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Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR&R) is an exciting and well-established field of research in Artificial Intelligence, and more broadly in Computer Science. In KR&R a fundamental assumption is that an agent’s knowledge is explicitly represented in a declarative form, suitable for processing by dedicated reasoning engines. This assumption, that much of what an agent deals with is knowledge-based, is common in many modern intelligent systems. Consequently, KR&R has contributed to the theory and practice of many areas in AI, ranging from automated planning to natural language understanding and machine learning, as well as to fields beyond AI, including databases, software engineering, the semantic web, computational biology, the development of software agents, formal methods, and robotics.

The KR conference series is the leading forum for the timely, in-depth presentation of progress in the theory and principles underlying the representation and computational management of knowledge. It is intended to foster communication and a cross-fertilization of ideas within the area, as well as collaboration across research boundaries. As a consequence, the topics addressed at KR 2020, in common with previous KR conferences, were diverse and covered a broad range of research areas.

This year, to further increase the diversity of the topics, in addition to the main conference track, for the very first time at a KR conference, KR 2020 included the following tracks and special sessions:

• Applications and Systems Track: This track invited submissions of papers on emerging and deployed applications of KR, describing all aspects of the development, deployment, and evaluation of KR systems to solve real-world problems, including interesting case studies and benchmarks, and discussing lessons learned.

• Recent Published Research Track: This track provided a forum to discuss important results related to KR that appeared recently in selective journals and conferences, but have not been previously presented at KR.

• Special Session on KR and Machine Learning: This special session invited submissions of papers on synergistic integration of KR and machine learning methods.

• Special Session on KR and Robotics: This special session invited submissions of papers on synergistic integration of KR and Robotics methods.

• Special Session on Women in KR: This special session recognized contributions of female KR researchers.

For KR 2020, the most popular topics included answer set programming, applications and systems, argumentation, belief revision and nonmonotonicity, computational aspects of KR, description logics, epistemic planning, explainability, KR and machine learning, KR and robotics, model checking and verification, ontologies and knowledge graphs, plans and strategies, query answering, reasoning about actions and change, spatial and temporal reasoning, and uncertainty and preferences.

We received 241 full and short paper submissions to the main technical program (including the Applications and Systems track, and the special sessions on KR and Machine Learning, and KR and Robotics), of which 83 (34%) were accepted as full papers, 12 (5%) were accepted as short papers, and 29 were recommended for poster presentations. In addition, we received 44 submissions to the Recent Published Research Track, of which 25 (57%) were accepted for presentation at the conference.

This year the following papers received the best paper awards:


• Ray Reiter Best Paper Award Runner-Up: “Logical Separability of Incomplete Data under Ontologies”, by Jean Christoph Jung, Carsten Lutz, Hadrien Pulcini, and Frank Wolter.

• Marco Cadoli Best Student Paper Award: “Treewidth-Aware Reductions of Normal ASP to SAT – Is Normal ASP Harder than SAT After All?”, by Markus Hecher.

• Marco Cadoli Best Student Paper Award Runner-Up: “On the Approximability of Weighted Model Integration on DNF Structures”, by Ralph Abboud, Ismail Ilkan Ceylan, and Radoslav Dimitrov.

We are very grateful to our award committee—Gabriele Kern-Isberner, David Poole, and Tran Cao Son—for contributing their time, expertise, and effort.

In addition, KR 2020 has initiated the tradition of test-of-time awards, which from now on will be given at every KR conference. There will generally be two types of awards:

• A Prominent Paper Award to recognize outstanding papers published in a window of 3 conference editions about 10 years ago (i.e., the conference that took place 10 years ago, and one edition before and one after that conference).

• A Classic Paper Award to recognize outstanding papers published in a window of 3 conference editions about 20 years ago (i.e., the conference that took place 20 years ago, and one edition before and one after that conference).

