

José Neves Manuel Filipe Santos
José Manuel Machado (Eds.)

Progress in Artificial Intelligence

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BI, CMBSB, IROBOT, MASTA, STCS, and TEMA
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Preface

The 13th Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence, EPIA 2007, took place in the old city of Guimarães and was sponsored by the University of Minho and APPIA, the Portuguese Association for Artificial Intelligence. The city of Guimarães is classified as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage, being located in the North of Portugal, in the Minho Region, approximately 350 Km north of the capital, Lisbon, and about 50 Km from the second largest city, the city of Oporto. Guimarães has its origin in times previous to the foundation of the Portuguese nationality, the place where Portugal was born in the twelfth century. It is proudly referred to as the Cradle of the Nation.

EPIA was firstly held in the city of Oporto, in 1985. Its purpose was to promote the research in artificial intelligence (AI) and the scientific exchange among AI researchers, practitioners, scientists and engineers. The conference is devoted to all areas of artificial intelligence and covers both theoretical and foundational issues as well as applications. As in previous editions, the program was prearranged in terms of workshops dedicated to specific themes of AI, invited lectures, tutorials and sessions, all selected according to the highest standards. The program of the conference included for the first time a Doctoral Symposium.

A total of 11 workshops were considered, following the guidelines of the Organizing and Advisory Committees. The list includes workshops held in the previous edition, such as GAIW, BAOSW07, IROBOT07, MASTA07, TEMA07, and ALEA, rearrangements of previous ones, such as CMBSB, and novel ones such as AIASTS, AmITA, BI07 and STCS.

In this edition a total of 210 contributions were received from 29 countries, namely, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, South Africa, UK, USA and Venezuela. Each paper was refereed by three independent reviewers in a double-blind process. From the submitted contributions, 58 were selected for publication in this volume as full papers. The acceptance rate was 27.6%, ensuring the high quality and diversity of topics and perspectives. Geographically, the contributions are distributed as follows: Belgium (1); Brazil (2); Czech Republic (1); Spain (1); China (2); France (1); Germany (4); Lithuania (1); Portugal (41); Romania (1); UK (2); and South Africa(1).

In addition to APPIA, the main sponsor of the conference, our special thanks are due to the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI); the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM); the European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence (ECCAI); and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE-SMC). We wish to thank the members of all committees, specifically the Advisory Committee, the Program Committee and the Local Organization. We would also like to thank all the Chairs of the

Workshops, the authors, the referees and the organizers of the previous edition for their contribution and efforts which made EPIA 2007 possible. The final thanks go to Springer for their assistance in producing this book.

The present volume includes the full papers organized in chapters, and serialised in the form of workshops.

December 2007

José Neves
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ALGORITMI - Centro Algoritmi, Universidade do Minho

