

Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 4722

Edited by J. G. Carbonell and J. Siekmann

Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science

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Intelligent Virtual Agents

7th International Conference, IVA 2007
Paris, France, September 17-19, 2007
Proceedings

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2007934981

CR Subject Classification (1998): I.2.11, I.2, H.5, H.4, K.3

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 7 – Artificial Intelligence

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN-10 3-540-74996-9 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York
ISBN-13 978-3-540-74996-7 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Springer is a part of Springer Science+Business Media
springer.com

© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2007
Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 12161539 06/3180 5 4 3 2 1 0

Preface

The Intelligent Virtual Agents conference started in 1999 in Salford in Manchester, UK. It was a biannual event: in 2001, the conference was held in Madrid, Spain; in 2003 in Irsee, Germany; in 2005 on Kos, Greece. Since IVA 2006 held in Marina del Rey, California, USA, the conference has become an annual event.

Intelligent Virtual Agents (IVAs) are autonomous, graphically embodied agents in an interactive, 2D or 3D virtual environment. They are able to interact intelligently with the environment, other IVAs, and especially with human users. The conference is an interdisciplinary forum for researchers and practitioners in computer graphics, animation, computer games, virtual environments, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, cognitive modeling, human – computer interaction and artificial life. Since the first IVA back in 1999, firm lines of research have been established, but there is much that the graphics and AI communities can learn from each other.

This volume contains the proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on Intelligent Virtual Agents, IVA 2007, held in ENST, Paris, France September 17–19. As in 2005 and 2006, IVA hosted the Gathering of Animated Lifelike Agents (GALA 2007), an annual festival to showcase the latest animated lifelike agents created by university students and academic or industrial research groups. IVA 2007 received 100 submissions from all over the world. From these submissions, 19 are published as long and 12 as short papers. In addition, 32 posters were selected for presentation at the poster sessions and are published as 2-page descriptions. Finally, five industrialists were invited to demonstrate their products of which short descriptions appear in the proceedings. Apart from the short and long papers, three invited conferences were held: Luc Steels, Sony CSL Paris, France; Sotaro Kita, University of Birmingham, UK; and Drifa Benseghir, animator, France.

This conference could only happen thanks to the help of a large number of people. In particular we would like to thank the Program Committee, whose hard and contentious work allowed us to select the best submitted papers for presentation. We are also very grateful to all the authors that submitted so many high-quality papers. Their willingness to share ideas and projects together ensured the richness of the conference. We are very thankful to all the attendees of the conference. Special thanks go to the conference committee and local organizers—Martine Charrue, Lori Malatesta, Sophie Pageau-Maurice, Catherine Vazza and all the volunteer students—that made it possible to prepare and run the conference smoothly. We are indebted to our sponsors, &ftgroup France Telecom and the European Project IST FP6 IP Callas. And last but not least we

are very grateful to University Paris 8, CNRS-LIMSI, Augsburg University, and the National Technical University of Athens, and more particularly to ENST that hosted the conference.

September 2007

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