For the first edition of the test-of-time awards at KR 2020, we have decided to give two Classic Paper Awards by also considering the conferences that took place more than 20 years ago. The following two Classic Paper Awards were selected, one for the window of 1989, 1991, and 1992 KR conferences, and another one for the window of 1998, 2000, and 2002 KR conferences:


We are very grateful to our test-of-time award committee—Thomas Eiter, Jerome Lang, and Ulrike Sattler—for contributing their time, expertise, and effort.

KR 2020 had an open call for workshops and tutorials. We had a strong workshop and a tutorial program on a variety of interesting and timely topics covering the whole spectrum of KR&R:

- **WS:** Explainable Logic-Based Knowledge Representation (XLoKR 2020);
- **WS:** International Workshop on Applications of AI to Forensics (AI2Forensics);
- **WS:** Models of Legal Reasoning (MLR);
- **WS:** Reasoning about Actions and Events over Streams (RACES);
- **Tutorial:** Argumentative Explanations in AI, by Francesca Toni (Imperial College London, United Kingdom) and Antonio Rago (Imperial College London, United Kingdom);
- **Tutorial:** Cognitive Logics – Formal and Cognitive Methods for Reasoning in an Uncertain and Dynamic World, by Gabriele Kern-Isberner (TU Dortmund, Germany) and Marco Ragni (University of Freiburg, Germany);
- **Tutorial:** Dynamic Epistemic Logic and Epistemic Planning, by Andreas Herzig (IRIT, Toulouse, France);
- **Tutorial:** Practical Uses of Existential Rules in Knowledge Representation, by David Carral (TU Dresden, Germany), Markus Krötzsch (TU Dresden, Germany) and Jacopo Urbani (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

The workshops and tutorials were held over a period of three days preceding the main conference.

In addition, KR 2020 was strengthened and enhanced by the co-location of the 33rd International Workshop on Description Logics (DL 2020) and the 19th International Workshop on Non-Monotonic Reasoning (NMR 2020).

As with previous KR conferences, the conference program included five invited talks on traditional KR&R topics, as well as on emerging application areas:

- Rachid Alami (LAAS-CNRS, ANITI, France): *Models and decisional issues for human-robot joint action*;
- Thomas Eiter (Vienna University of Technology, Austria): *Great Moments in KR: A Hitchhiker’s tour through computational complexity in knowledge representation and reasoning*;
- Mateja Jamnik (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom): *How to (re)represent it?*
- Marta Kwiatkowska (University of Oxford, United Kingdom): *Probabilistic model checking for strategic equilibria-based decision making*;
- Gary Marcus (Robust AI, USA): *Taking AI to the Next Level*;
- David Poole (University of British Columbia, Canada): *Lessons from three decades of research into learning and reasoning with relational probabilistic models*.

The planning and organization of KR 2020 took place in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, and this obviously had a big impact on the event itself. The initial planning of the conference was for a hybrid modality, combining in presence participation in Rhodes (Greece) with the possibility of remote presentations. However, due to a resurgence of Covid-19 cases in mid August, after consulting with the KR Steering Committee, it was decided to switch to a purely virtual conference modality. The same conference dates as the ones foreseen for the hybrid conference were maintained, but the length of all presentations was shortened. This made it possible to shorten the duration of the conference day and made it easier to follow remotely the presentations, which were all broadcast by video-conference. In addition, the presentations were recorded and made publicly available, so that participants all over the world could follow them also asynchronously, compatibly with their timezone. The switch to a virtual modality required additional efforts on the part of the organizers, and a virtual conference arrangement team was set up specifically for this.

