

The Fourth International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation, and Robotics (ICINCO 2007)

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■ The Fourth International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation, and Robotics (ICINCO 2007) was held at the University of Angers from 9 through 12 May 2007. This conference sought to bring together researchers, engineers, and practitioners interested in the application of informatics to control, automation, and robotics, with an emphasis on intelligent systems and various AI technologies, such as expert systems, evolutionary computing, neural networks, and others, in connection to signal processing, systems modeling, and control. Beside the presentation of papers addressing these general topics, several specific themes were discussed during the conference in specialized forums, including special sessions, panels, and workshops, as described in this report.

With more than 300 persons attending the conference, ICINCO has now consolidated as a major international forum to debate technical and scientific advances presented by researchers and developers both from academe and industry.

The conference was coorganized by the Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control, and Communication (INSTICC) and the University of Angers, through the Laboratoire d'Ingénierie des Systèmes

Automatisés (LISA) of L'Institut des Sciences et Techniques de l'Ingénieur d'Angers ISTIA. It was sponsored by the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC), the Groupe de Recherche Modélisation, Analyse, et Conduite des Systèmes Dynamiques (GdR MACS), the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), and the Club des Enseignants et des Chercheurs en Electronique, Electrotechnique, et Automatique (EEA). The conference was also held in cooperation with the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI).

The ICINCO 2007 conference program included oral presentations (full papers and short papers), as well as posters, organized in three simultaneous tracks: "Intelligent Control Systems and Optimization," "Robotics and Automation," and "Systems Modeling, Signal Processing, and Control." ICINCO 2007 also included two satellite workshops and three plenary keynote lectures.

The two satellite workshops were the Third International Workshop on Multiagent Robotic Systems (MARS 2007), chaired by Joaquim Filipe, and the Third International Workshop on Artificial Neural Networks and Intelligent Information Processing (ANNIIP 2007), chaired by Kurosh Madani.

The three plenary keynote lectures were given by internationally recognized researchers. "Real Time Diagnos-

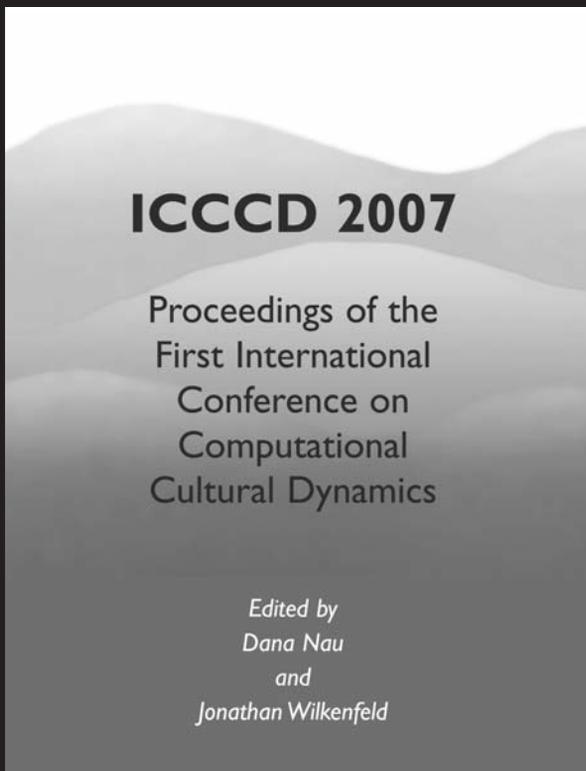
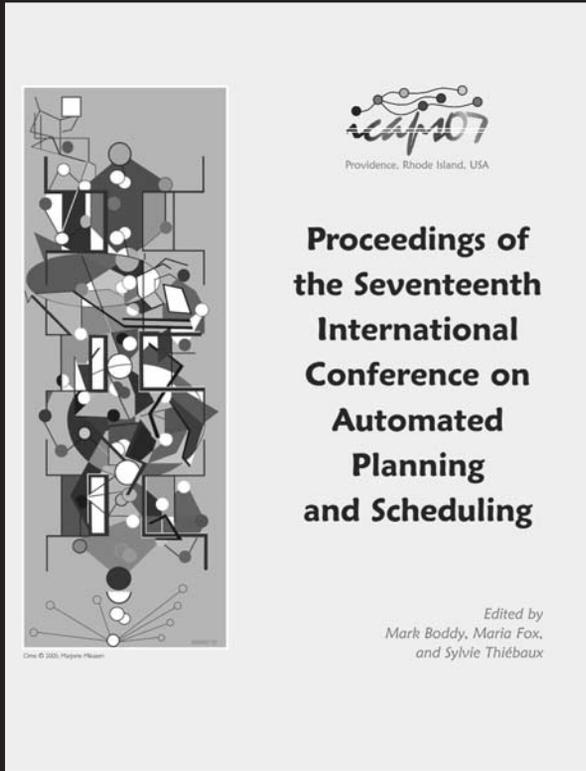
tics, Prognostics, and Process Modeling" was delivered by Dimitar Filev (Ford Motor Company, USA) who is a member of the board of governors of the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics and president of the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society (NAFIPS). "Synchronization of Multiagent Systems" was delivered by Mark W. Spong (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA), who is a past IEEE Control Systems Society president. "Toward Human-Machine Cooperation" was delivered by Patrick Millot (Université de Valenciennes, France), who is a renowned professor in Europe.

