

IJCAI-01

Proceedings of the Seventeenth International
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BRIEF CONTENTS

VOLUME 1

Ordering Information	iv
Foreword	v
IJCAI-01 Conference Organization	vi
Local Arrangements Committee	vi
Program Committee	vii
Corporate Sponsorship	vii
IJCAI Organization	viii
AAAI Organization	ix
IJCAI-01 Awards	x
Invited Speakers	x
Panels	x
IJCAI-01 Reviewers	xi
Contents	xv
Knowledge Representation and Reasoning	1
Search, Satisfiability, and Constraint Satisfaction Problems	231
Cognitive Modeling	367
Planning	413
Games	521
Diagnosis	541
Logic Programming and Theorem Proving	587
Uncertainty and Probabilistic Reasoning	663

VOLUME 2

Ordering Information	iv
IJCAI-01 Conference Organization	v
Local Arrangements Committee	v
Program Committee	vi
IJCAI Organization	vii
Contents	ix
Neural Networks and Genetic Algorithms	761
Machine Learning and Data Mining	815
Case-based Reasoning	985
Multi-Agent Systems	1017
Natural Language Processing and Information Retrieval	1225
Robotics and Perception	1327
Web Applications	1433
Invited Papers	1465
Author Index	1494

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FOREWORD

This proceedings contains the papers accepted for presentation at the Seventeenth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-01) held in Seattle, Washington, August 4–10, 2001. IJCAI is the premier international forum for AI research and the papers in these proceedings attest to its high standards.

This year, 796 papers were submitted for review and each paper was reviewed by three reviewers. The 30 members of the Program Committee recruited over 600 reviewers, whose considerable effort is much appreciated. At the end, 197 papers were accepted, for an overall acceptance rate of 24 percent.

We continued IJCAI's tradition of identifying papers for special attention. Reviewers were asked to recommend papers for distinction and then a subcommittee of the Program Committee decided which of them should be highlighted at the conference. This year, the paper "Complexity Results for Structure-based Causality," by Thomas Eiter and Thomas Lukasiewicz, was chosen for the best paper award.

This year's program owes its high quality to many people. First of all, the Program Committee deserves great credit for its effort and dedication to make IJCAI the high-quality conference that it is. Second, the staff at AAAI—in particular Carol Hamilton, Rick Skalsky, and Keri Harvey—merit special thanks for the professional support and effort throughout the entire paper-handling process. This process was, for the first time, all-electronic and we had to deal with a number of unforeseen problems. Third, Professional Book Center again did a splendid job of turning the set of individual contributions into a book.

Hector Levesque, Jim Hoard, the IJCAI trustees and the members of the IJCAI-01 advisory board provided advice at critical points. I also wish to express my thanks to Tom Dean and Gigina Aiello, the Program and Conference Chairs of IJCAI-99, for very helpful advice. Mike Wellman and Peter van Beek did a very good job of putting together an attractive tutorial program and workshop program, respectively. At Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Roswitha Hilden helped in the organization in particular of the PC meeting, and Bruno Welsch provided the support for the computing infrastructure.

Bernhard Nebel
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Multimodal Interaction: A New Focal Area for AI

Joseph Y. Halpern, Cornell University
Plausibility Measures: A General Approach for Representing Uncertainty

Manuela Veloso, Carnegie Mellon University
The Challenges and Advances in Teams of Autonomous Agents in Adversarial Environments

Wolfgang Wahlster, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), Germany
Robust Translation of Spontaneous Speech: A Multi-Engine Approach

PANELS

Artificial Intelligence Competitions, Boon or Bane?
Moderator: Steve Chien, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

The Semantic Web Elephant: What Do the Blind Men See?
Moderator: Professor James Hendler, University of Maryland

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Paolo Torrini	Thierry Vidal	Diedrich Wolter	
Cao Son Tran	Razvan Voicu	Frank Wolter	

CONTENTS

VOLUME 1

KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTATION AND REASONING

COGNITIVE ROBOTICS

- A Logical Account of Causal and Topological Maps
Emilio Remolina and Benjamin Kuipers 5
- On-Line Execution of cc-Golog Plans
Henrik Grosskreutz and Gerhard Lakemeyer 12
- An On-line Decision-Theoretic Golog Interpreter
Mikhail Soutchanski 19

