

ECAI 2012

20TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Keynote by Michael Wooldridge

Bad Equilibria, and what to do about them

In economics, an equilibrium is a steady-state situation. Equilibrium concepts are arguably the most important and widely used analytical weapons in the game theory arsenal. The concept of Nash equilibrium in particular has found a huge range of applications. However, there remain fundamental problems associated with Nash equilibria and their application. In this presentation, I will introduce work that we have done addressing these problems from a computational/AI perspective. Assuming no prior knowledge of game theory or economic solution concepts, I will discuss various ways in which we can try to engineer a scenario so that desirable equilibria result, or else engineer out undesirable equilibria.

Michael Wooldridge is a Professor of Computer Science in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford, and a Senior Research Fellow at Hertford College since 1 June 2012; before this he was a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Liverpool. In 2011, he was awarded a 5-year ERC Advanced Grant.

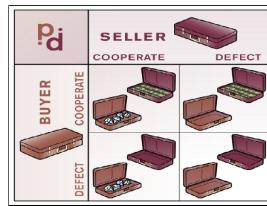
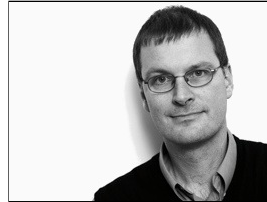


Image by Chris Jensen and Greg Riestenberg

Weather



Morning
21°C



Afternoon
24°C



Evening
18°C

Source : wunderground.com

Frontiers of AI

The novel track of ECAI on Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence features six young explorers of Artificial Intelligence who will report on their endeavors to push the boundaries of artificial intelligence beyond its current frontiers.

If you want to learn about computational creativity, imprecise-probabilistic models, dialogical argumentation, lifted inference, development learning and robot skill learning, or simply curious to see and hear explorers Simon Colton, Gert De Cooman, Anthony Hunter, Kristian Kersting, Pierre-Yves Oudeyer, or Jan Peters, you should attend the Frontiers of AI Sessions (11 :45AM - 1PM and 2 :30PM - 4 :30PM). They will provide an account of their travels into territory that was unknown until recently.

ECCAI Chair

Thanks a lot to **Gerhard Brewka** for his great service as ECCAI Chair over the past four years. His term as an ECCAI Chair has now come to the end, and we are glad to announce the name of the new ECCAI Chair for the upcoming years.

So please welcome the new ECCAI Chair, **Patrick Doherty**, on the bottom right.



Tourism Tip : Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert

Situated in the narrow valley of the Gellone river where it meets the steep sided gorge of the Hérault River, Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert is essentially a medieval village located on the Chemin de St Jacques pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela. The village has maintained its historic state. Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert is part of the Plus Beaux Villages de France (most beautiful villages of France), and the Abbey of Gellone, along with the nearby Pont du Diable were designated UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.

To reach Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, you should take the tram Line 1 to the Mosson stop, and from there take the bus number 308. Count around one hour to get there but check the timetable first. There are 2 buses to go and 2 to come back (Saturday is a good option because of the convenient times of the buses). If not, you may also rent a car (all major renting companies can be found at Montpellier railway station) and enjoy full freedom !



Rémi Gaillard

February 7th, 1975 -

Born in Montpellier, Gaillard is a French humorist who uploads videos on YouTube. After losing his job at a shoe store, Rémi began to use his free time to have fun and run pranks on the public. He is the seventeenth most subscribed comedian on YouTube. On his official site, Gaillard claims over 1.35 billion views on his videos on the web. Each of his videos claim at least 1,000,000 views. His most popular video, "Mario Kart", has over 48 million views alone. He is also a fervent supporter of the local football club, Montpellier Hérault Sport Club, champion of French Ligue 1 for the first time in 2011-12.

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Pictures of ECAI 2012



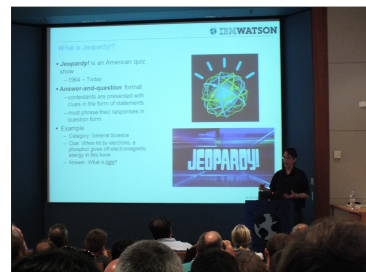
Many of the participants attended the Opening Cocktail.



Nice food and drinks encouraged a lively atmosphere.



The keynote talk on Wednesday has been well attended.



Presentation of Watson at the IBM visit on Wednesday.

ECAI 2014

From the 17th to the 22nd of August 2014, the 21th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI 2014) will be held in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. Prague is very famous for its large and beautiful historic center which is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, showcasing a plentitude of architectural styles. The conference will take place in the Clarion Congress Center, which is not far away from the city center. Besides conference facilities, the venue offers over five hundred 4-Star hotel rooms with prices negotiated for the conference participants to a very affordable level, and also features a direct entrance to a station of the subway (metro).

Torsten Schaub will be the program chair of ECAI 2014.



Advanced Course on AI (ACAI 2013)

Argumentation is an important cognitive process for humans to cope with conflicts in the world around them. Within AI, there has been increasing activity in developing computational models of argument to analyse conflicting information, to support decision making, to characterize aspects of persuasion and negotiation. Reflecting this activity in AI, ACAI 2013, the summer school on AI that is organized biannually by ECCAI will be on "Argumentation and Agreement", to be held in King's College London in July 2013. The week-long summer school is intended for PhD students from across Europe, and ECCAI is providing grants for some students to attend. Contact : Anthony Hunter.

ECAI 2016

On Wednesday the General Assembly of ECCAI has chosen The Hague in The Netherlands as the site for ECAI 2016. The Hague is one of the largest cities in the Netherlands conveniently located close to international airport and on the European high speed train network. Combining a lively historic center and proximity to the beach, The Hague is not only the site of the Dutch government and home to the Queen, but also hosts the International Peace Tribunal. ECAI 2016 will be jointly organised by the Utrecht University, the Delft University of Technology and BNVKI, the Benelux AI association.

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 crowded and service might take longer, so plan accordingly.

Le Chat Perché

10, Rue du Collège Duvergier
Menu @ 30 Euros, including wine.

"Very good food, nicely presented, very good atmosphere. It's in a fairly quiet road so you'll be able to enjoy the view of a small marketplace from the terrace in summer."



ECCAI Distinguished Service

The first ECCAI Distinguished Service award goes to **Erik Sandewall**.

Goodbye !

ECAI 2012 is now close to the end, and the ECAI 2012 organization team hopes you had a great time with us here in Montpellier for the conference.