We wish to thank those people who helped in the many aspects that were needed to make KR 2020 a successful event. The Area Chairs, Track Chairs, Special Session Chairs, Program Committee members and additional reviewers were very helpful and supportive in their thorough and timely review of the submissions. Vaishak Belle (University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom) and Rafael Penaloy Nyssen (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy) took over the important task of organizing the Doctoral Consortium, while Anni-Yasmin Turhan (TU Dresden, Germany) and Renata Wassermann (University of Sao Paulo, Brasil) acted as Workshop and Tutorial Co-chairs. Theofanis Aravanis (University of Patras, Greece), Jean Christoph Jung (University of Bremen, Germany), and Victor Gutiérrez Basulto (Cardiff University, United Kingdom) were very successful in handling publicity and locating sponsors. A big thanks goes to Pavlos Peppas (University of Patras, Greece) and his team for the local organization. A special thanks is also due to Paolo Felli (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy), who ably and patiently designed and maintained the KR 2020 web site, and orchestrated the arrangements for the virtual conference.

In closing, we thank our KR colleagues for their contributions which appear in the following pages and welcome our readers to this record of KR 2020.

Bolzano (Italy), Istanbul (Turkey), Sydney (Australia)
September 2020

Diego Calvanese and Esra Erdem
Program Chairs

Michael Thielscher
General Chair
4 INVITED TALKS

Models and Decisional Issues for Human-Robot Joint Action

Rachid Alami, LAAS-CNRS, ANITI, France

This talk will address some key decisional issues that are necessary for a cognitive and interactive robot which shares space and tasks with humans. We adopt a constructive approach based on the identification and the effective implementation of individual and collaborative skills. The system is comprehensive since it aims at dealing with a complete set of abilities articulated so that the robot controller is effectively able to conduct in a flexible and fluent manner a human-robot joint action seen as a collaborative problem solving and task achievement. These abilities include geometric reasoning and situation assessment based essentially on perspective-taking and affordances, management and exploitation of each agent (human and robot) knowledge in a separate cognitive model, human-aware task planning and interleaved execution of shared plans. We will also discuss the key issues linked to the pertinence and the acceptability by the human of the robot behaviour, and how this influence qualitatively the robot decisional, planning, control and communication processes.

Rachid Alami is Senior Scientist at LAAS-CNRS. He received an engineer diploma in computer science in 1978 from ENSEEIHT, a Ph.D in Robotics in 1983 from Institut National Polytechnique and an Habilitation HDR in 1996 from Paul Sabatier University. He contributed and took important responsibilities in several national, European and international research and/or collaborative projects (EUREKA: FAMOS, AMR and I-ARES projects, ESPRIT: MARTHA, PROMotion, ECLA, IST: COMETS, IST FP6 projects: COGNIRON, URUS, PHRIENDS, and FP7 projects: CHRIS, SAPHARI, ARCAS, SPENCER, H2020: MuMMER , France: ARA, VAP-RISP for planetary rovers, PROMIP, several ANR projects). His main research contributions fall in the fields of Robot Decisional and Control Architectures, Task and motion planning, multi-robot cooperation, and human-robot interaction. Rachid Alami is currently the head of the Robotics and InteractionS group at LAAS. He has been offered in 2019 the Academic Chair on Cognitive and Interactive Robotics at the Artificial and Natural Intelligence Toulouse Institute (ANITI).

A Hitchhiker’s Tour Through Computational Complexity in Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (Great Moments in KR Talk)

Thomas Eiter, Vienna University of Technology, Austria

The vision of artificial intelligence with human-level capabilities of reasoning has inspired and motivated generations of researchers, starting with John McCarthy’s seminal work to develop numerous formalisms and approaches towards making it a reality. Many of these formalisms are rooted in formal logic or mathematical approaches to deal with world models at a symbolic level, allowing to take aspects such as incomplete information, uncertainty, or inconsistency into account. The undecidability of first-order logic, which often served as the basis, has spurred the search for decidable fragments in order to facilitate effective reasoning. However, mere decidability turned out to be insufficient in practice, and tractability as a paradigm for efficient solvability was fostered.