STRUCTURE-BASED CAUSALITY

- Causes and Explanations: A Structural-Model
Approach—Part II: Explanations
Joseph Y. Halpern and Judea Pearl 27
- Complexity Results for Structure-Based Causality
Thomas Eiter and Thomas Lukasiewicz 35

SPATIAL REASONING

- Ambiguity-Directed Sampling for Qualitative
Analysis of Sparse Data from Spatially-Distributed
Physical Systems
Chris Bailey-Kellogg and Naren Ramakrishnan 43
- A Spatial Odyssey of the Interval Algebra:
1. Directed Intervals
Jochen Renz 51
- From Images to Bodies: Modelling and Exploiting
Spatial Occlusion and Motion Parallax
*David Randell, Mark Witkowski, and
Murray Shanahan* 57

QUALITATIVE REASONING FOR BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

- Qualitative Simulation of Genetic Regulatory
Networks: Method and Application
*Hidde de Jong, Michel Page, Céline Hernandez, and
Johannes Geiselmann* 67
- Discrimination of Semi-Quantitative Models by
Experiment Selection: Method and Application in
Population Biology
*Ivayla Vatcheva, Olivier Bernard, Hidde de Jong,
Jean-Luc Gouzé, and Nicolaas J. I. Mars* 74

TEMPORAL REASONING

- A Complete Classification of Complexity in Allen's
Algebra in the Presence of a Non-Trivial Basic Relation
Andrei Krokhin, Peter Jeavons, and Peter Jonsson 83

- Interval-based Temporal Reasoning with General TBoxes
Carsten Lutz 89

BELIEF REVISION

- On the Semantics of Knowledge Update
Chitta Baral and Yan Zhang 97
- Resource-bounded inference from inconsistent
belief bases
Pierre Marquis and Nadège Porquet 103
- Weakening Conflicting Information for Iterated
Revision and Knowledge Integration
*Salem Benferhat, Souhila Kaci, Daniel Le Berre, and
Mary-Anne Williams* 109

ACTION AND CAUSALITY

- Updates, actions, and planning
*Andreas Herzig, Jérôme Lang, Pierre Marquis, and
Thomas Polacsek* 119
- Causality and Minimal Change Demystified
Maurice Pagnucco and Pavlos Peppas 125
- EPDL: A Logic for Causal Reasoning
Dongmo Zhang and Norman Foo 131

ACTION

- A Circumscriptive Formalization
of the Qualification Problem
G. Neelakantan Kartha 139
- Computing Strongest Necessary and Weakest Sufficient
Conditions of First-Order Formulas
*Patrick Doherty, Witold Lukaszewicz, and
Andrzej Szalas* 145

DESCRIPTION LOGICS

- Identification Constraints and Functional Dependencies
in Description Logics
*Diego Calvanese, Giuseppe De Giacomo, and
Maurizio Lenzerini* 155
- High Performance Reasoning with Very Large
Knowledge Bases: A Practical Case Study
Volker Haarslev and Ralf Möller 161

COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS

- Complexity of Nested Circumscription and
Abnormality Theories
Marco Cadoli, Thomas Eiter, and Georg Gottlob 169
- A Perspective on Knowledge Compilation
Adnan Darwiche and Pierre Marquis 175
- Phase Transitions of PP-Complete Satisfiability Problems
*Delbert D. Bailey, Victor Dalmau, and
Phokion G. Kolaitis* 183

DESCRIPTION LOGICS AND CONCEPTUAL GRAPHS

- Decision Procedures for Expressive Description Logics
with Intersection, Composition, Converse of Roles and
Role Identity
Fabio Massacci 193
- Ontology Reasoning in the SHOQ(D) Description Logic
Ian Horrocks and Ulrike Sattler 199
- The SG Family: Extensions of Simple
Conceptual Graphs
Jean-François Baget and Marie-Laure Mugnier 205

DESCRIPTION LOGICS AND FORMAL CONCEPT ANALYSIS

- Matching under Side Conditions in Description Logics
Franz Baader, Sebastian Brandt, and Ralf Küsters . . . 213
- Computing Least Common Subsumers in ALEN
Ralf Küsters and Ralf Molitor 219
- FCA-MERGE: Bottom-Up Merging of Ontologies
Gerd Stumme and Alexander Maedche 225

