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Logic, Rationality, and Interaction

7th International Workshop, LORI 2019 Chongqing, China, October 18–21, 2019 Proceedings



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Preface

This book contains the papers presented at the 7th International Workshop on Logic, Rationality, and Interaction (LORI-VII 2019), held during October 18–21, 2019, in Chongqing, China, and hosted by the Institute of Logic and Intelligence (ILI) of Southwest University.

As with previous LORI conferences, the focus of the workshop was on the following topics: Agency, Argumentation, and Agreement; Belief Revision and Belief Merging; Belief Representation, Cooperation, Decision Making, and Planning; Natural Language, Philosophy, and Philosophical Logic; and Strategic Reasoning. We received 56 full paper submissions and ended up selecting 33 of them (the authors of two accepted papers chose not to have them published here). The papers were selected on the basis of at least two blind reviews. We decided not to impose a long-paper/short-paper distinction, and to allow all authors 30 minutes of presentation time; this meant that we had to have a number of parallel sessions at the workshop.

In addition, there were presentations by six keynote speakers:

Leila Amgoud IRIT-CNRS, Toulouse University, France

Kevin Kelly Carnegie Mellon University, USA

Rineke Verbrugge University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Michael Wooldridge University of Oxford, UK
Yanjing Wang Peking University, China
Thomas Ägotnes University of Bergen, Norway,

and Southwest University, China

The LORI series dates back to August 2007, when the first meeting was held at Beijing Normal University. Since then, a meeting has been held every two years: for further information about the previous conferences, see www.golori.org. Here we will simply remark that over the past 12 years the LORI series has acted as a focus point for research in East Asia on the topics related to logic, rationality, and interaction, and has simultaneously succeeded in drawing scholars from out-side the region to interact and collaborate in this area. The "LORI-community" which has been built up in this way seems destined to become bigger, broader in scope, and to give rise to new and exciting research in the coming years.

As Organizing and Program Committee chairs we would like to thank all the members of the Program Committee for their hard work in a short space of time; the reviewing called forth intense and generous efforts, for which we are deeply grateful.

We are also grateful to Zuojun Xiong who handled the website practicalities and responded fast to our emails, and to Fenrong Liu, Johan van Benthem, and Jeremy Seligman whose timely advice, based on their experience with all the previous LORI conferences, helped us to keep things on track.

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Finally, special thanks must also go to the School of Political Science and Public Administration at Southwest University and Institute of Logic and Intelligence (ILI) of Southwest University, China, for their sponsorship for the conference and for financially supporting the proceedings of LORI-VII 2019.

October 2019

Patrick Blackburn Emiliano Lorini Meiyun Guo

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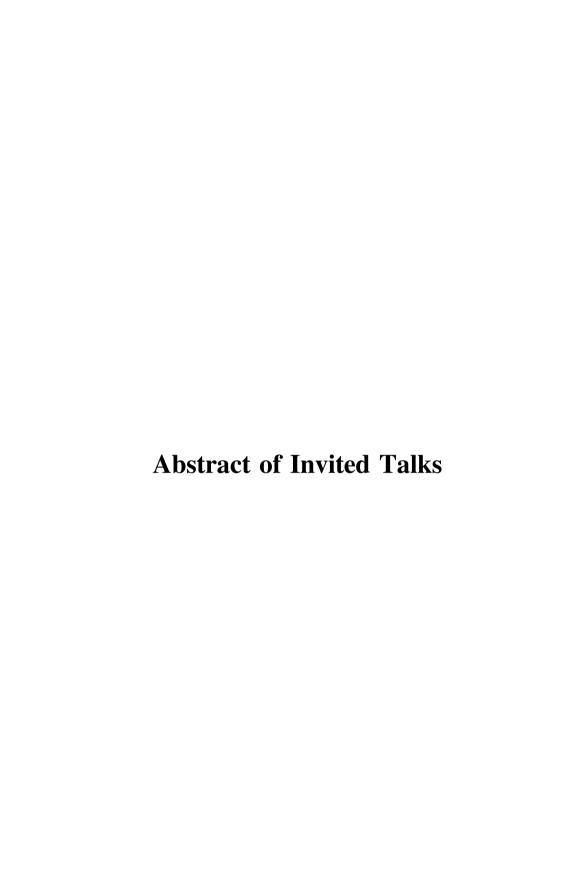
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The Dynamics of Group Knowledge and Belief