ICINCO received 435 paper submissions, not including workshops, from more than 50 countries, in all continents. To evaluate each submission, the program committee, whose members are researchers in one of the ICINCO main topic areas, performed a double-blind paper review. Each paper was reviewed by at least two members of the program committee. From the submissions, only 263 papers were published in the conference proceedings and presented at the meeting. Of the accepted papers, 195 were selected for oral presentation (52 full papers and 143 short papers) and 68 papers were selected for poster presentation. The oral paper acceptance ratio was thus 45 percent, and the full paper acceptance ratio was 12 percent. After the conference, some authors were invited to publish extended versions of their papers in a book that will feature the best papers of ICINCO 2007. The volume will be published by Springer-Verlag. ISI Proceedings, INSPEC, and DBLP indexed the conference proceedings.

The program cochairs for ICINCO 2007 were Juan Andrade Cetto (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) and Janan Zaytoon (Centre de Recherche en Sciences et Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France).

To promote the development of research and professional networks, the conference included in its social program a town hall reception the evening of Wednesday, May 9, and a conference and workshops social

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event and banquet the evening of Thursday, May 10.

Commitment to high quality standards is a major aspect of ICINCO that the organizers will strive to maintain and reinforce next year, including the quality of the keynote lectures, the workshops, the papers, the organization, and other aspects of the conference. We look forward to seeing new results of research and development work in informatics, control, automation, and robotics at ICINCO 2008, to be held next May in Madeira, Portugal.

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also president of the Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control, and Communications (INSTICC, www.insticc.org). He holds an M.Sc. degree awarded by the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, in 1984, an MBA degree, awarded by the New University of Lisbon in 1995, and a PhD degree, awarded by the School of Computing of Staffordshire University, UK, in 2001. His main areas of research are situated in the informatics field, especially in artificial intelligence and multiagent system applications with an emphasis on the study of social issues in activity coordination, including agent-based organizational modeling and simulation, where he has been actively involved in several national and international research and development projects. He is also interested in applying organizational semiotics to the analysis and development of information systems, having participated in several projects for developing e-learning systems and web-based information systems. Filipe has published more than 50 technical papers in the areas of artificial intelligence, agents, and organizational modeling. He has edited more than 20 books, and he is a member of the editorial board of seven journals. He has been an invited keynote speaker and also served as a member of the program committee or as a member of the organizing committee, as conference chair, or program chair, in more than 30 conferences.