

TAKING AI TO THE NEXT LEVEL THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

Memphis, Tenn. March 1-3, 2008 – The FedEx Institute of Technology and the University of Memphis, in cooperation with AAAI, team up to present the *First Conference on Artificial General Intelligence*. Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is a rapidly growing research area focusing on the original and ultimate goal of AI - to create intelligence at the human level and beyond, by exploring all available paths, including computer science, cognitive science, neuroscience, and innovative interdisciplinary methodologies.

The First Conference on Artificial General Intelligence brings 100 AI researchers, mostly PhD scientists from university and corporate labs, to plot the course of AGI's future. AGI research is expected to accelerate dramatically in the next few years due to advances in computing technology and cognitive science, as well as allied disciplines such as virtual worlds and neuroscience.

When John McCarthy coined the term “Artificial Intelligence” in 1955, it was AGI that he had in mind. The AI field has made dramatic progress in creating task-oriented intelligent software. Now scientists want to “**get back to the deepest questions of AI and general intelligence**,” in a renewed attack on the problem of AGI.

AGI-08 Conference high points include:

- LIDA architecture for AGI for US Navy
- AI in virtual worlds
- Intelligent agents in Second Life and games
- Lessons that contemporary neuroscience and AGI have to teach each other
- Simulating portions of the human brain
- The China-Brain project
- Open source AGI



The focus of AGI is on “machines with human-level, and even superhuman, intelligence,” which are able to “generalize their knowledge across different domains, reflect on themselves, and create fundamental innovations and insights.” (Stan Franklin, AGI-08 Conference Chair)

AGI-08 includes a session on “Catalyzing the Coming AGI Renaissance,” focused on organizing the AGI field to maximize the rate of progress during the next decade. Noted inventor and AI innovator Ray Kurzweil has projected the creation of a human-level AGI system by 2029. Some researchers have discussed the possibility of success even sooner, before 2020. Others are considerably more conservative. But regardless of one’s time estimates, the AGI-08 conference is symbolic of the entry of the AI field into a new phase in which the creation of powerful AGI is an explicit emphasis of more and more serious research work.

AGI-08 closes with a Workshop on the Sociocultural, Ethical and Futurological Implications of Artificial General Intelligence, in which researchers will discuss the broader implications of their current and future work.

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