

Preface

This volume contains revised versions of the papers presented at the 13th European Conference on Multi-Agent Systems (EUMAS 2015) and the Third International Conference on Agreement Technologies (AT 2015), which were both held in Athens during December 17–18, 2015.

EUMAS 2015 followed the tradition of previous editions (Oxford 2003, Barcelona 2004, Brussels 2005, Lisbon 2006, Hammamet 2007, Bath 2008, Agia Napa 2009, Paris 2010, Maastricht 2011, Dublin 2012, Toulouse 2013, Prague 2014) in terms of aiming to provide the prime European forum for presenting and discussing agents research as the annual designated event of the European Association of Multi-Agent Systems (EURAMAS).

AT 2015 was the third installment in a series of events (after Dubrovnik 2012 and Beijing 2013) to focus on bringing together researchers and practitioners working on computer systems in which autonomous software agents negotiate with one another, typically on behalf of humans, in order to come to mutually acceptable agreements.

This year, for the first time, both events were co-located and run as a single, joint event. This joint organization aimed to encourage cross-fertilization among the broader EUMAS and the more specialized AT communities, and to provide a richer and more attractive program to participants. While the technical program was put together by their independent committees into conference-specific thematic sessions, they shared keynote talks and aligned their schedules to minimize overlap and enable participants to make the best possible use of the combined program of the two conferences.

Traditionally, both conference series have always followed a spirit of providing a forum for discussion and an annual opportunity for primarily European researchers to meet and exchange ideas. For this reason, they have always encouraged submission of papers that report on both early and mature research. They also permitted submission of papers for oral presentation of previously published work, although these contributions have not been included in the present volume, which only contains original contributions.

The peer-review processes carried out by both conferences put great emphasis on ensuring a high quality of accepted contributions. The EUMAS Program Committee accepted 15 submissions (34.8 %) as full papers and another 10 submissions (23.2 %) as short papers out of a total of 43 submissions. The AT review process resulted in the acceptance of seven full (31.8 %) and seven short papers (31.8 %) out of 22 submissions overall.

This volume is structured as follows: In the first part, we include invited papers from the two keynote speakers, Michael Luck (King's College London, UK) and Onn Shehory (IBM Haifa Research Lab, Israel). The remaining 36 papers are grouped together in thematic areas on the following topics:

- Coordination and planning
- Learning and optimization

- Argumentation and negotiation
- Norms, trust, and reputation
- Agent-based simulation and agent programming

Each of these thematic sections contains a mix of papers from EUMAS 2015 and AT 2015, where full papers are followed by short papers.

The editors wish to thank the Program Committee members (over 100 of them for the two conferences combined) and the additional reviewers they recruited for helping EUMAS and AT put together a program of high-quality papers that gives an up-to-date overview of the breadth and excellence of agents research in Europe.

We also thank the local organizers for their hard work in ensuring the event ran as smoothly as it did – all aspects of the conference organization received unanimous praise. Their help with publicizing the conference through the conference website and by producing print publicity was also much appreciated.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the sponsors of the conference, the European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence (ECCAI), the University of Piraeus Research Center (KEPP), and the *Artificial Intelligence* journal for their generous support, without which this event would not have been possible.

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