
A New Conference for Cognitive Systems

Pat Langley

PATRICK.W.LANGLEY@GMAIL.COM

Computer Science Department, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand
Silicon Valley Campus, Carnegie Mellon University, Moffett Field, CA 94305 USA

This is the second volume of *Advances in Cognitive Systems*, an electronic journal devoted to communicating research results in a new discipline that builds on an established tradition linked to the earliest days of artificial intelligence. Researchers in this field attempt to understand the full range of human intelligence from a computational perspective and to reproduce analogous behavior in mechanical artifacts. The publication aims to document progress in this challenging area and to foster a community of scientists who are committed to its advance.

The journal is also distinctive in that it is associated with a refereed meeting of the same name, with this volume in particular serving as the online proceedings for the *First Annual Conference on Advances in Cognitive Systems* (<http://www.cogsys.org/conference/2012/>). This event endeavored to emulate the success of an earlier meeting, the AAAI Fall Symposium on Advances in Cognitive Systems held in November, 2011, which was well attended and which generated considerable excitement about the innovative movement.

This year's conference received 38 submissions, of which 14 were selected for inclusion in this volume of the journal based on reviews by a program committee of 34 members. These articles cover a wide range of topics that reflect the diversity of the field. They address areas as varied as language processing, physical reasoning, event understanding, plan generation and execution, emotion, and learning. Most papers focus on facets of central cognition, but a number also deal with perceptual processing and robotic control. What they hold in common are a systems perspective on research, a concern with high-level cognition, an emphasis on rich representations, and demonstrations of new functionality, all key features of the cognitive systems paradigm.

The inaugural meeting was held in Palo Alto, California, from December 6 to 8, 2012. Approximately 60 researchers attended, with most participants coming from the United States but with others coming from as far away as Australia, China, France, and New Zealand. The conference included some 23 oral presentations, with four talks by senior researchers on challenges that confront the field. The event also incorporated two buffet dinners, extended breaks, and a poster session to encourage interactions among the participants.

We plan to organize annual conferences on the topic of cognitive systems, with accepted papers appearing as articles in this journal. However, *Advances in Cognitive Systems* will also consider submissions unrelated to the meeting, as indicated at <http://www.cogsys.org/journal/information/>. Prospective authors may also wish to visit <http://www.cogsys.org/journal/faq/>, which discusses the scope of the journal and conference. Cognitive systems is a broad field that can benefit from many different perspectives, and I encourage interested researchers to contribute to its development.