APPIA - Associação Portuguesa para a Inteligência Artificial

In Collaboration with

IEEE - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

ECCAI - European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence

AAAI - Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

ACM - Association for Computing Machinery

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 - Second General Artificial Intelligence Workshop (GAIW 2007)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Towards Tractable Local Closed World Reasoning for the Semantic Web | 3 |
| <i>Matthias Knorr, José Júlio Alferes, and Pascal Hitzler</i> | |
| Optimal Brain Surgeon for General Dynamic Neural Networks | 15 |
| <i>Christian Endisch, Christoph Hackl, and Dierk Schröder</i> | |
| Answer-Set Programming Based Dynamic User Modeling for Recommender Systems | 29 |
| <i>João Leite and Manoela Ilić</i> | |
| Application of Logic Wrappers to Hierarchical Data Extraction from HTML | 43 |
| <i>Amelia Bădică, Costin Bădică, and Elvira Popescu</i> | |
| Relaxing Feature Selection in Spam Filtering by Using Case-Based Reasoning Systems | 53 |
| <i>J.R. Méndez, F. Fdez-Riverola, D. Glez-Peña, F. Díaz, and J.M. Corchado</i> | |
| Gödel and Computability | 63 |
| <i>Luís Moniz Pereira</i> | |
| Prospective Logic Agents | 73 |
| <i>Luís Moniz Pereira and Gonçalo Lopes</i> | |
| An Iterative Process for Building Learning Curves and Predicting Relative Performance of Classifiers | 87 |
| <i>Rui Leite and Pavel Brazdil</i> | |
| Modelling Morality with Prospective Logic | 99 |
| <i>Luís Moniz Pereira and Ari Saptawijaya</i> | |
| Change Detection in Learning Histograms from Data Streams | 112 |
| <i>Raquel Sebastião and João Gama</i> | |
| Real-Time Intelligent Decision Support System for Bridges Structures Behavior Prediction | 124 |
| <i>Hélder Quintela, Manuel Filipe Santos, and Paulo Cortez</i> | |
| Semi-fuzzy Splitting in Online Divisive-Agglomerative Clustering | 133 |
| <i>Pedro Pereira Rodrigues and João Gama</i> | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| On the Use of Rough Sets for User Authentication Via Keystroke Dynamics | 145 |
| <i>Kenneth Revett, Sérgio Tenreiro de Magalhães, and Henrique M.D. Santos</i> | |
| The Halt Condition in Genetic Programming | 160 |
| <i>José Neves, José Machado, Cesar Analide, António Abelha, and Luis Brito</i> | |
| Two Puzzles Concerning Measures of Uncertainty and the Positive Boolean Connectives | 170 |
| <i>Gregory Wheeler</i> | |
| Chapter 2 - First Workshop on AI Applications for Sustainable Transportation Systems (AIASTS 2007) | |
| Nonlinear Models for Determining Mode Choice: Accuracy is not Always the Optimal Goal | 183 |
| <i>Elke Moons, Geert Wets, and Marc Aerts</i> | |
| Adaptation in Games with Many Co-evolving Agents | 195 |
| <i>Ana L.C. Bazzan, Franziska Klügl, and Kai Nagel</i> | |
| Chapter 3 - Third Workshop on Artificial Life and Evolutionary Algorithms (ALEA 2007) | |
| Symmetry at the Genotypic Level and the Simple Inversion Operator ... | 209 |
| <i>Cristian Munteanu and Agostinho Rosa</i> | |
| A Genetic Programming Approach to the Generation of Hyper-Heuristics for the Uncapacitated Examination Timetabling Problem | 223 |
| <i>Nelishia Pillay and Wolfgang Banzhaf</i> | |
| Asynchronous Stochastic Dynamics and the Spatial Prisoner's Dilemma Game | 235 |
| <i>Carlos Grilo and Luís Correia</i> | |
| Improving Evolutionary Algorithms with Scouting | 247 |
| <i>Konstantinos Bousmalis, Gillian M. Hayes, and Jeffrey O. Pfaffmann</i> | |
| Stochastic Barycenters and Beta Distribution for Gaussian Particle Swarms | 259 |
| <i>Rui Mendes and James Kennedy</i> | |
| Exploiting Second Order Information in Computational Multi-objective Evolutionary Optimization | 271 |
| <i>Pradyumn Kumar Shukla</i> | |

Chapter 4 - First Workshop on Ambient Intelligence Technologies and Applications (AMITA 2007)

| | |
|---|-----|
| Ambient Intelligence – A State of the Art from Artificial Intelligence Perspective | 285 |
| <i>Carlos Ramos</i> | |
| Ubiquitous Ambient Intelligence in a Flight Decision Assistance System | 296 |
| <i>Nuno Gomes, Carlos Ramos, Cristiano Pereira, and Francisco Nunes</i> | |
| Argumentation-Based Decision Making in Ambient Intelligence Environments | 309 |
| <i>Goreti Marreiros, Ricardo Santos, Paulo Novais, José Machado, Carlos Ramos, José Neves, and José Bula-Cruz</i> | |
| Intelligent Mixed Reality for the Creation of Ambient Assisted Living | 323 |
| <i>Ricardo Costa, José Neves, Paulo Novais, José Machado, Luís Lima, and Carlos Alberto</i> | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Medical Imaging Environment – A Multi-Agent System for a Computer Clustering Based Multi-display | 332 |
| <i>Victor Alves, Filipe Marreiros, Luís Nelas, Mourylise Heymer, and José Neves</i> | |

Chapter 5 - Second Workshop on Building and Applying Ontologies for the Semantic Web (BAOSW 2007)

| | |
|---|-----|
| Partial and Dynamic Ontology Mapping Model in Dialogs of Agents | 347 |
| <i>Ademir Roberto Freddo, Robison Cris Brito, Gustavo Gimenez-Lugo, and Cesar Augusto Tacla</i> | |
| Using Ontologies for Software Development Knowledge Reuse | 357 |
| <i>Bruno Antunes, Nuno Seco, and Paulo Gomes</i> | |

Chapter 6 - First Workshop on Business Intelligence (BI 2007)