SEARCH, SATISFIABILITY, AND CONSTRAINT SATISFACTION PROBLEMS

SEARCH

- Incomplete Tree Search using Adaptive Probing
Wheeler Ruml 235
- Heuristic Search in Infinite State Spaces Guided
by Lyapunov Analysis
Theodore J. Perkins and Andrew G. Barto 242
- A backbone-search heuristic for efficient solving of hard
3-SAT formulae
Olivier Dubois and Gilles Dequen 248
- Backbones in Optimization and Approximation
John Slaney and Toby Walsh 254
- Cooperative Search and Nogood Recording
Cyril Terrioux 260
- Search on High Degree Graphs
Toby Walsh 266

SATISFIABILITY

- Backjumping for Quantified Boolean Logic Satisfiability
*Enrico Giunchiglia, Massimo Narizzano, and
Armando Tacchella* 275
- Solving Non-Boolean Satisfiability Problems
with Stochastic Local Search
Alan M. Frisch and Timothy J. Peugniez 282

CONSTRAINT SATISFACTION PROBLEMS

- Backtracking Through Biconnected Components
of a Constraint Graph
Jean-François Baget and Yannic S. Tognetti 291

- A Constraint Satisfaction Approach to Parametric
Differential Equations
*Micha Janssen, Pascal Van Hentenryck, and
Yves Deville* 297
- Improved bounds on the complexity of kB-consistency
*Lucas Bordeaux, Eric Monfroy, and
Frédéric Benhamou* 303
- Refining the Basic Constraint Propagation Algorithm
Christian Bessière and Jean-Charles Régin 309
- Making AC-3 an Optimal Algorithm
Yuanlin Zhang and Roland H. C. Yap 316
- Temporal Constraint Reasoning With Preferences
*Lina Khatib, Paul Morris, Robert Morris, and
Francesca Rossi* 322
- A Hybrid Approach for the 0–1 Multidimensional
Knapsack problem
Michel Vazquez and Jin-Kao Hao 328
- The Exponentiated Subgradient Algorithm for Heuristic
Boolean Programming
*Dale Schuurmans, Finnegan Southey, and
Robert C. Holte* 334
- A New Method For The Three Dimensional Container
Packing Problem
Andrew Lim and Wang Ying 342

SATISFIABILITY

- Balance and Filtering in Structured Satisfiable Problems
*Henry Kautz, Yongshao Ruan, Dimitri Achlioptas,
Carla Gomes, Bart Selman, and Mark Stickel* 351
- Efficient Consequence Finding
Laurent Simon and Alvaro del Val 359

COGNITIVE MODELING

COGNITIVE MODELING — DIAGRAMATIC REASONING

- Formalizing Artistic Techniques and Scientific
Visualization for Painted Renditions of Complex
Information Spaces
Christopher G. Healey 371
- Visual Analogy in Problem Solving
Jim Davies and Ashok K. Goel 377

COGNITIVE MODELING — CATEGORIZATION

- Reasoning about Categories in Conceptual Spaces
Peter Gärdenfors and Mary-Anne Williams 385
- Simulating the Formation of Color Categories
Tony Belpaeme 393

COGNITIVE MODELING — PERCEPTUAL GROUNDING

- Grounded Models as a Basis for Intuitive Reasoning
Josefina Sierra-Santibáñez 401

Perceptual Anchoring of Symbols for Action <i>Silvia Coradeschi and Alessandro Saffiotti.</i>	407
--	-----

PLANNING

PLANNING WITH FORWARD SEARCH

Planning with Resources and Concurrency: A Forward Chaining Approach <i>Fabien Bacchus and Michael Ady</i>	417
Total-Order Planning with Partially Ordered Subtasks <i>Dana Nau, Héctor Muñoz-Avila, Yue Cao, Amnon Lotem, and Steven Mitchell.</i>	425
Conditional progressive planning under uncertainty <i>Lars Karlsson</i>	431

DOMAIN ANALYSIS FOR PLANNING

One action is enough to plan <i>Emmanuel Guéré and Rachid Alami</i>	439
Hybrid STAN: Identifying and Managing Combinatorial Optimisation Sub- problems in Planning <i>Maria Fox and Derek Long</i>	445

SEARCH HEURISTICS IN PLANNING

Local Search Topology in Planning Benchmarks: An Empirical Analysis <i>Jörg Hoffmann.</i>	453
Reviving Partial Order Planning <i>XuanLong Nguyen and Subbarao Kambhampati</i>	459