Structural complexity theory, which is concerned with problem solving under resource constraints and describing its inherent difficulty, turned out to be a valuable tool in the design of formalisms and for the analysis of reasoning tasks in them. In fact the rich landscape of complexity classes with various models of computation and resource settings, has facilitated a fine-grained analysis beyond a black-white characterization of being tractable or intractable, where NP-hardness was perceived as a kiss of death for problems in practice. In turn, problems in Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KRR) have vitalized complexity classes that were considered to be more of academic interest, and led to the development of new notions and techniques.

In this talk, we shall address the role of computational complexity in KRR. We shall consider why complexity matters and what conclusions can be drawn from complexity results beyond mere quantitative (in terms of resource consumption) results. With a focus on selected examples, we shall review some highlights and influential results, consider developments and recent trends, and perhaps risk a glimpse into the future: while regarded almost indispensable today, may the need for complexity considerations vanish?

Thomas Eiter received his Ph.D. degree in computer science from the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) in 1991. He worked at TU Wien until 1996, when he moved as an associate professor to the University of Giessen, Germany. In 1998, he rejoined TU Wien as full professor, where he heads the knowledge-based systems group and since 2004 the Institute of Information Systems (now Institute of Logic and Computation). Eiter’s current research interests include knowledge representation and reasoning, computational logic, logic programming and databases, declarative problem solving, and intelligent agents. He has published a number of research papers (among them more than 120 journal articles), co-authored a research monograph on heterogeneous agents, and edited 27 article collections and conference proceedings. His paper on complexity of logic programming in the ACM Computing Surveys (2001), a joint work with Evgeny Dantsin, Georg Gottlob and Andrei Voronkov, is a well-cited reference. Eiter has been serving on many editorial boards, e.g. of the Artificial Intelligence Journal, the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research, and the AI Review, and steering bodies. He was a program co-chair of the International Conference on Database Theory (ICDT) in 2005, of KR in 2012, and of the International Conference on Logic Programming (ICLP) in 2015; recently, he was Conference Chair of the International Joint Conference on AI (IJCAI) in 2019. Furthermore, he was President of Knowledge Representation Inc. and is pro-term President of the Association of Logic Programming. He is a Fellow of the European Association for AI (EurAI), Corresponding Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.
and Member of the European Academy of Sciences (London).

How to (Re)represent it?
Mateja Jamnik, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

To achieve efficient human computer collaboration, computers need to be able to represent information in ways that humans can understand. Picking a good representation is critical for effective communication and human learning, especially on technical topics. To select representations appropriately, AI systems must have some understanding of how humans reason and comprehend the nature of representations. In this work, we are developing the foundations for the analysis of representations for reasoning. Ultimately, our goal is to build AI systems that select representations intelligently, taking users’ preferences and abilities into account.

Mateja Jamnik is a Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the Department of Computer Science and Technology of the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. She is developing AI techniques for human-like computing – she computationally models how people solve problems to enable machines to reason in a similar way to humans. She is essentially trying to humanise computer thinking. She applies this AI technology to medical data to advance personalised cancer medicine, and to education to personalise tutoring systems. Mateja is passionate about bringing science closer to the public and engages frequently with the media and public science events. Her active support of women scientists was recognised by the Royal Society which awarded her the Athena Prize. Mateja has been advising the UK government on policy direction in relation to the impact of AI on society.

Probabilistic Model Checking for Strategic Equilibria-based Decision Making
Marta Kwiatkowska, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Software faults have plagued computing systems since the early days, leading to the development of methods based on mathematical logic, such as proof assistants or model checking, to ensure their correctness. The rise of AI calls for automated decision making that incorporates strategic reasoning and coordination of behaviour of multiple autonomous agents acting concurrently and in presence of uncertainty. Traditionally, game-theoretic solutions such as Nash equilibria are employed to analyse strategic interactions between multiple independent entities, but model checking tools for scenarios exhibiting concurrency, stochasticity and equilibria have been lacking.

