Preface

The 30th Annual German Conference on Artificial Intelligence (KI-2007) took place in the University of Osnabrück, September 10–13, 2007. In this volume, you will find papers or abstracts of its six invited talks, 25 full papers, and 21 posters. The full papers were selected from 81 submissions, resulting in an acceptance rate of 32%.

As usual at a KI conference, an entire day was reserved for targeted workshops – ten of them this year – and two tutorials. They are not covered in this volume, but the conference Web site www.ki2007.uos.de will keep providing information and references to their contents. Some topic clusters are apparent in the overall conference program, which reflect recent trends in AI research, convolled with foci of work in Germany and Europe. Examples are learning and data mining, robotics and perception, knowledge representation and reasoning, planning and search – all of them including a healthy number of approaches dealing with uncertainty, contradiction, and incompleteness of knowledge. All in all, KI-2007 provided a cross section of modern AI research and application work.

KI-2007 also constituted a “small anniversary,” being the 30th exemplar of its kind. The invited talk by Wolfgang Bibel (accompanied by a paper in this volume) picked up on that occasion by recalling what the field of automated deduction was like 30 and more years ago – in general, and in Germany. He also paid homage to Gerd Veenker, who organized the first KI conference (which had a different name at the time) in 1975 and whose field of research was deduction. We were very happy that Wolfgang Bibel accepted our invitation to give this type of talk, as AI – developing swiftly as it does – is in permanent danger of forgetting its earlier days and the lessons that can be learned from them.

Our thanks and gratitude, first and foremost, go to the colleagues who accepted our invitations or submitted workshop proposals and papers and posters and all sorts of input: Imagine you organize a conference, and no one responds – we thank all of them that this was definitely not the case! Next, we thank all those who helped organize KI-2007 and who are listed on the next few pages. Part of the organization was, of course, handling the submissions and the reviewing. In that respect, the EasyChair conference system was of enormous help, and we would like to thank its main developer Andrei Voronkov for not only developing it, but also providing it for free to the scientific community. And finally, we thank the responsible and sponsoring institutions of this conference, also listed in the following pages: Without their support, a KI conference might have been possible, in principle, but it would have been much more stressful, much less successful and much less enjoyable!

July 2007

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