| | |
|---|-----|
| Analysis of the Day-of-the-Week Anomaly for the Case of Emerging Stock Market | 371 |
| <i>Virgilijus Sakalauskas and Dalia Kriksciuniene</i> | |
| A Metamorphosis Algorithm for the Optimization of a Multi-node OLAP System | 383 |
| <i>Jorge Loureiro and Orlando Belo</i> | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Experiments for the Number of Clusters in K-Means | 395 |
| <i>Mark Ming-Tso Chiang and Boris Mirkin</i> | |
| A Network Algorithm to Discover Sequential Patterns | 406 |
| <i>Luís Cavique</i> | |
| Adaptive Decision Support for Intensive Care | 415 |
| <i>Pedro Gago, Álvaro Silva, and Manuel Filipe Santos</i> | |
| A Tool for Interactive Subgroup Discovery Using Distribution Rules | 426 |
| <i>Joel P. Lucas, Alípio M. Jorge, Fernando Pereira, Ana M. Pernas, and Amauri A. Machado</i> | |
| Quantitative Evaluation of Clusterings for Marketing Applications: A Web Portal Case Study | 437 |
| <i>Carmen Rebelo, Pedro Quelhas Brito, Carlos Soares, Alípio Jorge, and Rui Brandão</i> | |
| Resource-Bounded Fraud Detection | 449 |
| <i>Luis Torgo</i> | |
| Chapter 7 - First Workshop on Computational Methods in Bioinformatics and Systems Biology (CMBSB 2007) | |
| System Stability Via Stepping Optimal Control: Theory and Applications | 463 |
| <i>Binhua Tang, Li He, Susheng Chen, and Bairong Shen</i> | |
| Evaluating Simulated Annealing Algorithms in the Optimization of Bacterial Strains | 473 |
| <i>Miguel Rocha, Rui Mendes, Paulo Maia, José P. Pinto, Isabel Rocha, and Eugénio C. Ferreira</i> | |
| Feature Extraction from Tumor Gene Expression Profiles Using DCT and DFT | 485 |
| <i>Shulin Wang, Huowang Chen, Shutao Li, and Dingxing Zhang</i> | |
| Chapter 8 - Second Workshop on Intelligent Robotics (IROBOT 2007) | |
| An Omnidirectional Vision System for Soccer Robots | 499 |
| <i>António J.R. Neves, Gustavo A. Corrente, and Armando J. Pinho</i> | |
| Generalization and Transfer Learning in Noise-Affected Robot Navigation Tasks | 508 |
| <i>Lutz Frommberger</i> | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Heuristic Q-Learning Soccer Players: A New Reinforcement Learning Approach to RoboCup Simulation | 520 |
| <i>Luiz A. Celiberto Jr., Jackson Matsuura, and Reinaldo A.C. Bianchi</i> | |
| Human Robot Interaction Based on Bayesian Analysis of Human Movements | 530 |
| <i>Jörg Rett and Jorge Dias</i> | |
| Understanding Dynamic Agent's Reasoning | 542 |
| <i>Nuno Lau, Luís Paulo Reis, and João Certo</i> | |
| Chapter 9 - Fourth Workshop on Multi-agent Systems: Theory and Applications (MASTA 2007) | |
| Convergence of Independent Adaptive Learners | 555 |
| <i>Francisco S. Melo and Manuel C. Lopes</i> | |
| Multi-agent Learning: How to Interact to Improve Collective Results | 568 |
| <i>Pedro Rafael and João Pedro Neto</i> | |
| A Basis for an Exchange Value-Based Operational Notion of Morality for Multiagent Systems | 580 |
| <i>Antônio Carlos da Rocha Costa and Graçaliz Pereira Dimuro</i> | |
| Intelligent Farmer Agent for Multi-agent Ecological Simulations Optimization | 593 |
| <i>Filipe Cruz, António Pereira, Pedro Valente, Pedro Duarte, and Luís Paulo Reis</i> | |
| Tax Compliance Through MABS: The Case of Indirect Taxes | 605 |
| <i>Luis Antunes, João Balsa, and Helder Coelho</i> | |
| Chapter 10 - First Workshop on Search Techniques for Constraint Satisfaction (STCS 2007) | |
| Efficient and Tight Upper Bounds for Haplotype Inference by Pure Parsimony Using Delayed Haplotype Selection | 621 |
| <i>João Marques-Silva, Inês Lynce, Ana Graça, and Arlindo L. Oliveira</i> | |
| GRASPER: A Framework for Graph Constraint Satisfaction Problems | 633 |
| <i>Ruben Viegas and Francisco Azevedo</i> | |
| Chapter 11 - Second Workshop on Text Mining and Applications (TEMA 2007) | |
| Text Segmentation Using Context Overlap | 647 |
| <i>Radim Řehuřek</i> | |

XVIII Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Automatic Extraction of Definitions in Portuguese: A Rule-Based Approach | 659 |
| <i>Rosa Del Gaudio and António Branco</i> | |
| N-Grams and Morphological Normalization in Text Classification: A Comparison on a Croatian-English Parallel Corpus | 671 |
| <i>Artur Šilić, Jean-Hugues Chauchat, Bojana Dalbelo Bašić, and Annie Morin</i> | |
| Detection of Strange and Wrong Automatic Part-of-Speech Tagging | 683 |
| <i>Vitor Rocio, Joaquim Silva, and Gabriel Lopes</i> | |
| New Techniques for Relevant Word Ranking and Extraction | 691 |
| <i>João Ventura and Joaquim Ferreira da Silva</i> | |
| Author Index | 703 |