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Wayne Wobcke Mengjie Zhang (Eds.)

# AI 2008: Advances in Artificial Intelligence

21st Australasian Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence  
Auckland, New Zealand, December 1-5, 2008  
Proceedings

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# Preface

AI 2008, the 21st Australasian Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, was, for the first time, held in New Zealand, in Auckland during December 1–5, 2008. The conference was hosted by Auckland University of Technology.

AI 2008 attracted 143 submissions from 22 countries, of which 42 (29%) were accepted as full papers and 21 (15%) as short papers. Submissions were subject to a rigorous review process. Each paper was reviewed by at least three (often four, and in one case, six) members of the Programme Committee. Authors could then provide a “rebuttal” to these reviews. The Senior Programme Committee members coordinated discussion on the papers to provide a recommendation of acceptance or rejection to the Programme Committee Co-chairs. Both full papers and short papers were presented at the conference.

We would first like to thank all those who submitted papers to AI 2008. Special thanks to the Programme Committee members for their detailed reviews completed in a timely manner, and to the Senior Programme Committee for their considered judgements and recommendations on the papers. We are sure authors would like to know that the rebuttal and subsequent discussion phases made a difference to the outcome in numerous cases. We are confident that this process has improved the decision making for final paper selection, and that the overall quality and reputation of the conference is enhanced as a result. Thanks also to EasyChair for the use of their conference management system to facilitate this complex process and the preparation of these proceedings.

AI 2008 featured three invited talks, from Tony Cohn (“Steps Towards Cognitive Vision”), Reinhard Klette (“Stereo-Vision-Based Driver Assistance”) and Zbigniew Michalewicz (“Intelligence, Business Intelligence, and Adaptive Business Intelligence”). These talks contributed greatly to the intellectual environment of the conference, and were highly appreciated by all participants.

Being the first “Australasian” conference continuing the series of Australian conferences, this year was somewhat of an experiment. We would like to acknowledge the large number of New Zealand researchers who submitted papers and served on the Programme Committee of AI 2008, helping to make this conference a success. We would like to thank Auckland University of Technology for organizing the conference, and the Australian Computer Society, the University of New South Wales and the University of Wollongong for financial support.

December 2008

Wayne Wobcke  
Mengjie Zhang

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AI 2008 was hosted by Auckland University of Technology, and was held in Auckland, New Zealand, during December 1–5, 2008.

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