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Parallel Problem Solving from Nature – PPSN XVII

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Preface

The first major gathering of people interested in discussing natural paradigms and their application to solve real-world problems in Europe took place in Dortmund, Germany, in 1990. What was planned originally as a small workshop with about 30 participants finally grew into an international conference named Parallel Problem Solving from Nature (PPSN) with more than 100 participants. The interest in the topics of the conference has increased steadily ever since leading to the pleasant necessity of organizing PPSN conferences biennially within the European region.

In times of a pandemic, it is difficult to find a host for a conference that should be held locally if possible. To ensure the continuation of the conference series, the 17th edition, PPSN 2022, returned to its birthplace in Dortmund. But even at the time of writing this text, it is unclear whether the conference can be held on-site or whether we shall have to switch to virtual mode at short notice.

Therefore, we are pleased that many researchers shared our optimism by submitting their papers for review. We received 185 submissions from which the program chairs have selected the top 85 after an extensive peer-review process. Not all decisions were easy to make but in all cases we benefited greatly from the careful reviews provided by the international Program Committee consisting of 223 scientists. Most of the submissions received four reviews, but all of them got at least three reviews. This led to a total of 693 reviews. Thanks to these reviews we were able to decide about acceptance on a solid basis.

The papers included in these proceedings have been assigned to 12 fuzzy clusters, entitled *Automated Algorithm Selection and Configuration*, *Bayesian- and Surrogate-Assisted Optimization*, *Benchmarking and Performance Measures*, *Combinatorial Optimization*, *(Evolutionary) Machine Learning and Neuroevolution*, *Evolvable Hardware and Evolutionary Robotics*, *Fitness Landscape Modeling and Analysis*, *Genetic Programming*, *Multi-Objective Optimization*, *Numerical Optimizaiton*, *Real-World Applications*, and *Theoretical Aspects of Nature-Inspired Optimization*, that can hardly reflect the true variety of research topics presented in the proceedings at hand. Following the tradition and spirit of PPSN, all papers were presented as posters. The 7 poster sessions consisting of about 12 papers each were compiled orthogonally to the fuzzy clusters mentioned above to cover the range of topics as widely as possible. As a consequence, participants with different interests would find some relevant papers in every session and poster presenters were able to discuss related work in sessions other than their own. As usual, the conference also included one day with workshops (Saturday), one day with tutorials (Sunday), and three invited plenary talks (Monday to Wednesday) for free.

Needless to say, the success of such a conference depends on the authors, reviewers, and organizers. We are grateful to all authors for submitting their best and latest work, to all the reviewers for the generous way they spent their time and provided their valuable expertise in preparing the reviews, to the workshop organizers and tutorial presenters

for their contributions enhancing the value of the conference, and to the local organizers who helped to make PPSN 2022 happen.

Last but not least, we would like to thank for the donations of the *Gesellschaft der Freunde der Technischen Universität Dortmund e.V. (GdF)* and the *Alumni der Informatik Dortmund e.V. (aido)*. We are grateful for Springer's long-standing support of this conference series. Finally, we thank the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)* for providing financial backing.

July 2022

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