IEEE 24th International Symposium on Intelligent Systems and Informatics

SISY 2026

Plenary talk

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Emanuel drives AI Research for human-centric communication at Infobip, with a current focus on Generative AI and analyzing the impact of Large Language Models. He joined Infobip after almost a decade working as the Operations Area Manager and Key Researcher of the FAIR AI team at the Know-Center, one of Europe's leading research centers for trustworthy AI, and Graz University of Technology.

He received his PhD in Computer Science from Graz University of Technology and his M.Sc. as well as B.Sc. in Software Engineering and Information Systems from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing at the University of Zagreb. He is a former Marshall Plan fellow and has been working as a visiting researcher at the Computer Science department of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

September 23-25, 2026
Pula, Croatia

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From Coding Agents to Research Agents: Context Engineering for Autonomous AI Discovery

Most LLM-based agents today write code. But what happens when you point them at a harder problem, like designing and running experiments, evaluating results, and deciding what to try next with no human in the loop? We will dive into autonomous AI research loops as a practical methodology where an agent iterates over a codebase guided by a single measurable objective, commits what improves the metric, reverts what does not, and logs everything. A common behavior here is greedy hill-climbing where agents exploit whatever worked last but have a hard time exploring across hypothesis families or know when to abandon a direction entirely. As such, we will cover how context engineering strategies (e.g., controlling what the agent sees or how the search space is scoped) can push these loops beyond naive exploitation toward structured exploration. The talk argues that autonomous AI research is something you build, not something that falls out of a larger model, and that the interesting engineering is in the loop and insights it generates.

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