PLANNING WITH INCOMPLETE INFORMATION

Heuristic Search + Symbolic Model Checking = Efficient Conformant Planning <i>Piergiorgio Bertoli, Alessandro Cimatti, and Marco Roveri.</i>	467
Planning in Nondeterministic Domains under Partial Observability via Symbolic Model Checking <i>Piergiorgio Bertoli, Alessandro Cimatti, Marco Roveri, and Paolo Traverso.</i>	473
Planning as Model Checking for Extended Goals in Non-deterministic Domains <i>Marco Pistore and Paolo Traverso</i>	479

PLANNING WITH TEMPORAL UNCERTAINTY

Executing Reactive, Model-based Programs through Graph-based Temporal Planning <i>Phil Kim, Brian C. Williams, and Mark Abramson.</i>	487
Dynamic Control Of Plans With Temporal Uncertainty <i>Paul Morris, Nicola Muscettola, and Thierry Vidal.</i>	494

COMPLEXITY OF PLANNING

Complexity of Probabilistic Planning under Average Rewards <i>Jussi Rintanen.</i>	503
Computational Complexity of Planning with Temporal Goals <i>Chitta Baral, Vladik Kreinovich, and Raúl A. Trejo</i>	509
A Simplifier for Propositional Formulas with Many Binary Clauses <i>Ronen I. Brafman.</i>	515

GAMES

Iterative Widening <i>Tristan Cazenave</i>	523
Temporal Difference Learning Applied to a High-Performance Game-Playing Program <i>Jonathan Schaeffer, Markian Hlynka, and Vili Jussila</i>	529
Satisficing and Learning Cooperation in the Prisoner's Dilemma <i>Jeff L. Stimpson, Michael A. Goodrich, and Lawrence C. Walters</i>	535

DIAGNOSIS

DIAGNOSIS

Temporal Decision Trees or the lazy ECU vindicated <i>Luca Console, Claudia Picardi, and Daniele Theseider Dupré.</i>	545
Model-based Diagnosability and Sensor Placement Application to a Frame 6 Gas Turbine Subsystem <i>Louise Travé-Massuyès, Teresa Escobet, and Robert Milne</i>	551
Distributed Monitoring of Hybrid Systems: A model-directed approach <i>Feng Zhao, Xenofon Koutsoukos, Horst Haussecker, James Reich, Patrick Cheung and Claudia Picardi. . .</i>	557
Causal interaction: from a high-level representation to an operational event-based representation <i>Irène Grosclaude, Marie-Odile Cordier, and René Quiniou.</i>	565

HIERACHICAL DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING

Hierarchical Diagnosis Guided by Observations <i>Luca Chittaro and Roberto Ranon</i>	573
Mode Estimation of Model-based Programs: Monitoring Systems with Complex Behavior <i>Brian C. Williams, Seung Chung, and Vineet Gupta</i>	579

LOGIC PROGRAMMING AND THEOREM PROVING

LOGIC PROGRAMMING

- A-System: Problem Solving through Abduction
*Antonis C. Kakas, Bert Van Nuffelen, and
Marc Denecker* 591
- A Comparative Study of Logic Programs with Preference
Torsten Schaub and Kewen Wang 597
- Reasoning with infinite stable models
Piero A. Bonatti 603

THEOREM PROVING

- Splitting Without Backtracking
Alexandre Riazanov and Andrei Voronkov 611
- UNSEARCHMO: Eliminating Redundant Search
Space on Backtracking for Forward Chaining
Theorem Proving
Lifeng He 618
- Theorem Proving with Structured Theories
Sheila McIlraith and Eyal Amir 624

ANSWER SET PROGRAMMING

- Experimenting with Heuristics
for Answer Set Programming
Wolfgang Faber, Nicola Leone, and Gerald Pfeifer . . . 635
- Graph Theoretical Characterization and Computation
of Answer Sets
Thomas Linke 641

LOGIC PROGRAMMING

- A Framework for Declarative Update Specifications
in Logic Programs
*Thomas Eiter, Michael Fink, Giuliana Sabbatini, and
Hans Tompits* 649
- Abduction in Logic Programming: A New Definition
and an Abductive Procedure Based on Rewriting
Fangzhen Lin and Jia-Huai You 655

