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# PRICAI 2021: Trends in Artificial Intelligence

18th Pacific Rim
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Proceedings, Part II

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# Preface

These three-volume proceedings contain the papers presented at the 18th Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (PRICAI 2021) held virtually during November 8–12, 2021, in Hanoi, Vietnam.

PRICAI, which was inaugurated in Tokyo in 1990, started out as a biennial international conference concentrating on artificial intelligence (AI) theories, technologies, and applications in the areas of social and economic importance for Pacific Rim countries. It provides a common forum for researchers and practitioners in various branches of AI to exchange new ideas and share experience and expertise. Since then, the conference has grown, both in participation and scope, to be a premier international AI event for all major Pacific Rim nations as well as countries from all around the world. In 2018, the PRICAI Steering Committee decided to hold PRICAI on an annual basis starting from 2019.

This year, we received an overwhelming number of 382 submissions to both the Main track (365 submissions) and the Industry special track (17 submissions). This number was impressive considering that for the first time PRICAI was being held virtually during a global pandemic situation. All submissions were reviewed and evaluated with the same highest quality standard through a double-blind review process. Each paper received at least two reviews, in most cases three, and in some cases up to four. During the review process, discussions among the Program Committee (PC) members in charge were carried out before recommendations were made, and when necessary, additional reviews were sourced. Finally, the conference and program co-chairs read the reviews and comments and made a final calibration for differences among individual reviewer scores in light of the overall decisions. The entire Program Committee (including PC members, external reviewers, and co-chairs) expended tremendous effort to ensure fairness and consistency in the paper selection process. Eventually, we accepted 92 regular papers and 28 short papers for oral presentation. This gives a regular paper acceptance rate of 24.08% and an overall acceptance rate of 31.41%.

The technical program consisted of three tutorials and the main conference program. The three tutorials covered hot topics in AI from "Collaborative Learning and Optimization" and "Mechanism Design Powered by Social Interactions" to "Towards Hyperdemocary: AI-enabled Crowd Consensus Making and Its Real-World Societal Experiments". All regular and short papers were orally presented over four days in parallel and in topical program sessions. We were honored to have keynote presentations by four distinguished researchers in the field of AI whose contributions have crossed discipline boundaries: Mohammad Bennamoun (University of Western Australia, Australia), Johan van Benthem (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Stanford University, USA; and Tsinghua University, China), Virginia Dignum (Umeå University, Sweden), and Yutaka Matsuo (University of Tokyo, Japan). We were grateful to them for sharing their insights on their latest research with us.

The success of PRICAI 2021 would not be possible without the effort and support of numerous people from all over the world. First, we would like to thank the authors, PC members, and external reviewers for their time and efforts spent in making PRICAI 2021 a successful and enjoyable conference. We are also thankful to various fellow members of the conference committee, without whose support and hard work PRICAI 2021 could not have been successful:

- Advisory Board: Hideyuki Nakashima, Abdul Sattar, and Dickson Lukose
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Finally, we thank Springer, Ronan Nugent (Editorial Director, Computer Science Proceedings), and Anna Kramer (Assistant Editor, Computer Science Proceedings) for their assistance in publishing the PRICAI 2021 proceedings as three volumes of its Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence series.

November 2021

Duc Nghia Pham
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