Editorial

The Diversity of AI

AI has many facets, addressed around the world. The diversity of AI activities is manifested not only by papers and articles reflecting different projects and perspectives, but also in direct interactions between members of the AI community in conferences, workshops, exhibitions, and competitions. This issue of *AI Magazine* showcases the diversity of AI activities by accompanying its articles with an extensive set of reports on conferences and workshops, as well as with two special features.

The first feature is a special section of competition reports, edited by Sven Koenig and Robert Morris. In this issue the section highlights results from three competitions: the Seventh International Planning Competition, the International SAT Solver Competitions, and the Trading Agent Competition. Recurring competitions play an important role in the progress of many AI areas, and Koenig and Morris hope to make coverage of such competitions — including how the competitions illuminate the state of the art — an ongoing section in *AI Magazine.* I thank them for initiating this exciting feature and encourage future submissions. Please see the solicitation and guidelines included in this issue on page 10.

The second feature is the first appearance of a new *AI Magazine* column, "Worldwide AI," edited by Maria Fox, Eric Horvitz, and Manuela Veloso. As the editors describe in their opening editorial, "Worldwide AI" will showcase major trends, projects, and results from around the world. In this issue, the column presents AI trends in India and South Africa. I thank the editors for spearheading this project and am delighted to have "Worldwide AI" a new part of the magazine, and I encourage submissions to this column as well.

I hope that you enjoy these features and the columns to come!

– David Leake
Editor-in-Chief
AI Magazine

Call for Competition Reports

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We invite interested authors to submit short articles to *AI Magazine* that inform the artificial intelligence research community about recurring AI competitions. A typical report will contain approximately 500–1000 words, including a two or three sentence abstract, author autobiographical statement, and bibliography. Slightly longer reports will be accepted if appropriate. The reports should address the following questions:

1. When and why did the competition start? How many times has the competition been held since its inception? How frequently is the competition held and is it colocated with other events? Who organizes the competition?

2. What are the categories of the competition in terms of the problem types, rules, evaluation criteria, and prizes?

3. How many participants do the various categories have? Who participates in the competition (for example, in terms of the distribution among academic, industrial or nonprofit organizations)?

4. What is the current state of the art of the best competition entries? For example, how large or complex a problem are they able to solve in the different categories? Which technical approaches do the winning competition entries use (with references to relevant technical articles).

5. Which lessons have been learned from the competition? Which innovations have resulted from it? How have they affected the competition, the research community and beyond?

6. When will the next competition be held? How can the readers find out more about the competition?

To request further information or submit a report, contact both
Robert Morris (robert.a.morris@nasa.gov) and Sven Koenig (skoenig@usc.edu)