systems to federal policy makers. Several prominent congresspersons attended this event. As a result, Vice President Al Gore started the **Digital Earth** initiative to fund GIS research towards providing detailed geographic data about the entire earth on world wide web.

### 2.2 Fall 1996 - Spring 1998

Since 1996, I have contributed to numerous service needs at the Army High Performance Computing Research Center. I helped the Director of the Center prepare presentations for the program manager and Army leadership on numerous occasions. I have also supervised a dozen undergraduates in summer institutes for the last four years.

I was a strong contributor to the University-wide committee which developed the **Professional MS degree in Geographic Information Systems**. This committe work was done in 1998-99.

I was a strong contributor to the joint committee from Electrical Engineering and Computer Science which developed the graduate program and the curriculum for the **MS degree in Computer Engineering**. This committe work was done in 1997-98.

I was on the **organizing committee for the University of Minnesota Digital Technology Summit (Fall 1997)** called by President Yudof. We invited Jack Dangermond, President, ESRI (the largest software company in GIS) as a keynote speaker for the track on Geographic Information Systems (GIS). I organized a panel discussion on GIS issues related to civil infra-structure.

I was an active **member of the college Curriculum Committee** (1996-97) chaired by Prof. Huddleston.

### 2.3 Winter 1990 - Spring 1995

I was a strong contributor to the IT committee which developed the curriculum for the **Bachelor of Information Networking program** in collaboration with Hennepin Technical College (1993-94). I worked with the Institute of Technology committee for the development of a new program leading to the Bachelor of Information Networking program in 1993. This degree is being offered in collaboration with North Hennepin Community College. I helped the committee in choose an appropriate set of computer science courses. I also designed a new course, Network Operation and Administration, to teach skills related to planning, configuring, installing, diagnosing, performance-tuning, operating and managing computer networks.

I served on the **traffic and safety council at the Center for Transportation from 1990 to 2000**. The council organizes an annual workshop on advanced transportation technologies for practitioners in Minnesota to transfer technology. The council also review proposals to recommend funding of innovative and useful research projects by the Center of Transportation Studies, Federal Highway Authority, Minnesota Department of Transportation and other funding agencies.

I have served as member in the Center for Research in Learning, Perception and Cognition as well as the Productivity Center.

I have been associated with the **Human Factors Research Laboratory** in the School of Kinesiology from 1990 to 1994 and directed the computations aspects. The laboratory has a driving simulator, a flight simulator and a virtual reality laboratory. I have helped write several equipment grant proposals to acquire silicon graphics workstations, virtual reality equipment etc. Students working with me provided valuable contributions towards implementation of the data management and software design to implement many of the simulators. Over the years, the laboratory has supported several graduate students in our department, including Mark Coyle, Meir Shargal, Janelle Kojak, Andrew Yang and Varsha Kelkar.

## 3 SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

### 3.1 Editorship for Journals, Book Series

- Associate Editor, *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Eng.*, 1996-98, and 1998-2000.
- Editor, IEEE-Computer Society Computer Sc. and Eng. Practices Publication Board, 1995-97.
- 1996, Editor, Intl. Jr. on Computational Intelligence and Organization, Lawrence Erlbaum and Assoc., Inc.
- Editor, Proceedings of ACM Intl. Conference on Geographic Information Systems, 1996.

