

Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of the 25th anniversary of the Australasian Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (AI 2012)! Since its inauguration in Sydney in 1987, this annual conference has become the premier event for artificial intelligence researchers in Australasia and a major international forum on AI world-wide. For its silver anniversary, the conference returned to Australia's iconic and most populous city in December 2012, jointly hosted by the University of Western Sydney and the University of New South Wales.

AI 2012 received 196 submissions with authors from 32 countries. Each submission was reviewed by at least three Program Committee members or external referees. A lively and intense discussion ensued among the reviewers and the dedicated members of the senior Program Committee. After this thorough assessment and rigorous prepublication scrutiny, 76 submissions were finally accepted to be published as full papers in the proceeding. The acceptance rate of less than 39% set a new height of quality for the conference.

AI 2012 featured three exciting keynote speeches by distinguished scientists: Joseph Halpern (Cornell University, USA) talked about decision theory with subjective states and outcomes. Mary O'Kane (New South Wales Chief Scientist and Engineer, Australia) gave an overview of the early days and current impact of AI in Australia. Mamoru Kaneko (University of Tsukuba, Japan) spoke about epistemic logic and inductive game theory.

Four workshops with their own joint proceedings were held on the first day of the conference: the 8th Australasian Ontology Workshop; the second Australian Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in Health; the New Trends of Computational Intelligence in Health Applications Workshop; and the workshop on A Semantic Reasoning Approach to Data Linkage for Optimised Clinical Risk Management. The workshops were complemented by two tutorials: Discrete Non-parametric Methods for Machine Learning and Linguistics by Wray Buntine, and Multimedia Information Extraction: Methods and Applications by Sri Krishnan. Together these tutorials and workshops, which were overseen by the Workshop Chair Hans Guesgen, provided an excellent start to the event.

Two challenges were held during AI 2012: the First General Game Playing International Australian Open and the First Australasian Strategic Trading Game. These two contests each had a purse of \$1,000 for the winners.

AI 2012 would not have been successful without the support of authors, reviewers, and organizers. We thank the many authors for submitting their research papers to the conference. We are grateful to the successful authors whose papers are published in this volume for their collaboration during the preparation of final submissions. We thank the members of the Program Committee and the external referees for their expertise and timeliness in assessing the papers. We also thank the organizers of the workshops and tutorials for their commitment

and dedication. We are very grateful to the members of the Organizing Committee for their efforts in the preparation, promotion, and organization of the conference, especially David Rajaratnam for his outstanding and tireless service. We acknowledge the assistance provided by EasyChair for conference management, and we appreciate the professional service provided by the Springer LNCS editorial and publishing teams.

December 2012

Michael Thielscher
Dongmo Zhang