

# Preface

The Sixth European Starting AI Researchers' Symposium (STAIRS 2012) took place in conjunction with the 20th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI 2012), the Seventh Conference on Prestigious Applications of Intelligent Systems (PAIS 2012) as well as the Sixth International Symposium on Rules (RuleML 2012) in Montpellier, France, 27-28 August 2012.

STAIRS is an international meeting intended to support AI researchers from all countries at the beginning of their career: PhD students or those who have held a PhD for less than one year. STAIRS offers doctoral students and young post-doctoral AI fellows a unique and valuable opportunity to gain experience in presenting their work in a supportive scientific environment, where they can obtain constructive feedback on the technical content of their work as well as advice on how to present it, and where they can also establish contacts with the broader European AI research community.

Papers selected by the program committee through a peer-review process were presented at the symposium. The topics covered a broad spectrum of subjects in the field of AI: machine learning and data mining, constraint satisfaction problems and belief propagation, logic and reasoning, dialogue and multi-agent systems, and games and planning. We had 48 submissions, of which 32 were eventually accepted for inclusion in the proceedings. To ensure the quality of the reviewing process, each paper received three reviews, and each reviewer had a quota of no more than 3 papers to review. Finally, the program committee co-chairs read borderline papers and reviewers' comments to make confident decisions for all papers.

In addition to submitted papers, we were excited to have five keynotes: Alan Bundy (University of Edinburgh), Gemma C. Garriga (INRIA Lille Nord Europe), Malte Helmert (University of Basel), Andreas Krause (ETH Zurich), and Michele Sebag (Université Paris Sud). We thank them for their great contributions to the program and goals of STAIRS. We would also like to thank the ECAI program committee chair Luc De Raedt and the ECAI organizing committee chair Christian Bessiere for supporting STAIRS and for creating a perfect environment for it, as well as the local organization team. Our special thanks go to the STAIRS program committee for their work in selecting papers and providing feedback to the authors. They were:

Thomas Ågotnes	Babak Ahmadi	Natasha Alechina
Josep Lluís Arcos	Kai Arras	Roman Barták
Christian Bauckhage	Maren Bennewitz	Elizabeth Black
Sylvain Bouveret	Oliver Brock	Rui Camacho
Hubie Chen	Amanda Clare	Alvaro Collet
Fabio G. Cozman	Claudia D'Amato	Eric De La Clergerie
Sarah J. Delany	Clare Dixon	Anca Dragan
Esra Erdem	Shaheen Fatima	Alan Fern
Daan Fierens	Chiara Ghidini	Guillaume Infantes

Andreas Karwath	Ian Kash	Angelika Kimmig
Udo Kruschwitz	Oliver Kutz	Tobias Lang
Wenwen Li	Francesca A. Lisi	Weiru Liu
Manuel Lopes	Matthew Molineaux	Katarzyna Musial
Sriraam Natarajan	Mathias Niepert	Eva Onaindia
Hector Palacios	Novi Quadrianto	Achim Rettinger
Matthijs Spaan	Cyrill Stachniss	Kostas Stergiou
Florent Teichteil-Königsbuch	Matthias Thimm	Rudolph Triebel
Anni-Yasmin Turhan	Menno Van Zaanen	Wamberto Vasconcelos
Stefan Woelfl	Stefan Wrobel	Rong Zhou
Inon Zuckerman		

Also many thanks to the auxiliary reviewers Nicola Fanizzi, Tias Guns, Pasquale Minervini, Marco Montali, Sergio Pajares, and Domenico Redavid. The work and help of the program committee and auxiliary reviewers are essential to the success of this symposium. The reviews that we received were of general high quality and included constructive comments to help the authors improve upon their papers.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all authors who submitted their work to this symposium. Thanks!

Bonn and Berlin, June 2012  
 Kristian Kersting  
 Marc Toussaint