UNCERTAINTY AND PROBABILISTIC REASONING

PROBABILISTIC REASONING

- Context-specific Sign-propagation in Qualitative
Probabilistic Networks
*Silja Renooij, Simon Parsons, and
Linda C. van der Gaag* 667
- Max-norm Projections for Factored MDPs
*Carlos Guestrin, Daphne Koller, and
Ronald Parr* 673

FACTORED MARKOV DECISION PROCESSES

- Solving Factored MDPs via
Non-Homogeneous Partitioning
Kee-Eung Kim and Thomas Dean 683
- Symbolic Dynamic Programming for First-Order MDPs
Craig Boutilier, Ray Reiter, and Bob Price 690

MARKOV DECISION PROCESSES

- Adaptive Control of Acyclic Progressive Processing
Task Structures
*Stéphane Cardon, Abdel-Ilhah Mouaddib,
Shlomo Zilberstein, and Richard Washington* 701
- An Improved Grid-Based Approximation Algorithm
for POMDPs
Rong Zhou and Eric A. Hansen 707

UNCERTAINTY

- Weakening Commensurability Hypothesis
in Possibilistic Qualitative Decision Theory
Adriana Zapico 717
- A Fuzzy Modal Logic for Belief Functions
Lluís Godo, Petr Hájek, and Francesc Esteva 723

PROBABILISTIC REASONING

- IBAL: A Probabilistic Rational Programming Language
Avi Pfeffer 733
- Approximate inference for first-order
probabilistic languages
Hanna Pasula and Stuart Russell 741
- Knowledge Processing under Information Fidelity
Wilhelm Rödter 749
- Constraints as Data: A New Perspective
on Inferring Probabilities
Manfred Jaeger 755

VOLUME 2

NEURAL NETWORKS AND GENETIC ALGORITHMS

NEURAL NETWORKS

- Knowledge Extraction from Local Function Networks
*Kenneth McGarry, Stefan Wermter, and
John MacIntyre* 765
- Violation-Guided Learning for Constrained
Formulations in Neural-Network
Time-Series Predictions
Benjamin W. Wah and Minglun Qian 771
- Mobile Robot Learning of Delayed Response Tasks
through Event Extraction: A Solution to the Road Sign
Problem and Beyond
Fredrik Linåker and Henrik Jacobsson 777

NORN Finance Forecaster — A Neural Oscillatory-based Recurrent Network for Finance Prediction <i>Raymond S. T. Lee and James N. K. Liu</i>	783
---	-----

A General Updating Rule for Discrete Hopfield-Type Neural Network with Delay <i>Shenshan Qiu, Eric C. C. Tsang, Daniel S. Yeung, and Xizhao Wang</i>	789
---	-----

NEURAL NETWORKS AND GENETIC ALGORITHMS

Genetic Algorithm based Selective Neural Network Ensemble <i>Zhi-Hua Zhou, Jian-Xin Wu, Yuan Jiang, and Shi-Fu Chen</i>	797
--	-----

Neural Logic Network Learning using Genetic Programming <i>Chew Lim Tan and Henry Wai Kit Chia</i>	803
---	-----

Sensitivity Analysis of Multilayer Perceptron <i>Daniel S. Yeung, Xuequan Sun, and Xiaogin Zeng</i>	809
--	-----

MACHINE LEARNING AND DATA MINING

REINFORCEMENT LEARNING AND MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS

Reinforcement Learning in Distributed Domains: Beyond Team Games <i>David H. Wolpert, Joseph Sill, and Kagan Tumer</i>	819
---	-----

Fast Concurrent Reinforcement Learners <i>Bikramjit Banerjee, Sandip Sen, and Jing Peng</i>	825
--	-----

REINFORCEMENT LEARNING/ROBOTICS

Multi-Agent Systems by Incremental Gradient Reinforcement Learning <i>Alain Dutech, Olivier Buffet, and François Charpillet</i>	833
--	-----

Robot Weightlifting By Direct Policy Search <i>Michael T. Rosenstein and Andrew G. Barto</i>	839
---	-----

INDUCTIVE LOGIC PROGRAMMING

OI-implication: Soundness and Refutation Completeness <i>Floriana Esposito, Nicola Fanizzi, Stefano Ferilli, and Giovanni Semeraro</i>	847
---	-----

The Levelwise Version Space Algorithm and its Application to Molecular Fragment Finding <i>Luc De Raedt and Stefan Kramer</i>	853
--	-----

PROBABILISTIC LEARNING

Active Learning for Structure in Bayesian Networks <i>Simon Tong and Daphne Koller</i>	863
---	-----

