Preface

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BNAIC is the annual Benelux Conference on Artificial Intelligence. In 2017, the 29th edition of BNAIC was organized by the Institute of Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Engineering (ALICE), University of Groningen, under the auspices of the Benelux Association for Artificial Intelligence (BNVKI) and the Dutch Research School for Information and Knowledge Systems (SIKS).

BNAIC 2017 took place in Het Kasteel, Groningen, The Netherlands, on November 8–9, 2017. BNAIC 2017 included invited speakers, research presentations, posters, demonstrations, a deep learning workshop (organized by our sponsor NVIDIA) and a research and business session. Some 160 participants visited the conference.

The four BNAIC 2017 keynote speakers were:

– Marco Dorigo, Université Libre de Bruxelles
  "Swarm Robotics: Current Research Directions at IRIDIA"
– Laurens van der Maaten, Facebook AI Research
  "From Visual Recognition to Visual Understanding"
– Luc Steels, Institute for Advanced Studies (ICREA), Barcelona
  "Digital Replicants and Mind-Uploading"
– Rineke Verbrugge, University of Groningen
  "Recursive Theory of Mind: Between Logic and Cognition"

Three FACt talks (FACulty focusing on the FACts of Artificial Intelligence) were scheduled:

– Bert Bredeweg, Universiteit van Amsterdam
  "Humanly AI: Creating Smart People with AI"
– Eric Postma, Tilburg University
  "Towards Artificial Human-Like Intelligence"
– Geraint Wiggins, Queen Mary University of London/Vrije Universiteit Brussel
  "Introducing Computational Creativity"

Authors were invited to submit papers on all aspects of artificial intelligence. This year we received 68 submissions in total. Of the 30 submitted Type A regular papers, 11 (37%) were accepted for oral presentation, and 14 (47%) for poster presentation. Five (17%) were rejected. Of the 19 submitted Type B compressed contributions, 17 (89%) were accepted for oral presentation, and two (11%) for poster presentation. None were rejected. All six submitted Type C demonstration abstracts were accepted. Of the submitted 13 Type D thesis abstracts, five (38%) were accepted for oral presentation, and eight (62%) for poster presentation. None were rejected. The selection was made using peer review. Each submission was assigned to three members of the Program Committee, and their expert reviews were the basis for our decisions.

All submissions accepted for oral or poster presentations and all demonstration abstracts appeared in the electronic preproceedings, made available on the conference website during the conference (http://bnaic2017.ai.rug.nl/). All 11 Type A regular papers accepted for oral presentation (37%) appear in these proceedings, in the Springer CCIS series.

The BNAIC 2017 conference would not have been possible without the support and efforts of many. We thank the members of the Program Committee for their constructive and scholarly reviews. We are grateful to Elina Sietsema, Carlijne de Vries, and Sarah van Wouwe, members of the administrative staff at the Institute of Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Engineering (ALICE), for their tireless and reliable support. We thank our local organization team Luca Bandelli, Abe Brandsma, Tomasz Darmetko, Mingcheng Ding, Ana Dugeniuc, Joel During, Ameer Islam, Siebert Looije, René Mellema, Michaela Mrázková, Annet Onnes, Benjamin Shafrey, Sjaak ten Caat, Albert Thie, Jelmer van der Linde, Luuk van Keeken, Paul Veldhuyzen, Randy Wind, and Galiya Yeshmagambetova, all of them students in our BSc and MSc Artificial Intelligence programs, for enthusiastically volunteering to help out in many ways. We thank Annet Onnes for preparing the proceedings, Jelmer van der Linde for developing the website, Randy Wind for designing the program leaflet, and Albert Thie for coordinating the local organization.

We are grateful to our sponsors for their generous support of the conference:

- Target Holding
- NVIDIA Deep Learning Institute
- Anchormen
- Quint
- The Netherlands Research School for Information and Knowledge Systems (SIKS)
- SIM-CI
- Textkernel
- LuxAI
- IOS Press
- Stichting Knowledge-Based Systems (SKBS)
- SSN Adaptive Intelligence

Two awards were presented during the conference. The BNAIC 2017 SNN Best Paper Award was won by Mathijs Pieters and Marco Wiering for their paper "Comparison of Machine Learning Techniques for Multi-label Genre Classification." The BNAIC 2017 SKBS Best Demo Award was won by Denis Steckelmacher, Hèléne Plisnier, Diederik M. Roijers, and Ann Nowé for their demonstration entitled "Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning for a Robotic Partially Observable Task."

Organizing the 2017 edition of the annual BNAIC conference series was an honor and a pleasure. We hope to meet you at a future edition.

February 2018

Bart Verheij
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