ECAI 2012

20TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Keynote by Tom Mitchell

Never Ending Learning

We will never really understand learning or intelligence until we can build machines that learn many different things, over years, and become better learners over time. This talk describes our research to build a Never Ending Language Learner (NELL) that runs 24 hours per day, forever, learning to read the web. Each day NELL learns to read better than yesterday, enabling it to go back to the text it read yesterday, and extract more facts, more accurately. NELL has been running for over two years now. The result so far is a collection of 15 million interconnected beliefs that NELL is considering at different levels of confidence, along with hundreds of thousands of learned phrasings, morphological features, and web page structures that NELL uses to extract beliefs from the web.

Prof. Tom Mitchell founded and chairs the Machine Learning Department at Carnegie Mellon University, where he is the E. Fredkin University Professor. He believes the field of machine learning will be the fastest growing branch of computer science during the 21st century.

Pictures from the Opening Ceremony

Program, Conference and Local chairs together on stage.

Many participants attended the opening session.

C. Morales, from Montpellier Agglomération, spoke first.

A.Y. Le Dain, from Languedoc region was then given the floor.

M. Robert, president of University of Montpellier.

M. Huchard, one of LIRMM's deputy directors.

C. Bessiere closed the session by giving local information.

And then W. Burgard could start his keynote on Robotics !

Poster Sessions

The poster session of ECAI 2012 and PAIS is taking place from 4PM until 6PM. The posters have been selected on the basis of a two page short paper.

Did you know that reviewers were almost as tough on these short papers as on the long ones as the acceptance rates are very similar ? (28,5% for long and 32,3% for short papers at ECAI 2012)

PAIS

Today, the subconference on Prestigious Applications of Intelligent Systems (PAIS) will be held in Joffre CD. The program will feature nine presentations covering applications of AI to a wide range of problems in medicine, industrial, civil and software engineering. The sessions will also feature two best paper awards to papers about autonomous vehicle driving and management of renewable energy sources.
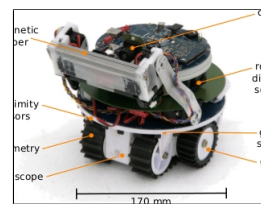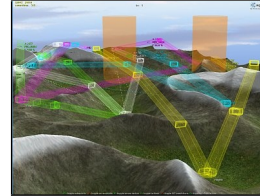
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System Demonstrations

Curious about how AI technology can be used ? Take the chance to interact with 11 exciting demonstrations at the demo session. A wide range of applications will be demonstrated, from smart phone applications for interacting with food to multi-agent systems for simulating air traffic and training crisis managers to mobile robots for autonomous construction and industrial quality control.

An ECAI Best Demonstration Award will be awarded to the best demonstration based on a popular vote by the ECAI 2012 audience and the opinion of the demo track committee. Take the chance to influence the decision by voting for your favorite demonstration !

Weather

Morning
23°C

Afternoon
24°C

Evening
20°C

Source : wunderground.com

Tourism Tip : Nîmes

Nimes is a old roman town just 40 minutes away from Montpellier by train. Train connections are very regular : count around 25 euros for a return ticket. The last train returning to Montpellier from Nimes is around 22 :30, so please plan your trip accordingly.

The Arena of Nîmes is a Roman amphitheatre. Built around 70 AD, it was remodeled in 1863 to serve as a bullring. It is now used for two annual bullfights, and also for several concerts during summer. Although the amphitheatre is smaller than the Colosseum in Rome, it is definitely a sight to see. Once inside, you can freely roam around and explore the different layers of the arena (both inside and outside this structure), aswell as the incredible views of the surrounding city from the uppermost level of the amphitheatre. The audioguide included with your admission ticket is very informative and enjoyable.

Eating in Sète

Sète is a fishing town only 15-20 minutes by train from Montpellier. The last train leaves Sète for Montpellier around 10PM. Enjoy a nice 10 minute walk from the Sète railway station to the center and be spoilt for a choice of fresh seafood restaurants by the waterfront. Depending on your tastes, a menu may vary from 20 to 30 euros, wine not included. The return train ticket is around 12€.

Banquet tonight !

Valmagne Abbey was founded as a Benedectine abbey in 1138. It was sold during the French Revolution and converted into a wine cave, a function it continues to serve today. Nowadays a historical monument, Valmagne is open to tourists since 1975.

Do not miss this unique opportunity to visit a very picturesque site while enjoying the esquisite food and wine at the ECAI banquet. Buses will wait in front of the Corum to take you there and back, and if you want to come but do not have a ticket yet, or bring friends or family, a few tickets are still available for sale.

Auguste Comte
January 19th, 1798 – September 5th, 1857

Born in Montpellier, Comte is the founder of the discipline of sociology and of the doctrine of positivism. He may be regarded as the first philosopher of science in the modern sense of the term. Strongly influenced by the Utopian socialist Henri Saint-Simon, Comte developed the positive philosophy in an attempt to remedy the social malaise of the French Revolution, calling for a new social doctrine based on the sciences. Comte's social theories culminated in the "religion of humanity", which was influential to the development of religious humanist and Secular Humanist organizations in the 19th century. Comte likewise coined the word "altruism".