### 3.2 Conference and Workshop Organization

- *Co-Chair*, Inst. of Math and Its Applications (Univ. of Minnesota) Workshop on Data Models for Multimedia Digital Libraries, January 2001.
- *Panel Organizer*, Panel on Mining Spatial Datasets, Army Workshop on Scientific Data Mining, July 2000.
- *Co-Chair*, Army Research Laboratory Workshop on Battlefield Visualization and Real-time Geographic Information Systems, April 2000.
- *Program Chair*, ACM Intl. Conference on Geographic Information Systems, 1996.
- *Steering Committee Member*, National Center on Geographic Information and Analysis (NC-GIA) Conf. on Navigable Databases,
- *Co-Chair*, Mini-track on Neural Networks in Business, HICCS-96, 1996.
- *Publicity Vice-Chair*, IEEE Intl. Conf. on Tools for AI, 1995.
- *Treasurer*, IEEE Intl. Conf. on Tools for AI 1992.
- *Panel Chair*, Panel on Mining Spatial Datasets, Intl. Conf. on Tools with AI, 1993. In 1993, I coordinated the panel on *Real Time and AI: Is it time for marriage?* which included Prof. Tom Dean (Brown Univ.), Prof. Krithi Ramamritham (U. Mass., Amherst) and Prof. Ashok Agrawala (U. of Maryland) as panelists. In 1991, I organized a panel discussion on "AI in Business" and invited Dr. B. Sheil (Price Waterhouse), Dr. Raghupathi and Gary Halee (Aion Corp.) to be on the panel. I also served as session chair for different sessions.
- *Co-organizer*, AAAI Workshop on Integrating Symbolic AI and Neural Networks, 1992. I organized a Workshop with Dr. Ron Sun (Honeywell) on *Integrating Symbolic AI and Neural Networks*, for the Annual Conf. (AAAI-92) of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, 1992. The workshop was attended by 48 researchers from the US and abroad. The workshop included three invited talks, a dozen presentations, and several panel discussions.

- *Co-organier*, Workshop on Neural Networks at the University of Minnesota 1992-93. I served on the organization committee of the 2nd and 3rd Intl. Workshop “Neural Networks in Physics”. with Prof. Philippe de Forcrand. I invited Dr. David Goldberg (UIUC), Dr. Su-Shing Chen (NSF), Dr. Joideep Ghosh (UTAustin), and Dr. Vipin Kumar (UMN) to participate in this workshop. I also organized two sessions in this workshop, and made a presentation. The workshop was held from Aug. 17th to Aug. 21st 1992 and was attended by more than 50 researchers.
- *Panel Organizer*, Int’l Conf. on Software Engineering and Knowledge, 1990.  
I organized a session in the 2nd Int’l Conf. on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, Chicago 1990. I invited papers, coordinated reviews and chaired the session.

### 3.3 Refereeing for Journals, Conferences, Funding Agencies

Refereed for the following Journals:

- IEEE Trans. on Knowledge and Data Engineering
- IEEE Trans. on Computer
- IEEE Trans. on Software Eng.
- ACM Trans. on Database Systems
- VLDB Journal
- IEEE Computer
- IEEE Expert
- Artificial Intelligence Journal
- Journal on Parallel and Distributed Computing
- Journal on Intelligent Information Systems
- Journal of Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering
- Journal of Computer and Software Engineering
- Intl. Jr. on Artificial Intelligence Tools
- Information and Software Technology

Refereed for the following the Conferences:

- ACM Symposium on Spatial Databases (1999),
- ACM Intl. Conf. on Geographic Info. Systems (1995-2000),
- ACM Intl. Conf. on Information and Knowledge Management (1999-2000),

- IEEE Intl. Conf. on Data Engineering
- ACM SIGMOD Natl. Conf. on Management of Data
- IEEE Tools for AI
- AAAI National Conf. on Artificial Intelligence
- IEEE Intl. Conf. on Computer and Software Applications (COMPSAC)
- Intl. Conf. on Parallel Processing (ICPP)
- Scalable High Performance Computing Conference

Refereed for the following Textbook Publishers:

- Addison Wesley (Software Engineering by Sommerville)
- McGraw Hill (Database System Concepts by Korth and Silberschatz)
- Richard D. Irwin Inc. (Software Engineering by Schach)

Refereed for the following Funding Agencies:

- National Science Foundation
- National Aeronautical and Space Agency
- Federal Highway Authority
- Center for Transportation Studies
- Chinese University of Hong Kong

### **3.4 Other Services to Profession**

- Member, IEEE Task Force on Multimedia Computing with Prof. T. Ichikawa, 1992-present.
- Invited expert, Radio talk show on “Fuzzy Thinking”, KUOM, August 1993.
- Invited speaker, Association of Computing Machinery, Minneapolis chapter quarterly meeting, winter 1995.