Probabilistic Classification and Clustering in Relational Data <i>Ben Taskar, Eran Segal, and Daphne Koller</i>	870
--	-----

MACHINE LEARNING AND DATA MINING

Adaptive Web Navigation for Wireless Devices <i>Corin R. Anderson, Pedro Domingos, and Daniel S. Weld</i>	879
--	-----

Using Text Classifiers for Numerical Classification <i>Sofus A. Macskassy, Haym Hirsh, Arunava Banerjee, and Aynur A. Dayanik</i>	885
--	-----

Faster Association Rules for Multiple Relations <i>Siegfried Nijssen and Joost Kok</i>	891
---	-----

A Simple Feature Selection Method for Text Classification <i>Pascal Soucy and Guy W. Mineau</i>	897
--	-----

Link Analysis, Eigenvectors and Stability <i>Andrew Y. Ng, Alice X. Zheng, and Michael I. Jordan</i>	903
---	-----

Active Learning for Class Probability Estimation and Ranking <i>Maytal Saar-Tszechansky and Foster Provost</i>	911
---	-----

MACHINE LEARNING

Learning on the Phase Transition Edge <i>Alessandro Serra, Attilio Giordana, and Lorenza Saitta</i>	921
--	-----

A Simple Additive Re-weighting Strategy for Improving Margins <i>Fabio Aioli and Alessandro Sperduti</i>	927
---	-----

KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION

Knowledge Analysis on Process Models <i>Jihie Kim and Yolanda Gil</i>	935
--	-----

Integrating Expectations from Different Sources to Help End Users Acquire Procedural Knowledge <i>Jim Blythe</i>	943
---	-----

REINFORCEMENT LEARNING

R-MAX — A General Polynomial Time Algorithm for Near-Optimal Reinforcement Learning <i>Ronen I. Brafman and Moshe Tennenholtz</i>	953
--	-----

From $Q(\lambda)$ to Average Q-learning: Efficient Implementation of an Asymptotic Approximation <i>Frédéric Garcia and Florent Serre</i>	959
--	-----

Exploiting Multiple Secondary Reinforcers in Policy Gradient Reinforcement Learning <i>Greg Grudic and Lyle Ungar</i>	965
--	-----

MACHINE LEARNING AND DATA MINING

The Foundations of Cost-Sensitive Learning <i>Charles Elkan</i>	973
--	-----

Mining Soft-Matching Rules from Textual Data <i>Un Yong Nahm and Raymond J. Mooney</i>	979
---	-----

CASE-BASED REASONING

Bridging the Lesson Distribution Gap <i>David W. Aha, Rosina Weber, Héctor Muñoz-Avila, Leonard A. Breslow, and Kalyan Moy Gupta</i>	987
Minimizing Dialog Length in Interactive Case-Based Reasoning <i>David McSherry</i>	993
SiN: Integrating Case-based Reasoning with Task Decomposition <i>Héctor Muñoz-Avila, David W. Aha, Dana S. Nau, Rosina Weber, Len Breslow, and Fusun Yamal</i>	999
A Distributed Case-Based Query Rewriting <i>Maurizio Panti, Luca Spalazzi, and Loris Penserini</i>	1005
Using Case-Base Data to Learn Adaptation Knowledge for Design <i>Jacek Jarmulak, Susan Craw, and Ray Rowe</i>	1011

MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS

MULTI-AGENT GAMES

Rational and Convergent Learning in Stochastic Games <i>Michael Bowling and Manuela Veloso</i>	1021
Multi-Agent Influence Diagrams for Representing and Solving Games <i>Daphne Koller and Brian Milch</i>	1027

MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS

Multiagent Coordination by Stochastic Cellular Automata <i>T. D. Barfoot and G. M. T. D'Eleuterio</i>	1037
Identifying the Scope of Modeling for Time-Critical Multiagent Decision- Making <i>Sanguk Noh and Piotr J. Gmytrasiewicz</i>	1043

LIFELIKE CHARACTERS

A Layered Brain Architecture for Synthetic Creatures <i>Damian Isla, Robert Burke, Marc Downie, and Bruce Blumberg</i>	1051
Behavior Planning for a Reflexive Agent <i>Berardina De Carolis, Catherine Pelachaud, Isabella Poggi, and Fiorella de Rosis</i>	1059

