

ECAI 2012

20TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Welcome to Montpellier !

We would like to welcome you to the beautiful city of Montpellier and to the 20th edition of the European Conference on Artificial Intelligence. If you regularly attend ECAI, you will be familiar with STAIRS, PAIS, the workshop and tutorials but you will also see that there are several novelties including the Anniversary and Turing Session, the Frontiers in AI and System Demonstration Tracks as well as this newsletter, which you will receive every morning. It will highlight the key activities that are planned during the day and will also provide you with some background information about ECAI and about Montpellier and its surroundings. It might also report on events that happened the day before, using images, so beware of the paparazzi !



Weather



Morning
20°C



Afternoon
27°C



Evening
23°C

Source : wunderground.com

PROGRAM CHANGE : (Aug. 27th) The tutorial of Michael Beetz has been moved to the MORNING SESSION.

STAIRS

Also the Starting AI Researcher Symposium welcomes you at Montpellier. It is the place to be if you want to know how to get a PhD in AI or even pursue an academic career in the field. Join our invited talks by Alan Bundy, Malte Helmert, Gemma Garriga, Andreas Krause and Michele Sebag to find out all about it. Also if you want to know the future of AI, then check out our great contributed talks and posters.

Congratulations to the new ECCAI Fellows !

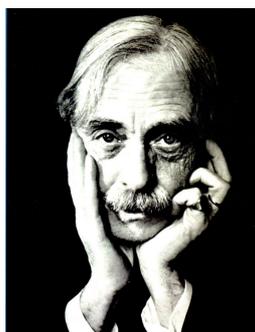
- José Alferes, Portugal - Universidade Nova de Lisboa
- Gerhard Friedrich, Austria - Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt
- Giuseppe de Giacomo, Italy - Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
- Nicola Guarino, Italy - Italian National Research Council
- Pedro Larrañaga, Spain - Technical University of Madrid
- Nicola Leone, Italy - University of Calabria
- Barry O'Sullivan, Ireland - University College Cork
- Torsten Schaub, Germany - University of Potsdam
- Andrzej Skowron, Poland - University of Warsaw

Workshops

2012 has witnessed not only the highest number of countries participating at the Olympics (204), but also the highest number of workshops at ECAI (38), although not a single medal will be given. ECAI 2012 workshops span all areas of AI, and explore its frontiers with other disciplines. A novelty : this year workshops were encouraged to have invited speakers and many of them have followed this idea, and have up to three invited talks. Thanks to all the organizers and invited speakers !

Question of the day

Did you know that ECCAI (the European Coordinating Committee for AI) is an umbrella organization gathering many national AI Societies? How many organizations participate in ECCAI ?



Paul Valéry

October 30th, 1871 – July 20th, 1945

Born in Sète, but raised in Montpellier, Valéry is best known as a poet, and he is sometimes considered to be the last of the French symbolists. In October 1892, he underwent an existential crisis, an event that made a huge impact on his writing career. As a consequence, around 1898, he quit writing altogether, and, for nearly twenty years, Valéry did not publish a single word. When, in 1917, he finally broke his 'great silence' with the publication of *La Jeune Parque*; he was forty-six years of age. This masterpiece, of 512 alexandrine lines in rhyming couplets, that had taken him four years to complete, it immediately secured his fame. Valéry's most striking achievement is perhaps his monumental intellectual diary, called the *Cahiers* (Notebooks). The subjects of his *Cahiers* entries often were, surprisingly, reflections on science and mathematics.

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About Montpellier

Montpellier is the capital of the Languedoc-Roussillon region, as well as the Hérault department. Montpellier is also the 8th largest city of the country, and the fastest growing city in France over the past 25 years. It is the third-largest French city on the Mediterranean coast after Marseille and Nice. Its history goes back to the early middle ages when people had to move inland because of raids of pirates. It was first mentioned in a document of 985. Today it has about 250 000 inhabitants. (Wikipedia)

Tutorials

Are you interested in...

- robots that can help you with cleaning up, preparing meals or setting the table ?
- or, do you want to learn about the incredible richness of machine learning ?
- or, what submodular functions are, and how they are used in AI and optimization and AI ?
- or, how to use Logics in multi-agent systems ?
- or, do you prefer reasoning about constraints or preferences ?

...then checkout the seven **invited tutorials** by leading researchers in the field that will be held today and tomorrow at ECAI 2012.

RuleML

RuleML is a non-profit umbrella organization consisting of several technical groups working on rule technologies and applications. It acts as an intermediary between various specialized rule vendors, industrial and academic research groups, as well as standardization bodies such as W3C, OMG, OASIS, and ISO. One of its major contributions is the Rule Markup Language, a unifying family of XML-serialized rule languages spanning across all industrially relevant kinds of Web rules, rule engines, formal and operational semantics as well as standardization efforts. RuleML 2012 papers reflects the significant role of rules in several research and application areas.

Feel like going to the beach ?

What about going to the beach ? Montpellier's coast offers several possibilities to fully enjoy the Mediterranean summer during (or after) the conference.

If you prefer a quiet beach with no bars (ok, a couple, but no more than that) and just sea and sand, then "Le Petit Travers" is your place ! To get there, take the Line 3 tram from Gare St-Roch, direction Pérols Étangs (runs every 15 minutes) and change for the bus (132) to Petit Travers at Perols Étangs station. The journey takes around 30 minutes. In the summer at peak (from 11AM to 5PM), it can get quite busy. But do not worry about that – at Petit Travers there is a free shuttle taking you along the beach as far or as close to the bus station as you wish !

If, on the other hand you prefer beaches in small and lively holiday towns, then you should go to Carnon or La Grande Motte. Reaching both cities is not harder than the other option. Bus number 106 takes you from station Place de France (Line 1 tram) to both cities. Count around 15 minutes for Carnon and 25 minutes for La Grande Motte. Getting to Place de France from the Corum takes around 20 minutes.



Eating in Montpellier

The best way to find a nice and quiet restaurant is by simply walking around a bit ! Montpellier's center has a lot of restaurants and the discovery is part of the fun. During lunch hours (12PM - 2PM) some places might be full and service might take longer, so plan accordingly.

Brasserie du Theatre
22, Boulevard Victor Hugo
Menu @ 27 Euros.

"A great pre-war brasserie with loads of atmosphere in an excellent location just around the corner from the Opera at the Place de la Comédie." (TripAdvisor)



Meet the crew !

Can't find the room you are looking for ? Do you need any specific help ? Let the ECAI 2012 staff assist you in order to fully enjoy the conference. ECAI 2012 staff members can be easily found at the UM2 Campus (today and tomorrow) and at the Corum (rest of the days). Beside the people at the registration desk, there will be one staff member in each room during the sessions, and a few others walking around verifying if everything is under control. Contact them for any help you might need. It is very easy to identify them : they are wearing blue ECAI 2012 shirts and have yellow badges !