Communications

10th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence: Methodology, Systems, Applications – AIMSA'2002

Danail Dochev

Institute of Information Technologies, 1113 Sofia

The Tenth International Conference on Artificial Intelligence: Methodology, Systems, Applications – AIMSA'2002, was held in the period 03-06 September 2002 in The International Home of Scientists "F. Joliot Curie" at the sea resort "St. Constantine and Elena". AIMSA is a traditional international bi-annual conference, organized since 1984 by the Institute of Information Technologies – BAS and the Bulgarian Artificial Intelligence Association. This year co-organiser of the conference was also the Information and Communication Technologies Development Agency at the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

A stated objective of the AIMSA conference is fostering the multi-disciplinary community of Artificial Intelligence researchers, embracing both the theoretic underpinnings of the field and the practical issues involved in development, deployment, and maintenance of systems with intelligent behavior. The notions of "Ambient intelligence" and "Ubiquitous intelligence" are vital for the current developments and are even more important for the near future of the Information Society. The approaches, methods and tools for knowledge management that originated inside Artificial Intelligence research, are valuable instruments for modern Information Technologies.

The Programme Committee of the conference included 22 well-known scientists in the field of Artificial Intelligence from 13 countries: Bulgaria (4), East and Central Europe (6), West Europe (8), USA (3) and Australia (1). It was chaired by Prof. Donia Scott, University of Brighton, UK.

54 papers were submitted to the conference. All submissions have been subject to academic peer review by at least two members of the Programme Committee. Selection criteria included accuracy and originality of ideas, clarity and significance of results, and quality of presentation. 26 papers were selected to be included in the conference programme, 6 of them being by Bulgarian authors. They cover the following

areas: theoretic principles of AI (5 papers), knowledge representation and automated reasoning (4 papers), natural language processing (4 papers), distributed systems and intelligent agents (4 papers), machine learning (3 papers), intelligent methods for information search and filtering on Internet (3 papers), AI techniques and tools (3 papers). The AIMSA'2002 best paper award was given to a scientific team from the universities of Belgrade and Siena for their work on recognition of the common areas of Web pages aimed at information classification and filtering. The conference proceedings were published as No 2443 of the series Lecture Notes on Artificial Intelligence of Springer Verlag publishers. Conference materials were published also in a CD-ROM form.

The conference was attended by 20 Bulgarian and 25 foreign participants from the following countries: UK (4), Netherlands (2), Italy (2), Spain (3), France (5), USA (3), Sweden (1), Germany (1), Greece (1), Yugoslavia (1) and Czech republic (1) (including 3 Bulgarians, working abroad). Two invited speakers delivered lectures on hot AI topics, directly concerning modern Information Technologies: Prof. Carole Goble, University of Manchester spoke about "Semantic Web" and Prof. David House, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm – of "Multimodal Speech Synthesis". The panel discussion was relating to "Information Society for All: the Future of AI Research and Development".

For the first time after 1990, 2 tutorials preceded AIMSA'2002. They were dedicated on multiagent systems: Dr. Sviatoslav Braynov from State University of New York at Buffalo lead a tutorial on "Agent-Mediated Electronic Commerce" and Dr. Henry Hexmoor from University of Arkansas – a tutorial on "Interaction in Multiagent Systems: The Craft of Building Social Agents".

Despite the relatively limited number of participants, they all agreed that AIMSA' 2002 kept its traditionally high quality level and acted successfully as a forum for exchange of ideas and actual information about the latest research and development achievements in the field of Artificial Intelligence, as well as for establishing fruitful contacts.