

# AAMAS 2010, Toronto, Canada – Conference Report

Tina Balke

## 1 General Information

Between May 10th and 14th 2010, the 9th edition of the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS) took place in Toronto, Canada. The AAMAS conference series was initiated in 2002, with the merger of three highly respected individual conferences. The aim of the joint conference is to provide a single, high-profile, internationally renowned forum for research in the theory and practice of autonomous agents and multiagent systems. The conference is sponsored by the International Foundation for Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (IFAAMAS). This year for the first time was co-located with several other conferences and workshops, such as the 14th International Workshop on Non-Monotonic Reasoning (NMR'10) as well as the 12th International Conference on the Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (KR'10).

## 2 Programme

As for the main track, 685 papers had been submitted, out of which 163 full papers were presented. In addition several short papers were presented only as posters. While this acceptance ratio suggests a generally high level, there was a lot of variance in the quality of papers (perhaps due to difficulty in assigning the appropriate reviewers from the right field for each paper).

Of the accepted papers the Game Theory / Economics community seemed to have had the most highest presence, with 5 (out of a total of 22) sessions devoted to the topic and at least 6 more sessions featuring related talks. This might be one of the reasons why I personally – despite the AAMAS general widespread aim – felt that real world application papers were underrepresented, although the community in general as well as the IFAAMAS mission statements seem to refer to them as a driving force required, as they attract potentials adopters of agent technology by indicating the benefits of the agent technology to them in a form that they can easily understand.

Personally, the paper I found most interesting was “Agent-based Micro-Storage Management for the Smart Grid” by Perukrishnen Vytelingum, Thomas D. Voice, Sarvapali D. Ramchurn, Alex Rogers and Nicholas R. Jennings, which received the best paper award. The reason for this interest of mine was that the authors as one of the few papers in the conference managed to combine an interesting real world scenario (the UK electricity market and the energy related distribution problems) with some deep level mathematical analysis.

## 3 Organization

One very good feature of this years AAMAS was the organization of the schedule. To explain this in more detail, I'd like to give

two examples. First of all, the poster session was split into two two-hour sessions held on different days, making participation easier and more effective. Secondly, almost all best paper candidates were clustered into two parallel “best-paper sessions”. This way one had the chance to attend most of the best paper candidate talks and compare these highly interesting papers instead of putting other papers into an unfair competition. These two schedule decisions also promote the interdisciplinary interaction as these sessions could be attended by more people and where given slightly more time per paper. The only thing I would suggest to change is to have the “best paper sessions” before the announcement of the winners next time.

One disappointing “feature” of this years AAMAS that was highly discussed at the community meeting at the end of the conference was the steady increase in participation costs of the conference (in terms of value one got for the money) as well as the high number of tutorial cancellations due to too strict deadlines for registration. Thus, many community members expressed their disappointment, that one could for example only attend the workshops one had booked and not register for a day and swap between workshops within this day. This was especially problematic for people having papers in several workshop. One nevertheless has to say that one good side-effect of this was that most workshop-participants stayed with “their” workshop for the whole day making the workshop to very intense discussion forums for the respective communities.

## 4 Future Events

Summing up, despite being on the pricey side AAMAS is the conference to get in contact with different areas of agents and multiagent systems and to present new ideas before an academic as well as industrial audience. To this especially the workshops contribute a great part. That's why I'm particularly looking forward for the 10th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems that will be held at the Taipei International Convention Center (TICC), Taiwan on May 2nd–6th 2011. Judging by the presentation of next year venue after the AAMAS community meeting, there is a good chance finally Estoril 2008 for the best banquet dinner might be beaten.

Detailed information about the AAMAS conference series in general as well as AAMAS can be found on the official IFAAMAS web page <http://www.ifaamas.org/index.html> as well as the conference website <http://www.cse.yorku.ca/AAMAS2010/>.

## Contact

Dipl.-Kffr. Tina Balke  
University of Bayreuth  
Chair for Information Systems Management  
Universitätsstr. 30

D-95447 Bayreuth  
Email: tina.balke@uni-bayreuth.de