EurAI Bulletin #2, 2017

Highlights from the General Assembly, Melbourne

Here are some issues and topics discussed during the GA in Melbourne:

- EurAI is financially in good shape. The final 2016 budget and 2018 budget proposal were approved.
- A proposal for an ACAI 2018 on "Statistical Relational AI", to be held on August 27-31, 2018 in Ferrara was presented and approved.
- IJCAI/ECAI 2018: Jeff Rosenschein (Gemeral Chair) and Fredrik Heintz (Local Chair) presented the current status of the first joint IJCAI/ECAI to be held next year in Stockholm. The event will be co-located with AAMAS and ICML, with joint sessions and workshops.
- EurAI is planning to increase its engagement in European programmes.
- During an open discussion on the future of ECAI, it was felt that ECAI should remain as is, that is, happen every two years, but that we may want to consider making ACAI annual, perhaps co-located with a national AI conference of one of our member societies.

ACAI Summer School 2017

7-14 October 2017, Nieuwpoort, Belgium

We are happy to announce that this year's ACAI summer school will be solely devoted to Reinforcement Learning (basics and recent developments), a branch of machine learning that focuses on learning from interaction with an uncertain environment and potential peers. The school will be organized from 7th until 14th October 2017 in Nieuwpoort, Belgium.

Recent progress and successes, such as e.g. AlphaGo, have revived strong interest in Reinforcement Learning (RL) and have pushed the boundaries of the state-of-the-art. Unfortunately, in typical machine learning courses and text books only the very basics of RL are covered. To bridge the gap between basic RL algorithms, such as for instance Q-learning, and the RL architecture that allowed to beat some of the best human Go players, this summerschool will introduce various advanced RL techniques, such as: batch and policy search techniques, shaping and inverse RL, RL for multi-agent systems and robotics, and Deep Reinforcement Learning. These topics will be taught by top scientists and experts in RL.

Interested in learning more about RL? but unsure about your basic RL knowledge? No worries, we got you covered: you can opt for the additional two days before the actual start of the school to make sure you have the necessary background and skills before diving into the more advanced topics.

We have chosen for an on-site approach, where all participants and lectures stay at the same location and spend a full week together to 'learn' RL and jointly participate in social activities. If you want to know more about the school and the registration process: check out the website at https://ai.vub.ac.be/ssrl2017

EurAI fellows 2017
The EurAI board is delighted to announce the list of the 2017 EurAI fellows:

- Vicent Botti (Spain)
- Gal Kaminka (Israel)
- Alessio Lomuscio (UK)
- Paola Mello (Italy)
- Ioannis Vlahavas (Greece)

The committee was comprised by Giuseppe de Giacomo, Helen Fargier, Ilka Niemela, Luc de Raedt, and Hector Geffner (as Chair).

Dissertation Award 2016
We are happy to report that the Dissertation Award Committee selected the winners for 2016 with presentations given at a special session at IJCAI.

The Best-of-n Problem in Robot Swarms
Gabriele Valentini
Nominated by: Marco Dorigo

with an Honourable Mention to:

Probabilistic reasoning and Learning for the Semantic Web
Riccardo Zese
Nominated by: Fabrizio Riguzzi, Evelina Lamma

EurAI conference sponsorship programme
We recall that EuRAI sponsors invited talks at international conferences. The guidelines for eligibility and duties of sponsored conferences can be read at https://www.eurai.org/apply_for/conference_sponsorship.

Conference organizers who want to apply to funding for a conference that takes place before the end of July 2018 should apply **before November 10, 2017**.

The submission Web site for EurAI Sponsorship spring 2018 is
https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=euraisponsorship2018.
There is no need to upload a pdf: you may simply provide the required information in the abstract.

There will be another call later in spring of next year for conferences that take place in the second half of 2018.

The contact person on the EurAI board is Catholijn Jonker.

AI-related conferences

3rd Global Conference on Artificial Intelligence, GCAI 2017
Miami, US| 18-22 October 2017
 http://easychair.org/smart-program/GCAI2017/

9th International Joint Conference on Computational Intelligence IJCCI 2017
Funchal, Madeira, Portugal | November 1-3, 2017
http://www.ijcci.org/

32nd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, AAAI-18
New Orleans, US | February 2-7, 2017

AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society
New Orleans, US | February 2-3, 2017

9th International Joint Conference on Automated Reasoning, IJCAR 2018
Oxford, UK| July 14-17, 2018
http://www.ijcar2018.org

Federated Logic Conference, FLoC 2018
 Oxford, UK| July 6-19, 2018
 http://www.floc2018.org

16th International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, KR 2018
Tampa US | October 30-November 2, 2018
http://kr2018.org/

Magazines
AI Magazine Vol 38 n. 2
https://www.aaai.org/ojs/index.php/aimagazine/issue/view/218

AI Communications - Volume 30, issue 5
http://content.iospress.com/journals/ai-communications/30/5

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For advertising AI-related conferences, schools and journal issues, please contact the editor.