Happy Birthday!

This is the 20th ECAI, it is 25 years since the journal AI Communications started and 100 years since Alan Turing was born. This will be celebrated in the special Anniversary and Turing Sessions that take place from 10:30AM till 12:40PM (from today until Friday).

Talks on a variety of topics related to Alan Turing, European AI and historical accounts of various subfields will be delivered by pioneers in the field: Wolfgang Bibel, Alan Bundy, Hector Geffner, Malik Ghallab, Stephen Muggleton, Erik Sandewall, Michele Sebag, and Aaron Sloman. You will learn how Turing has foreseen several developments in artificial intelligence (related to e.g. computational logic and machine learning), about how the field of AI got organized in Europe, about historical developments in and perspectives on artificial intelligence and the many subfields.

Weather

☀️	Morning	24°C
⛈️	Afternoon	27°C
☁️	Evening	23°C

Source: wunderground.com

IBM and Watson

You are kindly invited to stop by the IBM booth at level 0 in the Corum; meet with the IBM experts and see some demonstrations on Business Rules, Optimization, and of course, Watson.

The IBM Client Center in Montpellier and the IBM Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) are also delighted to invite you to an IBM discovery event on collaborative research projects, the state-of-the-art on Watson and other innovative AI technologies. Presentations will cover Watson, Big Data, Big Insights, Social Media, Energy Efficiency, High Performance Computing (HPC), Business Analytics and Optimization (BAO) and more. More information is in your welcome pack or at the IBM booth.

ECCAI Best Papers

The ECAI 2012 Best Paper Award goes to:

An Analysis of Chaining in Multi-Label Classification
Krzysztof Dembczynski, Willem Waegeman, Eyke Hüllermeier

And the ECAI 2012 Best Student Paper Award goes to:

Complexity of Branching Temporal Description Logics
Victor Gutierrez-Basulto, Jean Christoph Jung, Carsten Lutz

They will be presented in Sessions 1C and 5E. Congratulations !

Keynote by Adnan Darwiche

Generalized Decision Diagrams: The game is not over yet!

Prof. Adnan Darwiche from UCLA, California, will talk about the influential role of decision diagrams in computer science and AI, and about a generalization of Ordered Binary Decision Diagrams called Sentential Decision Diagrams. He will discuss recent theoretical and empirical results and the ongoing quest for practical generalizations of OBDDs.

Prof. Darwiche's interests include probabilistic and symbolic reasoning, with their applications to diagnosis, planning, and cognition, in addition to system design and analysis. He is a former chair of the CS department at UCLA and a former editor-in-chief for the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research.

François Rabelais
1494 – April 9th, 1553

A major French Renaissance writer, doctor, Renaissance humanist, monk and Greek scholar. He has historically been regarded as a writer of fantasy, satire, the grotesque, bawdy jokes and songs. His best known work is Gargantua and Pantagruel. Rabelais was first a novice of the Franciscan order, and later a friar at Fontenay-le-Comte, where he studied Greek and Latin, as well as science, philology, and law. Later he left the monastery to study at the University of Poitiers and University of Montpellier. Using the pseudonym Alcofribas Nasier (an anagram of François Rabelais minus the cedille on the c), in 1532 he published his first book, Pantagruel, that would be the start of his Gargantua series.
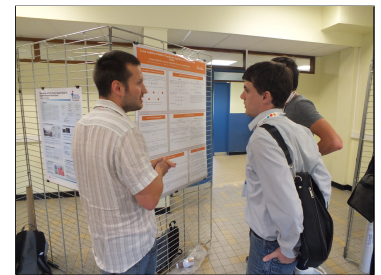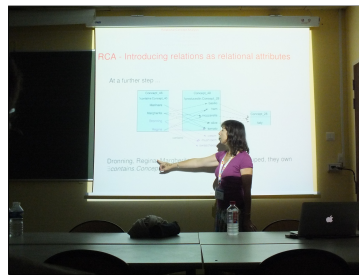
ECAI 2012

20ᵀᴴ EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Tourism Tip: Palavas-les-Flots

Palavas-les-Flots is a seaside resort twelve kilometers south of Montpellier, at the Mediterranean Sea. It lies on a strip of sand dunes that separates two lakes, Étang de l'Arnel and Étang du Méjean, from the sea. From Port Marianne (Tram Line 1), following the river Lez, there is a bike route that will get you directly to the beach. You can do this by foot (10 km) or by bike. To rent bikes go to the TAM office in front of the railway station. Alternatively, at the left hand side of the train station there is a bike station that allows you to hire bikes simply using your credit card. If you plan to do this during the day do not forget sunglasses and a hat since there is no shade throughout the route! The scenery is amazing and well worth it: white horses, pink flamingos and many birds! In Palavas you may have a drink or food by the waterfront or simple relax on the beach. If you're not very interested in cycling, you can always go there by bus. Bus number 131 from Pérols - Étangs (Tram Line 3) will drop you in Palavas after a 15 minutes ride.

Pictures from Day 2

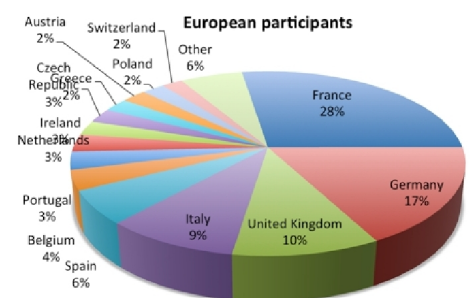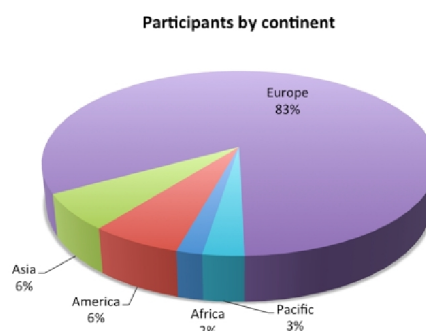ECAI 2012 towels have already been used at the UM2 Campus.

But not yesterday morning, due to the wind and the heavy rain.

A quick look at the FCA4AI Workshop.

People attending the STAIRS poster session.

Yes, we are from Europe!

As is clear from the following two pie charts that lists all the registered participants before **August 13th** (excluding organizers).

Participants by continent

Europe 83%, Asia 6%, America 6%, Africa 2%, Pacific 3%

European participants

Austria 2%, Switzerland 2%, Poland 2%, Other 6%, Czech Republic 3%, Greece 2%, Ireland 2%, Netherlands 3%, Portugal 3%, Belgium 4%, Spain 6%, Italy 9%, United Kingdom 10%, Germany 17%, France 28%

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.

playfood
16, Boulevard Louis Blanc

"Everything comes in shot glasses, and it's recommended 8-10 per person (€2/glass). Hot/Cold/Dessert Options. It catered well for veggies." (TripAdvisor)

Question of the Day

Where and when did the first European Conference on AI take place ? (Could there be two possible answers ?) (Find that out in the Anniversary Sessions)