## A Letter from Prof. Ahmed Sameh

December 19, 1996

Professor Ted Davis, Dean  
Institute of Technology

Dear Ted,

I am pleased to write enthusiastically in support of the proposed sabbatical leave of Associate Professor Shashi Shekhar, who was awarded tenure in June '95.

Shashi Shekhar is one of the most active young researchers in the field of Geographical Information System (GIS). This field is of vital importance to a variety of civil and military applications, such as NASA's Earth Observation System (EOS), and DOD's Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS). Dr. Shekhar has already contributed substantially to this field as judged from his selected twelve publications in high quality journals; as a result, he was recently elected to the editorial board of one of its most influential journals: "IEEE Transactions of Knowledge and Data Engineering".

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Professor Shekhar is not only a productive researcher and a scholar, but also an excellent teacher who has developed several courses in object-oriented databases and GIS. Moreover, he is also an ideal citizen of the Department. He accepted to take the responsibility of being the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUGS) for two years. After his first academic year ('95-'96) as DUGS, he improved the structure of undergraduate advising and involved our undergraduates in University-wide competitions, as well as placing our co-op program on sound foundation. Needless to say, our working relationship with IT's Career Services (Sharon Kurtt, Director), improved significantly during his short tenure so far.

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In summary, Shashi's contributions to his field and standing among his peers have proved his value to the Department and IT. Adding to this his selfless service to the Department for the benefit of our undergraduates, I do not have the slightest hesitation in recommending your approval of his request for a sabbatical leave for the '97-'98 academic year. Furthermore, I strongly support his Bush Sabbatical application. He has earned such recognition from both the Department and the University.

Best regards,

Ahmed Sameh  
Professor and Head

cc: Professor K. S. Kumar, Associate Dean, I.T.  
Professor Y. Saad, Head Designate  
Professor P. C. Yew, Associate Head

## B Service appreciation from Army High Performance Computing Research Center

From kumar@cs.umn.edu Tue Apr 11 21:38:22 2000  
Message-Id: <200004120238.VAA28127@caesar.cs.umn.edu>  
Subject: Visualization Workshop at ARL  
To: Shashi Shekhar <shekhar@mail.cs.umn.edu>  
Date: Tue, 11 Apr 2000 21:38:21 -0500 (CDT)  
Status: RO

Shashi,

Thanks very much for your and Sanjay's efforts in organizing this workshop.  
>From the following note from Dr. Philip Emmerman, it seems that it went very well.

Vipin

----- Forwarded message from Philip Emmerman -----

>From emmerman@arl.mil Tue Apr 11 12:51:35 2000  
Subject: Visualization Workshop  
To: kumar@cs.umn.edu  
Cc: "N Radhakrishnan" <radha@arl.mil>, "James Gantt" <jgantt@arl.mil>  
From: "Philip Emmerman" <emmerman@arl.mil>  
Date: Tue, 11 Apr 2000 13:51:33 -0400

DR Kumar,

I wanted to express my sincere pleasure in working with Sashi Shekhar on the Battlefield Visualization and Real-time Geographic Information Systems Workshop. The workshop exceeded my highest expectations and I believe was truly stimulating and informative to all that attended. In short, it was everything a technical workshop should be. We had just the right mixture of researchers and domain experts. Presentation topics included a warfighter's vision, Command Post21 ATD requirements, physical and abstract information visualization, spatial data structures, visualization hardware and software trends, multi-modal human computer interaction, weather and diffusion analysis/visualization, etc.

Philip Emmerman

----- End of forwarded message from Philip Emmerman -----

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Vipin Kumar, Director, Army High Performance Computing Research Center,  
Professor, Computer Science Department, University of Minnesota

email: kumar@cs.umn.edu; tel: 612-626-8095; fax: 612-626-1596  
URL: <http://www.cs.umn.edu/~kumar>

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