Seminar Hora Informaticae

Institute of Computer Science, Prague

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 14.00 – 15.30 (2 - 3:30 PM) CET

Meeting room 318, Address: Pod Vodárenskou věží 2, Prague 8

ZOOM Meeting ID: 954 7823 4977 ,   Passcode: 712564

ZOOM: https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/95478234977?pwd=dXoyekFHbDJ0MkNrTjVVS3F2STZqUT09

Ivan Zelinka (Technical University of Ostrava):

The Voynich Manuscript: the secret book of an unknown language

The Voynich Manuscript, a mysterious document of unknown origin, remains one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in the history of linguistics and cryptography. This presentation takes a multidisciplinary look at the manuscript, examining its physical characteristics, content, and illustrations, and presents recent attempts to decipher its unknown language. Particular attention is paid to modern technologies such as artificial intelligence and spectroscopy that may provide new insights. This presentation also presents in-house research that contributes to further understanding of this enigmatic document, combining linguistic analysis and advanced data processing algorithms. The aim is to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge and to open a discussion on possible future research directions.

Brief Content of Presentation:

- Introduction to the Voynich Manuscript: introduction to the manuscript, its history and origin.

- Physical characteristics: material, ink, and writing techniques used in the manuscript.

- Contents and illustrations: Analysis of each section of the manuscript, including botanical, astronomical, and anatomical illustrations.

- Linguistic analysis: discussion of the manuscript's language and attempts at decipherment.

- Theories and Hypotheses: A survey of the most popular and unusual theories about the manuscript's origin and purpose.

- Current Research and Technology: How modern technologies such as AI and spectroscopy contribute to the manuscript's understanding.

- Conclusion: the current state of knowledge and possible future research directions.

References:

1. Digital Copies of the Voynich Manuscript from the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University: This resource provides access to high-quality scans of the entire manuscript for research purposes. It can be found at [Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library] https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/2002046

2. The book "The Voynich Manuscript: An Elegant Enigma" was published by the National Security Agency in 1978. This document is available online and provides a detailed look at the manuscript, including the history and attempts to decipher it. The book can be found at [Archive.org] https://archive.org/details/VoynichManuscriptAnElegantEnigma .
3. Documentary "The Voynich Code - The World's Most Mysterious Manuscript". The film can be viewed at [YouTube] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awGN5NApDy4&t=965s&ab_channel=GoWild.

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Ivan Zelinka works at the Technical University of Ostrava. He is an expert in computer science and artificial intelligence, with a particular focus on evolutionary computing and complex systems. Ivan Zelinka is the author and co-author of many scientific publications and books, including those dealing with artificial intelligence applications in various fields. His research on dynamical systems, chaos and evolutionary algorithms is internationally recognized. Ivan Zelinka is also well known for his contributions to teaching and leading many research projects.

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