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Preface

The workshop on Declarative Agent Languages and Technologies (DALT), in its fourth edition this year, is a well-established forum for researchers interested in sharing their experiences in combining declarative and formal approaches with engineering and technology aspects of agents and multiagent systems. Building complex agent systems calls for models and technologies that ensure predictability, allow for the verification of properties, and guarantee flexibility. Developing technologies that can satisfy these requirements still poses an important and difficult challenge. Here, declarative approaches have the potential of offering solutions that satisfy the needs for both specifying and developing multiagent systems. Moreover, they are gaining more and more attention in important application areas such as the Semantic Web, Web services, security, and electronic contracting.

DALT 2006 was held as a satellite workshop of AAMAS 2006, the fifth International Joint Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems, in May 2006 in Hakodate, Japan. Following the success of DALT 2003 in Melbourne (LNAI 2990), DALT 2004 in New York (LNAI 3476), and DALT 2005 in Utrecht (LNAI 3904), the workshop again provided a discussion forum to both (a) support the transfer of declarative paradigms and techniques to the broader community of agent researchers and practitioners, and (b) to bring the issue of designing complex agent systems to the attention of researchers working on declarative languages and technologies.

This volume contains the 12 contributed articles that were selected by the Programme Committee for presentation at the workshop as well as three invited articles, originally presented as short papers at AAMAS 2006, that were extended by their authors. The volume also includes the article "Producing Compliant Interactions: Conformance, Coverage, and Interoperability" by Amit K. Chopra and Munindar P. Singh. Professor Singh, from North Carolina State University, was the invited speaker for this edition of DALT.

We would like to thank all authors for their contributions, the members of the DALT Steering Committee for their precious suggestions and support, and the members of the Programme Committee for their excellent work during the reviewing phase.

October 2006

Matteo Baldoni
Ulle Endriss

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Table of Contents

Invited Talk

Producing Compliant Interactions: Conformance, Coverage, and Interoperability 1
Amit K. Chopra and Munindar P. Singh

Invited Papers

Towards Theory Translation 16
Dejing Dou and Drew McDermott

The Complexity of Model Checking Concurrent Programs Against CTLK Specifications 29
Alessio Lomuscio and Franco Raimondi

Dynamic Model Checking for Multi-agent Systems 43
Nardine Osman, David Robertson, and Christopher Walton

Contributed Papers

Automating Belief Revision for AgentSpeak 61
Natasha Alechina, Rafael H. Bordini, Jomi F. Hübner, Mark Jago, and Brian Logan

A Foundational Ontology of Organizations and Roles 78
Guido Boella and Leendert van der Torre

When Agents Communicate Hypotheses in Critical Situations 89
Gauvain Bourgne, Nicolas Maudet, and Suzanne Pinson

A Fibred Tableau Calculus for Modal Logics of Agents 105
Vineet Padmanabhan and Guido Governatori

Programming Declarative Goals Using Plan Patterns 123
Jomi F. Hübner, Rafael H. Bordini, and Michael Wooldridge

JADL – An Agent Description Language for Smart Agents 141
Thomas Konnerth, Benjamin Hirsch, and Sahin Albayrak

Agreeing on Defeasible Commitments 156
Ioan Alfred Letia and Adrian Groza

A Dynamic Logic Programming Based System for Agents with Declarative Goals 174
Vivek Nigam and João Leite

A Collaborative Framework to Realize Virtual Enterprises Using 3APL 191
Gobinath Narayanasamy, Joe Cecil, and Tran Cao Son

A Modeling Framework for Generic Agent Interaction Protocols 207
José Ghislain Quenum, Samir Aknine, Jean-Pierre Briot, and Shinichi Honiden

Plan Generation and Plan Execution in Agent Programming 225
M. Birna van Riemsdijk and Mehdi Dastani

A Functional Program for Agents, Actions, and Deontic Specifications 239
Adam Zachary Wyner

Author Index 257