

Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 7352

Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science

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Diagrammatic Representation and Inference

7th International Conference, Diagrams 2012
Canterbury, UK, July 2-6, 2012
Proceedings



Springer

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ISSN 0302-9743 e-ISSN 1611-3349
ISBN 978-3-642-31222-9 e-ISBN 978-3-642-31223-6
DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-31223-6
Springer Heidelberg Dordrecht London New York

Library of Congress Control Number: 2012939642

CR Subject Classification (1998): H.5.2, H.5, H.4, I.3, K.4, F.4.1, G.2.2, I.2, G.3, J.4, J.3

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 7 – Artificial Intelligence

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Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India

Printed on acid-free paper

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Preface

The 7th International Conference on the Theory and Application of Diagrams—Diagrams 2012—was held in Canterbury, UK, during July 2012.

Diagrams is the only conference series that provides a united forum for all areas that are concerned with the study of diagrams, including architecture, art, artificial intelligence, cartography, cognitive science, computer science, education, graphic design, history of science, human–computer interaction, linguistics, logic, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, and software modelling. The conference attracts a large number of researchers from these fields, positioning Diagrams as a major international event in interdisciplinary research.

Diagram 2012 solicited long papers, short papers and posters. We received 54 long submissions, 17 short submissions and 12 poster submissions. This represents an increase on the previous conference, Diagrams 2010. Many long submissions were accepted as short papers or poster abstracts, similarly, some short papers were accepted as posters. The final totals in these proceedings are 16 long papers, 6 short papers and 21 poster abstracts, giving a long-paper acceptance rate of 30%.

Workshop proposals and tutorial suggestions were solicited. Three workshops and one tutorial were accepted. The workshops were held the day before and day after the main conference, and gave an opportunity for specialists in those research areas to converge and discuss their shared interests. The organizers of the workshops managed their own peer reviewing. A two-hour tutorial added further to the vitality of the conference program. The conference also included a Graduate Symposium which provided research students and recent graduates a forum to present their work and to network.

The conference was fortunate to include two excellent invited keynote speeches. Catherine Plaisant, a Senior Research Scientist at the Human–Computer Interaction Lab of the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, discussed interactions with temporal event sequence representations. Maxwell Roberts, an experimental psychologist at the University of Essex gave his talk on the usability, aesthetics and evaluation of transport schematics. The conference also coincided with the opening of his travelling exhibition, “Underground Maps Unravelling,” at the University of Kent.

We appreciate the contribution to the peer-review process of the Program Committee’s 29 members and of the additional reviewers. Each paper was considered by at least three reviewers, followed by a discussion phase. This peer review was organized using the EasyChair system. The quality and substance of the reviewers’ contributions allowed the Program Chairs to make decisions about acceptance with confidence.

The University of Kent Hospitality Department made an important contribution to the smooth running of the conference. We would like to thank the conference Organizing Committee for managing their responsibilities effectively. They also provided valuable support in running the conference. Nathaniel Miller applied for and administered a National Science Foundation (NSF) award to support the Graduate Symposium, and Lisa Best was awarded a grant from her institution, the University of New Brunswick, also in support of the Graduate Symposium. The Cognitive Science Society provided the best student paper prize in the main conference.

July 2012

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