Thomas Ågotnes

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Principles of reasoning about group knowledge and belief have received attention over the past decade, in particular in the context of reasoning about the dynamics of interaction. In the talk I will review some of this work, hopefully provide some new insights, and pose some open problems. I will focus on formalisations in modal logic.

What we mean when we say that a group knows something can be radically different depending on context. Well-known notions of group knowledge that have been proposed in the literature include general knowledge (everybody-knows), distributed knowledge, common knowledge, relativised common knowledge. What group belief is, however, is murkier. Applying the same definitions to belief, group belief is not actually always belief. The existence of group belief depends on the particular properties one assumes of belief, and I will map out different possible notions of group belief under different notions of belief. I will also discuss intermediate notions of group belief between distributed and common belief.

Moving to dynamics, we first look at the consequences of adding new group knowledge operators to dynamic epistemic logics such as public announcement logic and action model logic. The relationship between distributed and common knowledge has been of special interest in the dynamic setting, an intuitive idea being that distributed knowledge is potential common knowledge. However this idea is clearly false: it is possible to have distributed knowledge of a Moore-like sentence, which can never even become individual knowledge. I will discuss a dynamic operator that exactly captures what is true after the group have shared all their information with each other; this is what we call resolving distributed knowledge. Intuitions about group knowledge, such as the one just mentioned, are often related to group ability; which states of knowledge a group can make come about. I will thus discuss group knowledge first in the context of general group ability operators such as those found in Alternating-time Temporal Logic and Coalition Logic, and then circle back to dynamic epistemic logics again and discuss cases where ability means ability to achieve some state of knowledge by using public announcements. I will have something to say about how all these different static and dynamic takes on group knowledge and belief are tied together.

Argument-Based Paraconsistent Logics

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Handling inconsistency in propositional knowledge bases (KBs) has been studied in AI for a long time. Several two-level logics have been defined: They start with classical propositional logic and define on top of it a non-monotonic logic that infers non-trivial conclusions from an inconsistent KB. There are at least two families of such logics: coherence-based and argument-based logics. The former compute the set of all maximal (for set inclusion) consistent subbases (MCSs) of a KB, and then they apply an inference mechanism for drawing consequences from the MCSs. Argument-based logics follow another process. They justify every candidate consequence of a KB by arguments, generated using the classical consequence relation, then they identify possible conflicts between arguments, evaluate arguments using a formal method, called semantics, and finally keep among the candidate consequences those that are supported by "strong" arguments.

In this talk, I present three families of argument-based logics that use respectively on extension semantics, ranking semantics, and gradual semantics in the evaluation step. I discuss the properties of those logics, and compare them with coherence-based logics.

Realism, Simplicity, and Topology

Kevin Kelly

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This is joint work with Hanti Lin, University of California, Davis and Konstantin Genin, University of Toronto.

Scientific realists assure us that simpler theories are better-confirmed by simple data and are, therefore, more worthy of belief. Scientific anti-realists respond that the data might look simple for eternity if the complex theory is true, in which case the realist's assurance would lead to eternal error. We show that the realist's position follows from a learning-theoretic argument for Ockham's razor. The argument is based on the interaction of two topologies on possible worlds: the realist topology of arbitrary similarity in reality, and the empirical topology of arbitrary empirical similarity. The former pertains to the ends of inquiry, and the latter characterizes the means.

