

Preface

This volume is the ninth in the COIN (Coordination, Organizations, Institutions and Norms in Agent Systems) workshop series, which has its roots in 2005. The volume contains revised versions of 20 selected papers presented at COIN workshops in 2013. The first of these workshops was co-located with AAMAS 2013 and took place on May 6 in St. Paul, Minnesota, while the second was co-located with PRIMA and was held on December 3 in Dunedin, New Zealand.

The papers in this collection have undergone a substantial process of refinement. As in previous editions, at least three Program Committee members reviewed each submitted paper and revised versions of the accepted papers were presented in the workshop sessions. After their presentation, some papers were selected to be part of this volume. We selected 18 papers and two invited papers out of the 28 submissions. These selected papers had to be revised again to take into account both the reviewers' remarks in light of the comments during the workshop and also the issues sparked by the oral presentations. All revised papers from the two workshops underwent a second stage of review before producing the final version that is included in this volume.

COIN strives to fulfill its workshop role of stimulating discussion, facilitating convergence and synergy of approaches, and weaving a community. Authors and reviewers were encouraged to contribute to a workshop program that welcomes the presentation of unconventional approaches perhaps stemming from other disciplines as well as reports about ongoing work and testimonials of the application of the ideas of this community. The papers in this collection correspond to that invitation while adhering to the high standard of the formal proceedings of COIN.

In keeping with the aim of the COIN workshops, the collected papers share the basic premise of looking into coordination, organizations, institutions, and norms as governance elements for the regulation of open multi-agent systems. While this basic focus is shared, the papers contained in this volume exhibit a healthy diversity of approaches. We have grouped them in six sections.

Four of the sections fell exactly along the lines of the four elements of the workshop title; coordination, organizations, institutions, and norms. However, this year it appeared that we had quite a substantial number of submissions centered around norms and thus we decided to make three norms sections, with one general section on norms and two more specific clusters on norm conflicts and norm-aware agents.

We would like to end this brief preface with a note of gratitude. Thus, as workshop chairs and as editors of this volume, we want to express our sincere thanks to the reviewers of the COIN 2013 editions. Everyone knows that reviewing is not an easy task: it demands generosity to allocate time and energy that is taken away from other duties; good sense and optimism to provide constructive criticism; plus a balanced use of confidence, altruism, and courage to recommend the acceptance or rejection of papers. The names of this year's Program Committee members are listed for everyone

to see in the front matter of this volume, but their contribution is subtly present in the many suggestions that were taken up by the authors to enrich the final version of their papers. Of course, we would also like to thank the authors for submitting and seriously revising their papers such that we can present a high-quality COIN volume again.

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Papers

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