COOPERATIVE BEHAVIOR

Rational Competitive Analysis <i>Moshe Tennenholtz</i>	1067
Learning Procedural Knowledge to Better Coordinate <i>Andrew Garland and Richard Alterman</i>	1073

MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS

Fair Imposition <i>Yoav Shoham and Moshe Tennenholtz</i>	1083
Robust Multi-unit Auction Protocol against False-name Bids <i>Makoto Yokoo, Yuko Sakurai, and Shigeo Matsubara</i>	1089
Bundle Design in Robust Combinatorial Auction Protocol against False-name Bids <i>Makoto Yokoo, Yuko Sakurai, and Shigeo Matsubara</i>	1095
CABOB: A Fast Optimal Algorithm for Combinatorial Auctions <i>Tuomas Sandholm, Subhash Suri, Andrew Gilpin, and David Levine</i>	1102
A software architecture for dynamically generated adaptive Web stores <i>Liliana Ardissono, Anna Goy, Giovanna Petrone, and Marino Segnan</i>	1109
Modularity and Design in Reactive Intelligence <i>Joanna J. Bryson and Lynn Andrea Stein</i>	1115
Reflective Negotiating Agents for Real-Time Multisensor Target Tracking <i>Leen-Kiat Soh and Costas Tsatsoulis</i>	1121
Stable Strategies for Sharing Information among Agents <i>Rina Azoulay-Schwartz and Sarit Kraus</i>	1128
CAST: Collaborative Agents for Simulating Teamwork <i>John Yen, Jianwen Yin, Thomas R. Ioerger, Michael S. Miller, Dianxiang Xu, and Richard A. Volz</i>	1135

MARKET MECHANISMS

Market Clearability <i>Tuomas Sandholm and Subhash Suri</i>	1145
On Market-Inspired Approaches to Propositional Satisfiability <i>William E. Walsh, Makoto Yokoo, Katsutoshi Hirayama, and Michael P. Wellman</i>	1152

MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS

Achieving Budget-Balance with Vickrey-Based Payment Schemes in Exchanges <i>David C. Parkes, Jayant Kalagnanam, and Marta Eso</i>	1161
Agent-Human Interactions in the Continuous Double Auction <i>Rajarshi Das, James E. Hanson, Jeffrey O. Kephart, and Gerald Tesauro</i>	1169

USER INTERFACES

Usability Guidelines for Interactive Search in Direct Manipulation Systems <i>Robert St. Amant and Christopher G. Healey</i>	1179
--	------

Leveraging Data About Users in General in the Learning of Individual User Models <i>Anthony Jameson and Frank Wittig</i>	1185
--	------

MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS APPLICATIONS

An Agent Architecture for Multi-Attribute Negotiation <i>Catholijn M. Jonker and Jan Treur</i>	1195
A Multiagent System for Helping Urban Traffic Management <i>Luis A. García and F. Toledo</i>	1202

MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS

Bidding Languages for Combinatorial Auctions <i>Craig Boutilier and Holger H. Hoos</i>	1211
Partitioning Activities for Agents <i>Fatma Özcan and V. S. Subrahmanian</i>	1218

NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

NATURAL LANGUAGE GENERATION

Title Generation for Machine-Translated Documents <i>Rong Jin and Alexander G. Hauptmann</i>	1229
Dealing with Dependencies between Content Planning and Surface Realisation in a Pipeline Generation Architecture <i>Kalina Bontcheva and Yorick Wilks</i>	1235
Narrative Prose Generation <i>Charles B. Callaway and James C. Lester</i>	1241

NATURAL LANGUAGE — LEARNING FOR INFORMATION EXTRACTION

Adaptive Information Extraction from Text by Rule Induction and Generalisation <i>Fabio Ciravegna</i>	1251
Relational Learning via Propositional Algorithms: An Information Extraction Case Study <i>Dan Roth and Wen-tau Yih</i>	1257
Deriving a multi-domain information extraction system from a rough ontology <i>Thierry Poibeau</i>	1264

INFORMATION EXTRACTION AND RETRIEVAL

Representing Sentence Structure in Hidden Markov Models for Information Extraction <i>Soumya Ray and Mark Craven</i>	1273
Sequentially finding the <i>N</i> -Best List in Hidden Markov Models <i>Dennis Nilsson and Jacob Goldberger</i>	1280

