Open PhD position in Geomatics/GIS at the University of Florida

Research area: Spatio-temporal analysis of Volunteered Geographic Information

The advancement of Web 2.0, and the integration of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and other positioning sensors into cell phones, photo cameras, and other mobile devices, has made Web-based crowd sourcing a significant source for geo-data information, which is often referred to as Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI). The Geomatics Program at the University of Florida is seeking a PhD candidate who uses spatio-temporal analysis techniques to advance our understanding of user contribution patterns to VGI. While existing research is primarily concerned with comparing VGI data growth to that of other (non-VGI) data sources, e.g. proprietary or governmental data, little research has so far explored how already collected VGI data affect future user contributions to the VGI dataset. This PhD research will involve tasks such as analyzing interaction patterns between users in contributing data, finding the sequence of features in which voluntary information is added and mapped, and identifying spatial and temporal variation of user contribution patterns. This analysis will make use of various VGI and crowd sourcing data.

This PhD research within the Geomatics program will be primarily carried out at UF’s Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center (http://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/), which is located about 20 miles north of Miami. The position includes a tuition waiver, health insurance, and an annual stipend. Funding for up to 4 years is available.

Eligibility: Suitable applicants should meet the following requirements:
- A master’s degree or equivalent in Computer Science, Geographic Information Science, Geomatics, Statistics or other related analytical disciplines.
- Experience in computer programming, e.g. Java, R
- Interest in statistics and spatio-temporal analysis of geographic information
- Ideally, the candidate has some experience with crowd sourcing data.

Applicants with qualified academic records and TOEFL (if necessary) and GRE scores will be considered immediately.

The PhD candidate will enter an established program leading to the degree of PhD within a time frame of 3-4 years. It is a prerequisite, however, that the formal admission requirements for the PhD program are met before an appointment can be made. The position is open until filled.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Dr. Hartwig Hochmair at hhochmair@ufl.edu, or by phone: +1-954-577-6317.