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Preface

The aim of the CEEMAS conference series is to provide a biennial forum for the presentation of multi-agent research and development results. With its particular geographical orientation towards Central and Eastern Europe, CEEMAS has become an internationally recognized event with participants from all over the world. After the successful CEEMAS conferences in St. Petersburg (1999), Cracow (2001), Prague (2003) and Budapest (2005), the CEEMAS 2007 conference took place in Leipzig. The Program Committee of the conference series consists of established researchers from the region and renowned international colleagues, showing the prominent rank of CEEMAS among the leading events in multi-agent systems.

In the very competitive field of agent-oriented conferences and workshops, (such as AAMAS, EUMAS, CIA, MATES) CEEMAS is special in trying to bridge the gap between applied research achievements and theoretical research activities. The ambition of CEEMAS is to provide a forum for presenting theoretical research with an evident application potential, implemented application prototypes and their properties, as well as industrial case studies of successful (or unsuccessful) agent technology deployments. This is why the CEEMAS proceedings provide a collection of research and application papers. The technical research paper section of the proceedings (see pages 1–290) contains pure research papers as well as research results in application settings. The goal is to demonstrate the real-life value and commercial reality of multi-agent systems as well as to foster the communication between academia and industry in this field.

CEEMAS is also very special and unique because it is constantly contributing to building an agent research community. The Program Committee has decided to create a special collection of short papers that provide an opportunity to present ongoing research work with a potential of mature and higher impact research results in the near future. This allows researchers to expose their work for constructive criticism and discuss their projects with other experts in an early phase of their research. On the other hand this provides the audience with fresh, innovative and highly motivating ideas that may deserve further investigation.

The topics of the CEEMAS proceedings cover a wide range of areas such as: abstract and specific agent architectures, methods and modeling approaches for agent-oriented software engineering, agent communication and protocols. CEEMAS also features papers on applications from the field of healthcare, traffic management, learning, software development, game, production management, trade and negotiations.

We received 84 submissions, and each paper was reviewed by at least two independent reviewers or the General Co-chairs. Out of the submitted papers, 29 were accepted as full research papers and 17 as short poster papers.

Many individuals and institutions supported the organization of this conference and made CEEMAS 2007 a high-quality event. Our special thanks go first to the authors and invited speakers for their invaluable and strenuous work and contribution. Also, the work of the Program Committee members who accepted the heavy load of the review of a large number of contributions is gratefully acknowledged. We are especially thankful to the University of Leipzig for their organizational activities.

As a result, the present collection of papers provides a valuable resource for researchers in the field of multi-agent systems and open distributed systems in general.

July 2007

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Gabriela Lindemann
László Z. Varga
Rineke Verbrugge

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Table of Contents

Full Papers

A Multi-agent Approach for Range Image Segmentation	1
<i>Smaine Mazouzi, Zahia Guessoum, Fabien Michel, and Mohamed Batouche</i>	
Abstractions of Multi-agent Systems	11
<i>Constantin Enea and Catalin Dima</i>	
Agent-Based Network Protection Against Malicious Code	22
<i>Martin Reháč, Michal Pěchouček, Jan Tožička, Magda Prokopová, David Medvigy, and Jiří Novotný</i>	
Agents Deliberating over Action Proposals Using the <i>ProCLAIM</i> Model	32
<i>Pancho Tolchinsky, Katie Atkinson, Peter McBurney, Sanjay Modgil, and Ulises Cortés</i>	
An Attacker Model for Normative Multi-agent Systems	42
<i>Guido Boella and Leendert van der Torre</i>	
An Environment to Support Multi-Party Communications in Multi-Agent Systems	52
<i>Julien Saunier and Flavien Balbo</i>	
An Interaction Protocol for Agent Communication	62
<i>Gemma Bel-Enguix, M. Adela Grando, and M. Dolores Jiménez-López</i>	
Collaborative Attack Detection in High-Speed Networks	73
<i>Martin Reháč, Michal Pěchouček, Pavel Čeleda, Vojtěch Krmíček, Pavel Minařík, and David Medvigy</i>	
Commitment Monitoring in a Multiagent System	83
<i>Paola Spoletini and Mario Verdicchio</i>	
Competencies and Profiles Management for Virtual Organizations Creation	93
<i>Jiří Hodík, Jiří Vokřínek, Jiří Bíba, and Petr Bečvář</i>	
Complexity of Verifying Game Equilibria	103
<i>Emmanuel M. Tadjouddine</i>	