NLP-driven IR: Evaluating Performances over a Text Classification task <i>Roberto Basili, Alessandro Moschitti, and Maria Teresa Paziienza</i>	1286
--	------

NATURAL LANGUAGE EXPLANATION AND ARGUMENTATION

Dialog-driven Adaptation of Explanations of Proofs <i>Armin Fiedler</i>	1295
Generating Tailored Examples to Support Learning via Self-explanation <i>Cristina Conati and Giuseppe Carenini</i>	1301
An Empirical Study of the Influence of User Tailoring on Evaluative Argument Effectiveness <i>Giuseppe Carenini and Johanna D. Moore</i>	1307

STATISTICAL PROCESSING OF NATURAL LANGUAGE GRAMMARS

Refining the Structure of a Stochastic Context-Free Grammar <i>Joseph Bockhorst and Mark Craven</i>	1315
Automatically Extracting and Comparing Lexicalized Grammars for Different Languages <i>Fei Xia, Chung-hye Han, Martha Palmer, and Aravind Joshi</i>	1321

ROBOTICS AND PERCEPTION

ROBOTICS

Combining Probabilities, Failures and Safety in Robot Control <i>Alberto Finzi and Fiora Pirri</i>	1331
Heterogeneity in the Coevolved Behaviors of Mobile Robots: The Emergence of Specialists <i>Mitchell A. Potter, Lisa A. Meeden, and Alan C. Schultz</i>	1337
Agent-Based Control for Object Manipulation with Modular Self-reconfigurable Robots <i>Jeremy Kubica, Arancha Casal, and Tad Hogg</i>	1344

VISION

Learning Iterative Image Reconstruction <i>Sven Behnke</i>	1353
A Hierarchy of Boundary-based Shape Descriptors <i>Richard Meathrel and Antony Galton</i>	1359
Resolving Ambiguities to Create a Natural Computer-Based Sketching Environment <i>Christine Alvarado and Randall Davis</i>	1365

VISION I

VAMBAM: View and Motion-based Aspect Models for Distributed Omnidirectional Vision Systems <i>Hiroshi Ishiguro and Takuichi Nishimura</i>	1375
---	------

Efficient Interpretation Policies <i>Ramana Isukapalli and Russell Greiner</i>	1381
---	------

VISION II

Perceptual Texture Space Improves Perceptual Consistency of Computational Features <i>Huizhong Long and Wee Kheng Leow</i>	1391
Fuzzy Conceptual Graphs for Matching Images of Natural Scenes <i>Philippe Mulhem, Wee Kheng Leow, and Yoong Keok Lee</i>	1397

PERCEPTION

Discriminating Animate from Inanimate Visual Stimuli <i>Brian Scassellati</i>	1405
An Hybrid Approach to Solve the Global Localization Problem For Indoor Mobile Robots Considering Sensor's Perceptual Limitations <i>Leonardo Romero, Eduardo Morales, and Enrique Sucar</i>	1411
Multimodal Integration — A Biological View <i>Michael H. Coen</i>	1417
Real-Time Auditory and Visual Multiple-Object Tracking for Humanoids <i>Kazuhiro Nakadai, Ken-ichi Hidai, Hiroshi Mizoguchi, Hiroshi G. Okuno, and Hiroaki Kitano</i>	1425

WEB APPLICATIONS

WEB APPLICATIONS

A Web-based Intelligent System for the Daya Bay Contingency Plan in Hong Kong <i>James Liu, Raymond Lee, and Jane You</i>	1437
---	------

ExpertClerk: Navigating Shoppers' Buying Process with the Combination of Asking and Proposing <i>Hideo Shimazu</i>	1443
--	------

WEB SEARCH

Preference-Based Configuration of Web Page Content <i>Carmel Domshlak, Ronen I. Brafman, and Solomon E. Shimony</i>	1451
Keyword Spices: A New Method for Building Domain-Specific Web Search Engines <i>Satoshi Oyama, Takashi Kokubo, Toru Ishida, Teruhiro Yamada, Yasuhiko Kitamura</i>	1457

INVITED PAPERS

Multimodal Interaction: A new focal area for AI <i>Philip R. Cohen</i>	1467
Plausibility Measures: A General Approach For Representing Uncertainty <i>Joseph Y. Halpern</i>	1474
Robust Translation of Spontaneous Speech: A Multi-Engine Approach <i>Wolfgang Wahlster</i>	1484
Author Index	1494