This lecture will focus on a recent extension of probabilistic model checker PRISM-games (www.prismmodelchecker.org/games/), which supports quantitative reasoning and strategy synthesis for concurrent multiplayer stochastic games against temporal logic that can express coalitional, zero-sum and equilibria-based properties. Game-theoretic models arise naturally in the context of autonomous computing infrastructure, including user-centric networks, robotics and security. Using illustrative examples, this lecture will give an overview of recent progress in probabilistic model checking for stochastic games and highlight challenges and opportunities for the future.

Marta Kwiatkowska is Professor of Computing Systems and Fellow of Trinity College, University of Oxford. She is known for fundamental contributions to the theory and practice of model checking for probabilistic systems, focusing on automated techniques for verification and synthesis from quantitative specifications. She led the development of the PRISM model checker (www.prismmodelchecker.org), the leading software tool in the area and winner of the HVC Award 2016. Probabilistic model checking has been adopted in diverse fields, including distributed computing, wireless networks, security, robotics, healthcare, systems biology, DNA computing and nanotechnology, with genuine flaws found and corrected in real-world protocols. Kwiatkowska is the first female winner of the Royal Society Milner Award, winner of the BCS Lovelace Medal and was awarded an honorary doctorate from KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. She won two ERC Advanced Grants, VERIWARE and FUN2MODEL, and is a coinvestigator of the EPSRC Programme Grant on Mobile Autonomy. Kwiatkowska is a Fellow of the Royal Society, Fellow of ACM, EATCS and BCS, and Member of Academia Europaea.

Taking AI to the Next Level
Gary Marcus, Robust AI, USA

For nearly half a century, AI has always seemed as if it was just beyond reach, less than two decades away. Yet “strong AI” in some ways still seems elusive. In this talk, I will give a cognitive scientist’s perspective on AI. What have we learned, and what are we still struggling with? Is there anything that programmers of AI can still learn from studying the science of human cognition?

Gary Marcus is a scientist, best-selling author, and entrepreneur. He is Founder and CEO of Robust.AI, and was Founder and CEO of Geometric Intelligence, a machine learning company acquired by Uber in 2016. He is the author of five books, including The Algebraic Mind, Kluge, The Birth of the Mind, and The New York Times best seller Guitar Zero, as well as editor of The Future of the Brain and The Norton Psychology Reader. He has published extensively in fields ranging from human and animal behavior to neuroscience, genetics, linguistics, evolutionary psychology and artificial intelligence, often in leading journals such as Science and Nature, and is perhaps the youngest Professor Emeritus at NYU. His newest book, co-authored with Ernest Davis, Rebooting AI: Building Machines We Can Trust aims to shake up the field of artificial intelligence.

Lessons from Three Decades of Research into Learning and Reasoning with Relational Probabilistic Models
David Poole, University of British Columbia, Canada
Making probabilistic predictions from relational data, recently under the umbrella of “statistical relational AI,” has a long history, and is an active research area. The talk presents some insights that everyone should know but often don’t fit into research papers. These include: What is a relational model. Triples are universal representations of relations but learning with them is difficult. How embedding-based models generalize (and what they actually learn). Why embedding based models cannot be used for predicting properties. Why ranking is often used for evaluation, but is very misleading. Why entities are not like words in embedding models. Why being Bayesian implies exchangeability, which can be exploited in lifted reasoning. Lifted reasoning relies on counting, but counting relies of know what exists and knowing identity. Why identity and existence uncertainty are tricky to get right.

David Poole is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of British Columbia. He is known for his work on combining logic and probability, probabilistic inference, relational probabilistic models, statistical relational AI and semantic science. He is a co-author of two AI textbooks (Cambridge University Press, 2010, 2nd edition 2017 and Oxford University Press, 1998), and coauthor of “Statistical Relational Artificial Intelligence: Logic, Probability, and Computation,” (Morgan & Claypool 2016). He is a former chair of the Association for Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence, the winner of the Canadian AI Association (CAIAC) 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award, and is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and CAIAC.
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