Reasoning in Dynamic Games: From Rationality to Rationalization

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Game theorists have proposed backward induction as the reasoning procedure that rational players follow in dynamic games, on the basis of their collective belief that all participating players are rational. An alternative reasoning procedure is forward induction, in which a player rationalizes any previous apparently irrational move by the opponent. Do people's choices in centipede-like dynamic games fit better with backward or forward induction?

In our experiments (with Sujata Ghosh, Aviad Heifetz, and Harmen de Weerd), participants played a centipede-like game called Marble Drop. The computer opponent was programmed to surprise the participant by deviating often from its backward induction strategy at the beginning of the game. Participants had been told that the computer was optimizing against some belief about the participant's future strategy.

In the aggregate, participants tended to favor the forward induction choice. However, their verbalized strategies usually depended on other features, such as risk aversion, trust or cooperativeness. In a follow-up experiment we compared participants from India, Israel and The Netherlands in the Marble Drop game, with surprising results.

Understanding Equilibrium Properties of Multi-agent Systems

Michael Wooldridge

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Over a twenty minute period on the afternoon 6 May 2010, the Dow Jones industrial average collapsed, at one point wiping a trillion dollars off the value of the US markets. Remarkably, the market recovered in a similarly short period of time, to nearly its position before the collapse. While the precise causes of the so-called "Flash Crash" are complex and controversial, the Flash Crash was only possible because modern international markets are multi-agent systems, in which high frequency trading agents autonomously buy and sell on timescales that are so small that they are far beyond human comprehension or control. There is no reason to believe that the 2010 Flash Crash was an isolated event: and the next one could be even bigger, with potentially devastating global consequences. The 2010 Flash Crash provides a stark illustration of something we have long known: that systems composed of large numbers of multiple interacting components can be subject to rapid, unpredictable swings in behaviour. We urgently need to develop the theory and tools to understand such multi-agent system dynamics.

In this talk, I will present two very different approaches to this problem.

The first views a multi-agent system as a game, in the sense of game theory, with decision-makers interacting strategically in pursuit of their goals. I describe a model we have developed in which players in such a game act in pursuit of temporal logic goals. In such a setting, the key decision problems relate to the properties of a system that hold under the assumption that players choose strategies in (Nash) equilibrium. I conclude by describing a tool, developed by DPhil student Muhammed Najib, through which we can automatically analyse the properties of such equilibria.

The second approach takes a very different approach, in which we use agent-based financial models, involving very large numbers of agents, to understand specifically the factors that can contribute to Flash Crash events, and in particular the phenomenon of "contagion", where stress on one asset leads to other assets being stressed.

This talk will report joint work with Ani Calinescu, Julian Gutierrez, Paul Harrenstein, Muhammed Najib, James Paulin, and Giuseppe Perelli.

Beyond Knowing that: A New Generation of Epistemic Logics

Yanjing Wang

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Epistemic logic is a major field of philosophical logic studying reasoning patterns about knowledge and belief. Despite its various applications in epistemology, theoretical computer science, AI, and game theory, the technical developments in the field have been mainly focusing on the propositional part, i.e., the propositional modal logics of "knowing that". However, knowledge is also expressed in everyday life by "knowing whether", "knowing what", "knowing how", "knowing why" and so on (know-wh hereafter). Recent years witnessed a growing interest in new epistemic logics of know-wh motivated by questions in philosophy, AI and linguistics. The new epistemic modalities introduced in those logics usually share, in their semantics, the general schema of 'exists x [] phi' (where [] is a box-modality), e.g., knowing how to achieve phi roughly means that there exists a way such that you know that it is a way to make sure that phi. Therefore they are natural fragments of first-order modal logic. The new axioms of those logics intuitively capture the essential interactions of know-that and other know-wh operators, and the resulting logics are non-normal but decidable.

In this talk, I will first explain the core ideas behind this new research program with some examples, and then propose a more general framework inspired by the concrete know-wh logics, which leads to the discovery of new decidable fragments of first-order modal logic.

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