Component-Based Development of Secure Mobile Agents Applications.....	113
<i>Alvaro Moratalla and Sergi Robles</i>	
Design Patterns for Self-organising Systems	123
<i>Luca Gardelli, Mirko Viroli, and Andrea Omicini</i>	
Experience with Feedback Control Mechanisms in Self-replicating Multi-Agent Systems	133
<i>Sebnem Bora and Oguz Dikenelli</i>	
Exploring Social Networks in Request for Proposal Dynamic Coalition Formation Problems.....	143
<i>Carlos Merida-Campos and Steven Willmott</i>	
Formalizing Context-Based Behavioural Compatibility and Substitutability for Role Components in MAS	153
<i>Nabil Hameurlain</i>	
Governing Environments for Agent-Based Traffic Simulations	163
<i>Michael Schumacher, Laurent Grangier, and Radu Jurca</i>	
Knowledge Driven Architecture for Home Care	173
<i>Ákos Hajnal, David Isern, Antonio Moreno, Gianfranco Pedone, and László Zsolt Varga</i>	
MASL: A Logic for the Specification of Multiagent Real-Time Systems	183
<i>Dmitry Bugaychenko and Igor Soloviev</i>	
Modeling of Agents in Organizational Context	193
<i>Alexei Sharpanskykh</i>	
Motivations as an Abstraction of Meta-level Reasoning	204
<i>Felipe Meneguzzi and Michael Luck</i>	
On Complex Networks in Software: How Agent–Orientation Effects Software Structures	215
<i>Jan Sudeikat and Wolfgang Renz</i>	
Simulating a Human Cooperative Problem Solving	225
<i>Alexandre Pauchet, Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni, and Nathalie Chaignaud</i>	
Supporting Agent Organizations	236
<i>Estefania Argente, Javier Palanca, Gustavo Aranda, Vicente Julian, Vicente Botti, Ana Garcia-Fornes, and Agustin Espinosa</i>	

The Agents' Attitudes in Fuzzy Constraint Based Automated Purchase Negotiations.....	246
<i>Miguel A. Lopez-Carmona, Juan R. Velasco, and Ivan Marsa-Maestre</i>	
Towards a Model Driven Process for Multi-Agent System	256
<i>Tarek Jarraya and Zahia Guessoum</i>	
Towards an Epistemic Logic for Uncertain Agents	266
<i>Zining Cao</i>	
Towards Approximate BGI Systems	277
<i>Barbara Dunin-Kępłicz and Andrzej Szalas</i>	
Verifying Dominant Strategy Equilibria in Auctions	288
<i>Emmanuel M. Tadjouddine and Frank Guerin</i>	
Short Papers	
Agent Environment and Knowledge in Distributed Join Calculus	298
<i>Stawomir P. Maludziński and Grzegorz Dobrowolski</i>	
Agent-Based Architecture of Intelligent Distance Learning System.....	301
<i>Mikhail Pashkin</i>	
An Architecture and Framework for Agent-Based Web Applications	304
<i>Alexander Pokahr and Lars Braubach</i>	
Closing the Gap Between Organizational Models and Multi-Agent System Deployment	307
<i>Michael Köhler and Matthias Wester-Ebbinghaus</i>	
Clustering Techniques in Automated Purchase Negotiations	310
<i>Miguel A. Lopez-Carmona, Juan R. Velasco, and Ivan Marsa-Maestre</i>	
Cooperative CBR System for Sharing Student Models in Cooperative Intelligent Tutoring Systems	313
<i>Carolina González, Juan C. Burguillo, and Martín Llamas</i>	
Decision Making System: Agent Diagnosing Child Care Diseases	316
<i>Vijay Kumar Mago, M. Syamala Devi, and Ravinder Mehta</i>	
FIPA-Based Interoperable Agent Mobility.....	319
<i>Jordi Cucurull, Ramon Martí, Sergi Robles, Joan Borrell, and Guillermo Navarro</i>	
HeCaSe2: A Multi-agent Ontology-Driven Guideline Enactment Engine	322
<i>David Isern, David Sánchez, and Antonio Moreno</i>	

jTRASTO: A Development Toolkit for Real-Time Multi-Agent Systems	325
<i>Martí Navarro, Vicente Julian, and Vicente Botti</i>	
Models and Tools for Mulan Applications	328
<i>Lawrence Cabac, Till Döriges, Michael Duvigneau, Christine Reese, and Matthias Wester-Ebbinghaus</i>	
Multi-agent Architecture for Intelligent Tutoring Systems Interoperability in Health Education	331
<i>Carolina González, Juan C. Burguillo, and Martín Llamas</i>	
Multi-agent Planning in Sokoban	334
<i>Matthew S. Berger and James H. Lawton</i>	
Ontology Matching in Communication and Web Services Composition for Agent Community	337
<i>Adam Łuszczaj, Edward Nawarecki, Anna Zygmunt, Jarosław Koźlak, and Grzegorz Dobrowolski</i>	
Plugin-Agents as Conceptual Basis for Flexible Software Structures	340
<i>Lawrence Cabac, Michael Duvigneau, Daniel Moldt, and Benjamin Schleinzer</i>	
Selection of Efficient Production Management Strategies Using the Multi-agent Approach	343
<i>Jarosław Koźlak, Jan Marszałek, Leszek Siwik, and Maciej Zygmunt</i>	
The Impact of Network Topology on Trade in Bartering Networks – Devising and Assessing Network Information Propagation Mechanisms	346
<i>David Cabanillas and Steven Willmott</i>	
Author Index	349