

ECAI 2012

20TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Opening Ceremony

Join us for the opening session, starting at 6PM in the Corum. There will be brief opening speeches, several awards will be handed out and Wolfram Burgard will deliver his keynote talk. The keynote will be followed by a sparkling welcome cocktail with tasty buffet dinner. The welcome cocktail and buffet are included in the main conference fee, so do not miss it !

How to get to the Corum

The opening session will take place at the Corum congress site. It is located in the center of the town, very close to the Place de la Comédie or Antigone area. To reach Corum from the center of Montpellier you will walk around 5 - 10 minutes. By tram : the Corum stop is well served by 3 tram lines (Lines 1, 2 and 4). Get off at the Corum tram stop and then go up the stairs (or the elevator) in front of you. The entrance to the Congress Hall will be on your left.



Weather



Morning
22°C



Afternoon
26°C



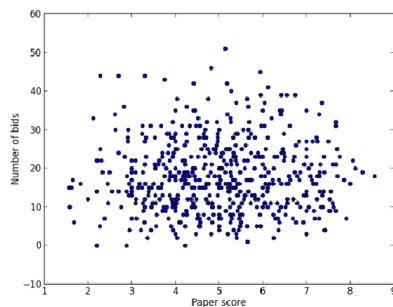
Evening
23°C

Source : wunderground.com

Paper Statistics

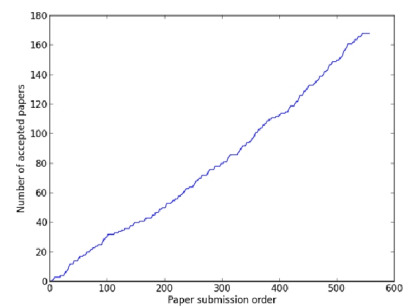
The table lists the number of submitted papers that used a particular keyword. Note that papers use multiple keywords. The table also orders these keywords according to their acceptance rates. So, if you want to maximize the probability of acceptance at ECAI 2014 you should preferably use keywords related to Constraints, SAT and Search and avoid Robotics. If you are into Robotics, you'd better pretend you're in into Planning. It might increase your chances of getting accepted.

Constraint, SAT & Search	104
Planning	84
Knowledge Representation	184
Natural Language Processing	47
Agents & Multi-Agents	148
Uncertainty in AI	50
Machine Learning	121
Perception	13
Knowledge Based Information Systems	65
Multidisciplinary	112
Robotics	24



You might also wonder whether popular papers get better overall scores. As can be seen in the plot on the left, this is not the case. This is confirmed by a correlation coefficient which is only 0.009. So there is no need to use buzzwords in papers.

Finally, does it help to submit your paper early? The plot on the right lists papers on the X-axis in the order that they were registered in ConfMaster and then on the Y-axis the total number of papers that came in before and have been accepted. Since this is almost linear, the answer is no. Most submissions (2/3) arrive on the last two days before the deadline. Focusing only on the earlier submitters does not change this picture.



Use the ticket in your envelope and pick up a bottle of red or muscat wine from Tuesday 4PM onwards.

Red Wine

Domaine Calage-Resseguier was founded in 2000 by three passionate wine producers in a small village of Languedoc. High quality wine is produced from grapes grown on eight hectares of small vineyard plots with clay-limestone or schist soils on the banks of Lake Salagou. The Laurus Nobilis vintage is a direct product of these two very contrasted soils. The vinification involves manual harvesting during the coolest times of the day, followed by alcoholic fermentation using natural yeasts, with a long maceration period. The wine's fruity character is preserved by maturing in vats for nine months. Well developed bouquet with delicate floral notes. A highly feminine, round and supple attack. The Grenache grapes are in their full element here. Chill slightly before drinking.

Muscat Wine

Domaine de la Plaine is a small family vineyard located in the Gardiole massif region. High quality wines are produced from exceptional grapes through a traditional vinification process. Cuvée Christho is produced with 100% "Muscat Blancs à Petits Grains" grapes that grow in gravelly clay-limestone soil in the Mediterranean coastal region. The vinification involves manual harvesting, only in the morning, followed by long fermentation at low temperature. Pale golden coloured. Powerful bouquet expressing its full aromatic potential, bold attack, white fruit notes, a perfect alcohol-sugar balance and good length on the palate. An aperitif or dessert wine to drink at 8-10 °C as an accompaniment to fruit salads.

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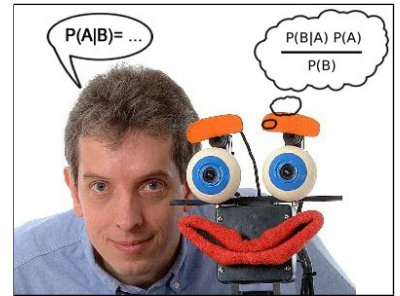
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Keynote by Wolfram Burgard

Probabilistic Techniques for Mobile Robot Navigation

Probabilistic approaches are one of the most powerful approaches to mobile robotics. Prof. Burgard will talk about major challenges in mobile robot navigation such as how to deal with highly complex state estimation problems and how to control the robot so that it efficiently carries out its task. He will present recently developed techniques for efficiently learning a map of an unknown environment and report on results that have been obtained with mobile robots in real-world environments.

Wolfram Burgard is a professor at the University of Freiburg, Germany, where he heads the Laboratory for Autonomous Intelligent Systems. He is also the recipient of the prestigious Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz-Preis in 2009 and an advanced ERC grant in 2010.



Pictures from Day 1



With over fifteen parallel sessions the program is very exciting !



Despite the morning rush, the volunteers keep their smile.



The coffee break are in the shade under the olive trees.



The RuleML early start did not discourage participants.

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. The restaurant featured today is starred at Michelin guide, so think of booking in advance.

La Réserve Rimbaud
820, Avenue St. Maur
Menu @ 60 Euros.

"The outside is worth the visit for the beautiful view and its calm atmosphere (it is a secluded and long raised platform on the banks of a river)" (TripAdvisor)



ECCAI Dissertation Award

The award this year goes to Jürgen Sturm for his thesis *Approaches to Model Learning for Mobile Manipulation Robots*.

There are also honorable mentions for Mario Alviano and Michael Spranger; find out all about it in Session 3A on Wednesday.

Question of the day

Who will get the ECAI 2012 Best Paper and Best Student Paper Awards? (Will be announced during the opening)



Nostradamus

December 14th or 21th, 1503 – July 2nd, 1566

A French apothecary and reputed seer who published collections of prophecies that have since become famous worldwide. In 1529, after some years as an apothecary, he entered the University of Montpellier to study for a doctorate in medicine. He was expelled shortly afterwards by the university's procurator, Guillaume Rondelet, when it was discovered that he had been an apothecary, a "manual trade" expressly banned by the university statutes. The expulsion document still exists in the faculty library. After some time he began to move away from medicine and toward the occult. Following popular trends, he wrote an almanac for 1550, for the first time Latinizing his name from Nostredame to Nostradamus. He was so encouraged by the almanac's success that he decided to write one or more annually. Taken together, they are known to have contained at least 6,338 prophecies.