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Preface

These are the proceedings of the German conference on Multiagent System Technologies (MATES 2003), which was the first conference organized by the German special interest group on Distributed Artificial Intelligence to promote the theory and application of agents and multiagent systems. Its goals were to cover the whole range from the theory to applications of agent and multiagent technology and reflect the national and international state of the art. The conference provided an excellent interdisciplinary forum for both researchers and members of business and industry to present and discuss the latest advances in theoretical work on and prototyped or fielded systems of intelligent agents.

Building on the sequence of agent-related events in Germany in the past, such as VDI 1998 (Chemnitz), VertIS 2001 (Bamberg), and KI 2002 (Aachen), MATES 2003 was exclusively devoted to agents and multiagent systems, and the cross-fertilization between agent theory and application. In addition, it built on the success of the past international workshop on “Agent Technology and Software Engineering (AgeS 2002)”, and the international symposium on “Multiagent Systems, Large Complex Systems, and E-Businesses” (MALCEB 2002). MATES 2003 was co-located with the fourth international Net.ObjectDays conference in an exciting event held in Erfurt during September 22–24.

The MATES 2003 conference featured a sequence of regular and invited talks of excellence given by leading experts in the field. Among these were two keynotes, an invited talk and 18 paper presentations selected from 49 submissions. The conference talks covered a broad area of topics of interest, such as the semantic web and issues of interoperability, agent-based engineering, systems and applications, models and architectures, and issues of collaboration and negotiation. The result of the review of all contributions by an international program committee is included in these proceedings, rich in interesting, inspiring, and advanced work on research and development of multiagent systems. During the conference, tutorials were held on adaptive agents, agents and the semantic web, and interaction protocol design in multiagent systems.

The MATES 2003 conference was organized in cooperation with the Distributed Artificial Intelligence chapter of the German Computing Society (GI). In addition, we are very much indebted to our sponsors, whose financial support helped to make this event possible and contributed to its success. The sponsors of MATES 2003 were:

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We are also grateful to the authors and invited speakers for contributing to this conference, as well as to all the members of the program committee and the external reviewers for their very careful, critical, and thoughtful reviews of all submissions. Finally, our thanks go to each of the brave members of the local

organization team of Net.ObjectDays in Erfurt for their hard work in providing MATES 2003 with a modern, comfortable location, and an exclusive social program.

We hope you enjoyed MATES 2003, and will help us to make MATES a successful conference series with many events to come!

July 2003

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Jörg Müller, Huaglory Tianfield

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Table of Contents

Engineering Agent-Based Systems

The AgentComponent Approach, Combining Agents, and Components . . .	1
<i>Richard Krutisch, Philipp Meier, Martin Wirsing</i>	
From Simulated to Real Environments: How to Use SeSAm for Software Development	13
<i>Franziska Klügl, Rainer Herrler, Christoph Oechslein</i>	
Indicators for Self-Diagnosis: Communication-Based Performance Measures	25
<i>Michael Rovatsos, Michael Schillo, Klaus Fischer, Gerhard Weiß</i>	

Systems and Applications (1)

The AEP Toolkit for Agent Design and Simulation	38
<i>Joscha Bach, Ronnie Vuine</i>	
On Programming Information Agent Systems – An Integrated Hotel Reservation Service as Case Study	50
<i>Yun Ding, Heiner Litz, Rainer Malaka, Dennis Pfisterer</i>	
Applying Agents for Engineering of Industrial Automation Systems	62
<i>Thomas Wagner</i>	

Systems and Applications (2)

SimMarket: Multiagent-Based Customer Simulation and Decision Support for Category Management	74
<i>Arndt Schwaiger, Björn Stahmer</i>	
A Multi-agent Approach to the Design of an E-medicine System	85
<i>Jiang Tian, Huaglori Tianfield</i>	
Implementing Heterogeneous Agents in Dynamic Environments, a Case Study in RoboCupRescue	95
<i>Jafar Habibi, Mazda Ahmadi, Ali Nouri, Mayssam Sayyadian, Mayssam M. Nevisi</i>	

Models and Architectures

Model for Simultaneous Actions in Situated Multi-agent Systems	105
<i>Danny Weyns, Tom Holvoet</i>	

Handling Sequences of Belief Change in a Multi-agent Context	119
<i>Laurent Perrussel</i>	

From the Specification of Multiagent Systems by Statecharts to Their Formal Analysis by Model Checking: Towards Safety-Critical Applications	131
<i>Frieder Stolzenburg, Toshiaki Arai</i>	

The Semantic Web and Issues of Inter-operability

INVITED CONTRIBUTION

The SWAP Data and Metadata Model for Semantics-Based Peer-to-Peer Systems	144
<i>Marc Ehrig, Peter Haase, Ronny Siebes, Steffen Staab, Heiner Stuckenschmidt, Rudi Studer, Christoph Tempich</i>	

An Ontology for Production Control of Semiconductor Manufacturing Processes	156
<i>Lars Mönch, Marcel Stehli</i>	

Ontology-Based Capability Management for Distributed Problem Solving in the Manufacturing Domain	168
<i>Ingo J. Timm, Peer-Oliver Woelk</i>	

Using the Publish-Subscribe Communication Genre for Mobile Agents . . .	180
<i>Amir Padovitz, Seng Wai Loke, Arkady Zaslavsky</i>	

Issues of Collaboration and Negotiation

Multiagent Matching Algorithms with and without Coach	192
<i>Frieder Stolzenburg, Jan Murray, Karsten Sturm</i>	

Improving Evolutionary Learning of Cooperative Behavior by Including Accountability of Strategy Components	205
<i>Jörg Denzinger, Sean Ennis</i>	

The C-IPS Agent Architecture for Modeling Negotiating Social Agents	217
<i>Diemo Urbig, Dagmar Monett Díaz, Kay Schröter</i>	

Author Index	229
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