Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence   4870

Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science

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Coordination, Organizations, Institutions, and Norms in Agent Systems III

Springer

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Preface

In recent years, social and organizational aspects of agency have become major research topics in MAS. Current applications of MAS in Web services, grid computing and ubiquitous computing highlight the need for using these aspects in order to ensure social order within such environments. Openness, heterogeneity, and scalability of MAS, in turn, put new demands on traditional MAS interaction models and bring forward the need to investigate the environment wherein agents interact, more specifically to design different ways of constraining or regulating agents' interactions. Consequently, the view of coordination and control has been expanding to entertain not only an agent-centric perspective but societal and organization-centric views as well. The overall problem of analyzing the social, legal, economic and technological dimensions of agent organizations and the co-evolution of agent interactions pose theoretically demanding and interdisciplinary research questions at different levels of abstraction. The MAS research community has addressed these issues from different perspectives that have gradually become more cohesive around the four concepts that give title to this workshop series: *coordination, organization, institutions* and *norms*.

The COIN@AAMAS 2007 and COIN@MALLOW 2007 events belong to a workshop series that started in 2005, and since then has continued with two editions per year. The main goal of these workshops is to bring together researchers from different communities working in theoretical and/or practical aspects of coordination, organization, institutions and norms, and to to facilitate a more systematic discussion of these themes that have until lately been considered from different perspectives.

In 2007, the COIN workshops were hosted by AAMAS 2007 (May 14, Honolulu, USA) and by MALLOW 2007 (September 3–4, Durham, UK). The papers contained in this volume are the revised versions of a selection of the papers presented in these workshops. In COIN@AAMAS 2007, 9 papers were presented at the workshop out of 15 submissions, while from 23 submissions to COIN@MALLOW 2007, 15 were accepted for presentation.

We want to express our gratitude to the Program Committee members and additional reviewers of both events, to the participants of the workshops and most particularly to the authors for their original contributions and further revisions for this volume. We also want to thank the organizers of the 6th International Joint Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS 2007) and of the MALLOW 2007 event for hosting and supporting the organization of the COIN workshops. Finally, we would also like to acknowledge

the encouragement and support from Springer, in the person of Alfred Hofmann, for the publication of the COIN workshops since the first edition.

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