

Press Release

The Third Conference On Artificial General Intelligence Is Starting In Lugano

For the first time in Europe, the AGI-10 conference explores the leading scientific research toward the goal of AI systems with human level intelligence, and beyond

February 18, 2010, Lugano, Switzerland

<http://agi-conf.org/2010/>

In a few days, from March 5-8, 2010, the the Third Conference on Artificial General Intelligence is going to start at the University of Lugano.

Continuing the mission of the first two AGI conferences held in the USA, AGI-10 will gather an international group of leading academic and industry researchers involved in serious scientific and engineering work aimed directly toward the goal of artificial general intelligence.

For the first time in Europe, this is the only major conference series devoted wholly and specifically to the creation of AI systems possessing general intelligence at the human level and ultimately beyond.

“We were able to attract the key players in the field from all over the globe, from computer scientists, philosophers, psychologists, economists, to physicists. AGI-10 allows them to share and synthesize their views and approaches. This will bring us a good step closer toward the grand goal,” says Marcus Hutter, Conference Chair of AGI-10, of the Australian National University.

The original goal of the AI field was the construction of “thinking machines”—that is, computer systems with human-like general intelligence. Due to the difficulty of this task, for the last few decades the majority of AI researchers have focused on what has been called “narrow AI”—the production of AI systems displaying intelligence regarding specific, highly constrained tasks. In recent years, however, more and more researchers have recognized the necessity, and feasibility, of returning to the original goals of the field. Increasingly, there is a call for a transition back to confronting the more difficult issues of “human level intelligence” and more broadly “artificial general intelligence (AGI).”

“The last two AGI conferences have been extremely interesting, but in some ways it looks like this will be the best one yet,” declares Ben Goertzel, of Novamente LLC and Xiamen University, who organized AGI-09 in Washington DC, and he adds, “We don't yet have any conference talks delivered by intelligent robots, but research is progressing steadily year by year. I recently published a study in H+ Magazine (<http://bit.ly/hplus-ai-survey>) showing that an increasing number of AI researchers are betting human-level AI will come within a few decades. This may sound science-fictional, but bear in mind that Skype, Wikipedia, YouTube, or Google Earth on the iPhone would have sounded pretty farfetched just two or three decades ago.”

The conference is sponsored by AAI, KurzweilAI.net, and the Università della Svizzera Italiana. The sessions of the conference will be complemented by tutorials, and workshops, and will see the awarding of the 2010 Kurzweil Prizes for the best AGI papers in two categories.

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