

Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 671

Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science

Hans Jürgen Ohlbach (Ed.)

GWAI-92: Advances in Artificial Intelligence

16th German Conference on Artificial Intelligence
Bonn, Germany, August/September 1992
Proceedings



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Preface

The sixteenth German AI Conference, traditionally called GWAI (German Workshop on Artificial Intelligence), was held from 13 August to 3 September 1992 in the Gustav Stresemann Institute in Bonn. In previous years the proceedings appeared in the Springer Series 'Informatik Fachberichte' and contributions were predominantly in German. Following a general trend, this year we decided to publish the proceedings in an international series. Accordingly, we asked authors to submit their work in English.

This volume contains 24 papers presented in the technical sessions, eight papers selected from the workshop contributions and one invited talk.

Our invited speakers were Harald Ganzinger, who spoke of 'New Concepts for Refutational Theorem Proving', Dov Gabbay, who discussed the problem of 'How to Build a Logic' (the paper is the first one in this volume), Steven Feiner, who talked about 'Knowledge-Based Graphics and Virtual Worlds', and Jörg Siekmann, who gave an overview of the history of AI research in Germany in his talk 'Quo Vadis, Unde Venis AI' (originally intended to be an after dinner talk).

Through the early years the format of the annual GWAI gradually changed from that of a workshop on AI research in Germany to a full-fledged AI conference. In recent years, however, the trend went back towards something similar to the original format giving workshops much greater prominence. Apart from the usual technical sessions nine special workshops were held. They were (the organizers are given in parenthesis): Control of Problem Solving Procedures (Karl Hans Bläsius, Jutta Eusterbrock, Manfred Kerber), Criteria for the Selection of Alternatives in Natural Language Generation (Helmut Horacek, Wolfgang Hoepfner), Terminological Logics (Jochen Heinsohn, Bernhard Hollunder, Albrecht Schmiedel), Distributed AI (Birgit Burmeister, Kurt Sundermeyer), Logic & Change (Bertram Fronhöfer, Alexander Herold, Remo Pareschi), Experiences from Early Phases of Expert System Development Projects (Brigitte Bartsch-Spörl, Heinz Marburger), Supporting Collaborative Work Between Human Experts and Intelligent Cooperative Information Systems (Stefan Kirn, Donald Steiner), Rule Based and Case Based Legal Reasoning (Thomas F. Gordon and Lothar Philipps), Impacts of AI—Analysis of a Discussion (Lena Bonsiepen, Wolfgang Coy). In fact, the workshops constituted a mini conference by themselves. Participants were invited on the basis of submitted abstracts. Some of the participants were invited to submit full paper versions of which the workshop organizers selected eight for inclusion in this volume. Proceedings of some of the workshops will be published separately.

It has become customary to start the conference with a day or two of 2–3 hour tutorials and introductory lectures. This year's topics included (the lecturers are given in parenthesis): Natural Language Processing (Martin Schröder), Coordination of Distributed AI Systems (Stefan Kirn), Inference Systems for Equationally Defined Structures (Rolf Socher-Ambrosius), Terminological Knowledge Representation (Franz Baader), Application of Machine Learning in Robotics (Rüdiger Dillmann, Hans-Werner Hein and Jürgen Kreuziger), Qualitative and Model Based Reasoning (Sabine Kockskämper and Klaus Nökel), and Constraint

Logic Programming (Alexander Herold).

As usual the major German AI Centers used the opportunity and presented themselves with talks and demonstrations. Present were: the Bavarian Research Centre for Knowledge-Based Systems (FORWISS), the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), Kaiserslautern and Saarbrücken, AI-Labs from Hamburg, the European Computer Industry Research Centre (ECRC), the research co-operation 'Artificial Intelligence Applications in Nordrhein-Westphalen' (KI-NRW), the 'Gesellschaft für Mathematik und Datenverarbeitung' (GMD) and the Research Institute for Application Oriented Knowledge Processing (FAW). I would like to thank the colleagues from these organizations who spent considerable time in preparing their presentation and who deserved a larger audience than they sometimes had.

