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Proceedings



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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 8th AI*IA conference, held in Pisa on September 23-26, 2003. This conference is the traditional biennial event of the Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence and follows those held in Trento (1989), Palermo (1991), Turin (1993), Florence (1995), Rome (1997), Bologna (1999), and Bari (2001).

The congress included invited speaker seminars, scientific paper talks, system demonstrations, tutorials, panels, and workshops on specific topics both on methods and on innovative applications of artificial intelligence.

The program committee selected 44 contributions among the 91 submitted, which cover the following topics: machine learning, neural networks, planning and control, automatic reasoning, distributed artificial intelligence, knowledge representation, knowledge discovery and data mining, natural language Processing.

The scientific program also included two invited lectures by Paolo Dario and Bob Moore, and four workshops, coordinated by Maria Simi:

Ambient Intelligence (chaired by Paolo Remagnino and GianLuca Foresti) discussed techniques for the development of intelligent environments for a wide range of application domains, including health, managed public environments, and practice skills training.

Artificial Intelligence for Cultural Heritage (chaired by Luciana Bordoni) analyzed the contribution of artificial intelligence and other innovative technologies to the emergent sector of cultural heritage and aimed to promote greater cooperation between scholars working in different sectors.

Artificial Intelligence and E-Learning (chaired by Giovanni Adorni) covered current research in the development of improved e-learning methodologies and platforms, e.g. the role of learning objects-related standards with respect to semantic Web, agent-based frameworks and so on.

Topics and Perspective of Natural Language Processing in Italy (chaired by Nicoletta Calzolari and Bernardo Magnini) presented the state of the art of NLP in Italy and discussed, in particular, the results and the limits of human language technologies in Italy with respect to current international directions.

Two Panels on “Advanced Information Technologies in Medicine”, chaired by Antonina Starita and “Artificial Intelligence and Technology Transfer” chaired by Cinzia Giachetti, successfully contributed to promoting greater awareness of the mature state of artificial intelligence. Four tutorials, coordinated by Paolo Mancarella, presented relevant and original topics: “Norms and Institutions”, by Marek Sergot, “Machine Learning for Automated Text Classification”, by

Fabrizio Sebastiani, “An Introduction to Logic-Based Multi-agent Systems”, by Paolo Torroni, and “Fusion of Multiple Patterns Classifiers”, by Fabio Roli.

We would like to thank all the aforementioned persons, and we are confident that, with their help, the 2003 meeting strengthened awareness that artificial intelligence is assuming a central role in the present development of science and technology.

We also thank all the members of the program committee and all the referees for their care in reviewing and selecting the submitted papers. We also express our gratitude to all members of the local organizing committee, for their help in organizing this event.

Special thanks to Salvatore Ruggieri, reference point for all persons involved in the organization, *maître à faire* of the *scienzia machinale*, and true *deus ex machina* when solutions were needed for the ever emerging problems in the organization of a congress.

July 2003

Amedeo Cappelli, Franco Turini

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