

Multiagent Platforms

Autonomous agents and multiagent systems are computational systems in which several (semi-)autonomous agents interact each other or work together to perform some set of tasks or satisfy some set of goals. These systems may involve computational agents that are homogeneous or heterogeneous, they may involve activities on the part of agents having common goals or distinct goals, and they may involve participation on the part of humans and intelligent agents. The increase of agent research activities can be observed in the series of ICMAS (International Conference of Multi-Agent Systems). In ICMAS'95, 209 participants were there. At ICMAS'96, the number increased to 282, and at ICMAS'98, there were 552 participants. Though we already have several workshops in Asia Pacific countries, such as MACC (Multiagent Systems and Cooperative Computation) in Japan from 1991 and Australian Workshop on Distributed Artificial Intelligence from 1995, there is not enough interaction so far among the countries compared to Europe and Americas. PRIMA'98 is the First Pacific Rim International Workshop related to autonomous agents and multiagent systems. The aim of this workshop is to encourage activities in this field, and to bring together Pacific Rim researchers with agents and multiagent issues. The objective of this workshop is to assemble theoreticians and practitioners concerned with developing autonomous agents and multiagent systems. Unlike usual conferences, however, since this is the first agent-related international workshop in Asia Pacific countries, participation is by invitation only and is limited to professionals who have made significant contributions to the topic of the workshop. The contributions include technical presentations, progress reports and so on.

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