I am indebted to the program committee for their effort and thought in organizing the program, to the invited speakers, to the workshop organizers and to the presenters of the tutorials. My special thanks go to the local organizers Thomas Christaller and, in particular, Christine Harms who has been an invaluable help ensuring that the event ran smoothly.

March 1993

Hans Jürgen Ohlbach

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Contents

Invited Paper

- How to Construct a Logic for Your Application 1
D. M. Gabbay

Technical Papers

- A Model Elimination Calculus with Built-in Theories 30
Peter Baumgartner
- A New Sorted Logic 43
Christoph Weidenbach
- An Explanatory Framework for Human Theorem Proving 55
Xiaorong Huang
- Towards First-Order Deduction Based on Shannon Graphs 67
Joachim Posegga and Bertram Ludäscher
- Success and Failure of Expert Systems in Different Fields of Industrial Application 77
Reinhard Bachmann, Thomas Malsch and Susanne Ziegler
- Viewing Knowledge Engineering as a Symbiosis of "Modeling to Make Sense" and "Modeling to Implement Systems" 87
Marc Linster
- Cases as a Basis for Knowledge Acquisition in the Pre-Formal Phases of Knowledge Engineering 100
Sonja Branskat and Marc Linster
- Controlling Generate & Test in any Time 110
Carl-Helmut Coulon, Frank van Harmelen, Werner Karbach and Angi Voß
- Efficient Computation of Solutions for Contradictory Time Interval Networks 122
Achim Weigel and Rainer Bleisinger
- Extensions of Concept Languages for a Mechanical Engineering Application 132
Franz Baader and Philipp Hanschke

Combining Terminological and Rule-Based Reasoning for Abstraction Processes <i>Philipp Hanschke and Knut Hinkelmann</i>	144
Forward Logic Evaluation: Compiling a Partially Evaluated Meta-Interpreter into the WAM <i>Knut Hinkelmann</i>	156
Concept Support as a Method for Programming Neural Networks with Symbolic Knowledge <i>Erich Prem, Markus Mackinger, Georg Dorffner, G. Porenta and H. Sochor</i>	166
A Heuristic Inductive Generalization Method and Its Application to VLSI-Design <i>Jürgen Herrmann and Renate Beckmann</i>	176
Learning Plan Abstractions <i>Ralph Bergmann</i>	187
On Discontinuous Q-Functions in Reinforcement Learning <i>Alexander Linden</i>	199
An Intelligent Tutoring System for Classification Problem Solving <i>Karsten Poeck and Martin Tins</i>	210
Knowledge-Based Processing of Medical Language: A Language Engineering Approach <i>Martin Schröder</i>	221
Text Planning in ITEX: A Hybrid Approach <i>Heike Kranzdorf and Ulrike Griefahn</i>	235
Yes/No Questions with Negation: Towards Integrating Semantics and Pragmatics <i>Marion Schulz and Daniela Schmidt</i>	247
An Efficient Decision Algorithm for Feature Logic <i>Esther König</i>	255
Universally Quantified Queries in Languages with Order- Sorted Logics <i>Stefan Decker and Christoph Lingenfelder</i>	267
A Semantic View of Explanation <i>Justus Meier</i>	272
Goal-Driven Similarity Assessment <i>Dietmar Janetzko, Stefan Wess and Erica Melis</i>	283

Workshop Contributions

Delegated Negotiation for Resource Re-Allocation <i>Jacques H. J. Lenting and Peter J. Braspenning</i>	299
Towards a Specification Language for Cooperation Methods <i>Paul de Greef, Keith Clark and Frank McCabe</i>	313
Improving Operating System Usage <i>Martin Kramer</i>	320
The Role of User Models for Conflicts in a Constraint-Based Model of Generation <i>Matthias E. Kölln</i>	334
Criteria in Natural Language Generation: Minimal Criteria and Their Impacts <i>Ernst Buchberger</i>	347
Terminological Representation, Natural Language & Relation Algebra <i>Renate A. Schmidt</i>	357
Linking Humans and Intelligent Systems or: What Are User Agents Good for? <i>Andreas Lux and Michael Kolb</i>	372
An Advisor for the Management of the Acute Radiation Syndrome <i>H. Kindler, D. Densow and T. M. Fliedner</i>	386
Authors Index	397