

Editorial

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This is the first issue in a new series of INTEL-LIGENZA ARTIFICIALE. After several years of successful publication with national scope, the journal of AI*IA, the Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence, is becoming international. An agreement has been signed between AI*IA and IOS Press and the journal will come out in print twice a year. The board of the association has asked me to be the editor in chief, and I felt it was both an honor and an obligation to try and contribute to this new development. I accepted and I am very pleased to present this first issue now.

Why go international? The Italian AI association has always been very internationally oriented and many of its scientists are highly visible in the international community. There is something more. AI*IA has defined for itself a rather high standard, which has been kept through the years, and there is a wide sense of belonging and affection within the association and – we feel also – international respect for it. The idea is therefore to offer something to the community: a space for presenting some good work developed in Italy and, at the same time, to offer space to all international scientists, in particular to those that have a particular consideration for the Italian community. As an example of this latter attitude, it is nice to recall how at the AI*IA conferences and workshops there has been a tradition of hosting some of the best worldwide scientists in AI. In general in *Intelligenza Artificiale* we shall gladly publish good quality papers coming from anywhere.

We kept the Italian name but the journal publishes rigorously reviewed articles in English in all areas of Artificial Intelligence, with special attention to original contributions. It will also publish assessments of the state of the art in various areas of AI, and innovative system descriptions with appropriate evaluation. It is also good to know that IOS Press has agreed that the

authors are free to post their manuscript version on their personal or institutional websites, as long as they credit the official published version. We also welcome proposals for special issues, book reviews, conference reports and news items of interest to the AI research community. Furthermore, we intend to quickly introduce the possibility of complementing traditional papers with material available on a reserved site, such as demos, videos, interactive systems and so on.

Artificial Intelligence has developed into a discipline that has so many aspects that it should really be at the forefront of the exploitation of current technology. Traditionally we have strong theory, but also a taste for the development of prototypes, and a specific interest for the human side and the interface. To this general characterization, we should add some trends that have been expanding in the last decade or so; some of them may also benefit from an enlarged modality of presentation. Among the trends, I would put forward at least the following four: a strong interest in exploiting the large quantity of data made available by the explosion of the web; the renewed interest in intelligence as a whole, including the embodiment issue; the novel opportunity for contributing to the understanding of the mind-brain connection; and the consolidation of the dimensions of social intelligence, planning and acting.

For the applied dimension I think a consolidated fact of life has been that in general when there are applications coming from AI research (and there are so many) the AI origin is forgotten. It is as though, in the best case, AI is the future of Information Technology, and whatever it produces in concrete for the present, ontologically cannot be attributed to it. I think we should give more visibility to our prototypes and systems, and at the same time provide guarantees about the scientific nature of the applied results. Therefore we are partic-

ularly keen to publish good system work with serious evaluation results.

In this endeavour I have the pleasure of working together with many of the most representative scientists of the Italian community. Roberto Pirrone is the Associate Editor. The Scientific Board is composed of the other former and current presidents of AI*IA: Luigia Carlucci Aiello, Marco Gori, Paola Mello, Marco Schaerf, Roberto Serra, and Piero Torasso. The Editorial Board includes Stefania Bandini, Ernesto Burattini, Antonio Camurri, Amedeo Cappelletti, Cristiano Castelfranchi, Floriana Esposito, Alfonso Gerevini, Evelina Lamma, Maurizio Lenzerini, Bernardo Magnini, Daniele Nardi, Andrea Omicini, Francesca Rossi, Lorenza Saitta, Massimo Zancanaro and one highly representative member respectively of the European and of the American communities: Gerhard Brewka and Manuela Veloso. I thank all of them for accepting with enthusiasm, we shall work together for the success of this endeavour and I know we can rely on each of them.

This first issue includes material that was originally organized by Donato Malerba, whom I would like to thank for his work as editor of the previous national journal, together with the entire exiting board. The material has been updated and revised before publication. It gives me particular pleasure to have in the inaugural issue of the international journal a Special Issue in honor of Alberto Martelli, one of the most accomplished AI scientists in Italy and an always low-key and helping person. The issue, edited by Matteo Baldoni and Cristina Baroglio, is devoted to Computational Logic, an area that has seen a lot of influential work by Alberto, and includes a substantial number of short papers by many of the best scientists in that area in Italy.

For this inaugural edition we include another Special Issue, devoted to Evolutionary Computing. It is edited by Leonardo Vanneschi, Luca Mussi and Stefano Cagnoni and focuses on some of the hot topics that have emerged recently in this challenging area.

To me it remains to thank the editors and wish good reading to all.