

MATES 2008

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The 6th German Conference on Multiagent System Technologies

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The 6th German Conference on Multiagent System Technologies (MATES 2008) was hosted, together with the co-located 31th German Conference on Artificial Intelligence (KI2008), by the University of Kaiserslautern and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI). From September 23th until September 26th 2008 mostly European research groups presented their work in six sessions framed by two invited talks given by Micheal Wooldridge (University of Liverpool, UK) and Sascha Ossowski (University Rey Juan Carlos Madrid, Spain) on the University of Kaiserslautern's campus.

The annual series of MATES conferences started in 2003 and has since then been an interdisciplinary forum for researchers, users and developers who are working in the field of multi-agent systems. The general co-chairs of the MATES conference series are Stefan Kirn (University of Hohenheim) and Michal Pěchouček (Czech Technical University). The MATES 2008 program chairs were Ralph Bergmann (University of Trier) and Gabriela Lindemann (University of Berlin).

Technical Program

The conference was a single-track conference, which allowed the participants to attend all talks. 16 papers out of 35 submissions were presented during the three conference days. The first conference day started with talks on learning in multiagent systems, followed by presentations about an agent based game framework for teaching multiagent systems in the classroom, incident communication support, as well as reinforcement learning for intrusion detection. After the last session, which focussed on the usage of Jade for implementing multiagent systems, most of the conference participants went to downtown Kaiserslautern to continue discussions while having dinner and a glass of beer.

The second conference day started with sessions on theoretical aspects of multiagent systems and multiagent systems in software development. The last session on decision making of agents included the winners of the MATES 2008 Best Paper Award, Javier Murillo, Víctor Muñoz, Beatriz López and Didac Busquets, who won the award for their paper on *A Fair Mechanism for Recurrent Multi-unit Auctions*. After the last session of the conference program the KI and MATES 2008 Conference Dinner took place in Kaiserslautern's Fruchthalle where the Best Paper Awards were ceremoniously presented to the awarded researchers.

Invited Talks

On the first day of the conference Sascha Ossowski from the University Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, gave a talk on coordination in multiagent systems, in which he presented various approaches enhanced with examples of real-world problems such as transportation management, m-Health, or e-Commerce. The second keynote speaker of the MATES and highlight of the conference was Micheal Wooldridge from the University of Liverpool, UK. In socks he spoke in a joint KI/MATES keynote session about the participation of computational agents in economically inspired mechanisms, the representation of social rules within a multiagent systems and the complexity of reasoning in such complex representations. He gave interesting insights in his work and his cooperation with colleagues from Liverpool, Bergen and Stanford.

Doctoral Mentoring Program

MATES 2008 also included a doctoral mentoring program, in which PhD students at advanced stages of their studies had the possibility to present their

research. Each PhD student had been assigned to a mentor in his or her field of research in advance of the conference, which gave them the opportunity to discuss the development of their PhD theses with established researchers during the conference and to receive valuable feedback. The talks during the Doctoral Program session on Friday were also a good forum for discussions and advices of and for the participants.

Conclusion

The MATES 2008 contributions mostly focused on very specialized aspects within multiagent systems, but also gave an overview in which kinds of application domains multiagent systems are already used. The co-location of MATES 2008 with the German Conference on AI was additionally valuable for the participants of both conferences and we would like to thank the organisers for the very good organisation of the conference that made MATES both, fun and productive, for all participants.

We are looking forward to MATES 2009 and are curious to see how the plans of the researchers have developed in the meantime.

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