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Edited by J. G. Carbonell and J. Siekmann

Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science
Preface

This volume groups together the papers accepted for the 6th International Workshop on Multi-Agent-Based Simulation (MABS 2005), co-located with the 4th International Joint Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS 2005), which occurred in Utrecht, The Netherlands, on July 25, 2005.

MABS 2005 is the sixth workshop of a series that began at ICMAS 1998 (Paris, France), and continued successively with ICMAS 2000 (Boston, USA), AAMAS 2002 (Bologna, Italia), AAMAS 2003 (Melbourne, Australia) and AAMAS 2004 (New York, USA). The revised version of the papers of these workshops appeared in Springer’s Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence, in volumes 1534, 1979, 2581, 2927 and 3415. All information about the MABS Workshop Series can be found at http://www.pcs.usp.br/~mabs.

After some hesitations about the numbering of the volumes, we decided to set the pace right between the workshop edition and the volume name. So, this volume is called Multi-Agent-Based Simulation VI, and subsequent editions of the book series will correspond to the ordinal number of the workshop.

The scientific focus of MABS lies in the confluence of social sciences and multi-agent systems, with a strong applicational/empirical vein, and its emphasis is on (i) exploratory agent-based simulation as a principled way of undertaking scientific research in the social sciences and (ii) using social theories as an inspiration to new frameworks and developments in multi-agent systems.

As the area of agent-based simulation is quickly auto-organizing, MABS has proposed itself as a forum for social scientists, agent researchers and developers and simulation researchers to assess the current state of the art in the modeling and simulation of social systems and multi-agent systems, identify where existing approaches can be successfully applied, learn about new approaches and explore future research challenges.

MABS 2005 attracted a total of 28 submissions from 14 different countries (Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands, Tunisia, UK, USA). Every paper was reviewed by three anonymous referees, and in the end 12 papers were accepted for presentation in the workshop. Every paper was later reviewed again by a Program Committee member for this volume.

We are very grateful to every author who submitted a paper, as well as to all the members of the Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their hard work. The high quality of the papers included in this volume would not be possible without their participation and diligence. We would also like to thank Scott Moss and Emma Norling, who gave a very wholehearted invited talk.

Thanks are also due to Rino Falcone (AAMAS 2005 Workshop Chair), to Sarit Kraus and Munindar Singh (AAMAS 2005 General Chairs), to Sven Koenig and Michael Wooldridge (AAMAS 2005 Program Chairs) and to Frank and
Virginia Dignum (AAMAS 2005 Organization Chairs). Finally, we would like to thank Springer staff, especially Alfred Hofmann and Christine Günther, for their support of MABS and their help in the making of this book.

Social simulation is a terrifically exciting scientific endeavor, and MABS contributes to the significant role of bridging this multidisciplinary area with computer science and especially multi-agent systems.

January 2006

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