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Welcome !

Program Co-Chairs:

David McAllester
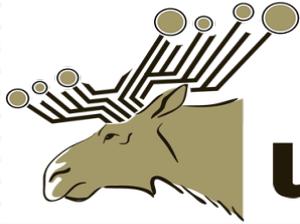
Petri Myllymäki

General Chair:

Ron Parr

2   Sponsors

Thank You !

3

Organization

Financial administration

Bruce D'Ambrosio, Ellen Fuller, Jane Jorgensen

Workshop chair

Nando de Freitas, University of British Columbia

Local Team

Jyrki Kivinen , University of Helsinki (COLT local chair), Petri Myllymäki , University of Helsinki (UAI programme co-chair), Hannu Toivonen , University of Helsinki (ICML local chair), Matti Kääriäinen , University of Helsinki (ICML volunteer chair). Sami Kaski , Helsinki University of Technology (MLG-2008 co-chair), Arto Klami, Helsinki University of Technology, Veli Mäkinen , University of Helsinki, Kati Kervinen, University of Helsinki/ HIIT, Sanna Kettunen , University of Helsinki, Greger Lindén , University of Helsinki (local treasurer and web master)

Organizing Institutes

University of Helsinki, Helsinki Institute for Information Technology HIIT and Helsinki University of Technology
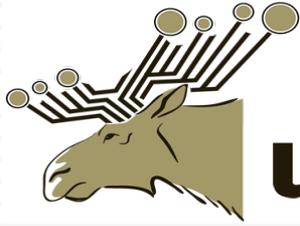
4 Review Process in Numbers

Program Co-Chairs: 2

Senior Program Committee members: 22

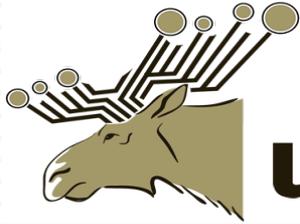Program Committee members: 98

Auxiliary reviewers: 35

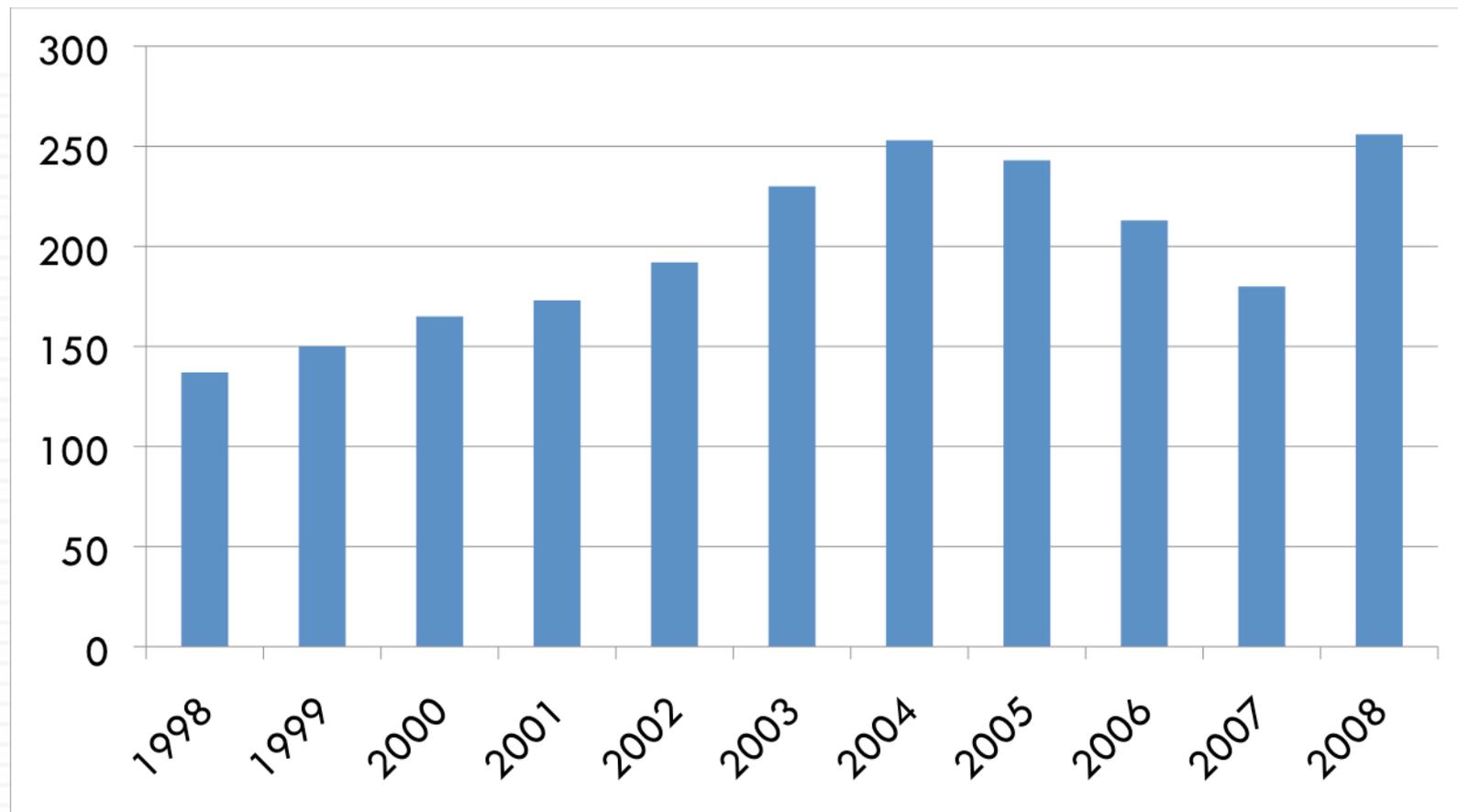Papers reviewed: 256

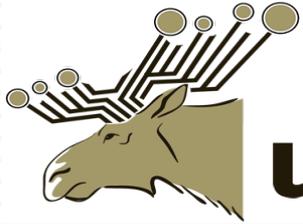Accepted papers: 72 (32 talks, 40 posters)

Acceptance rate: 28%

Submissions by Year

5

Acceptance Rates
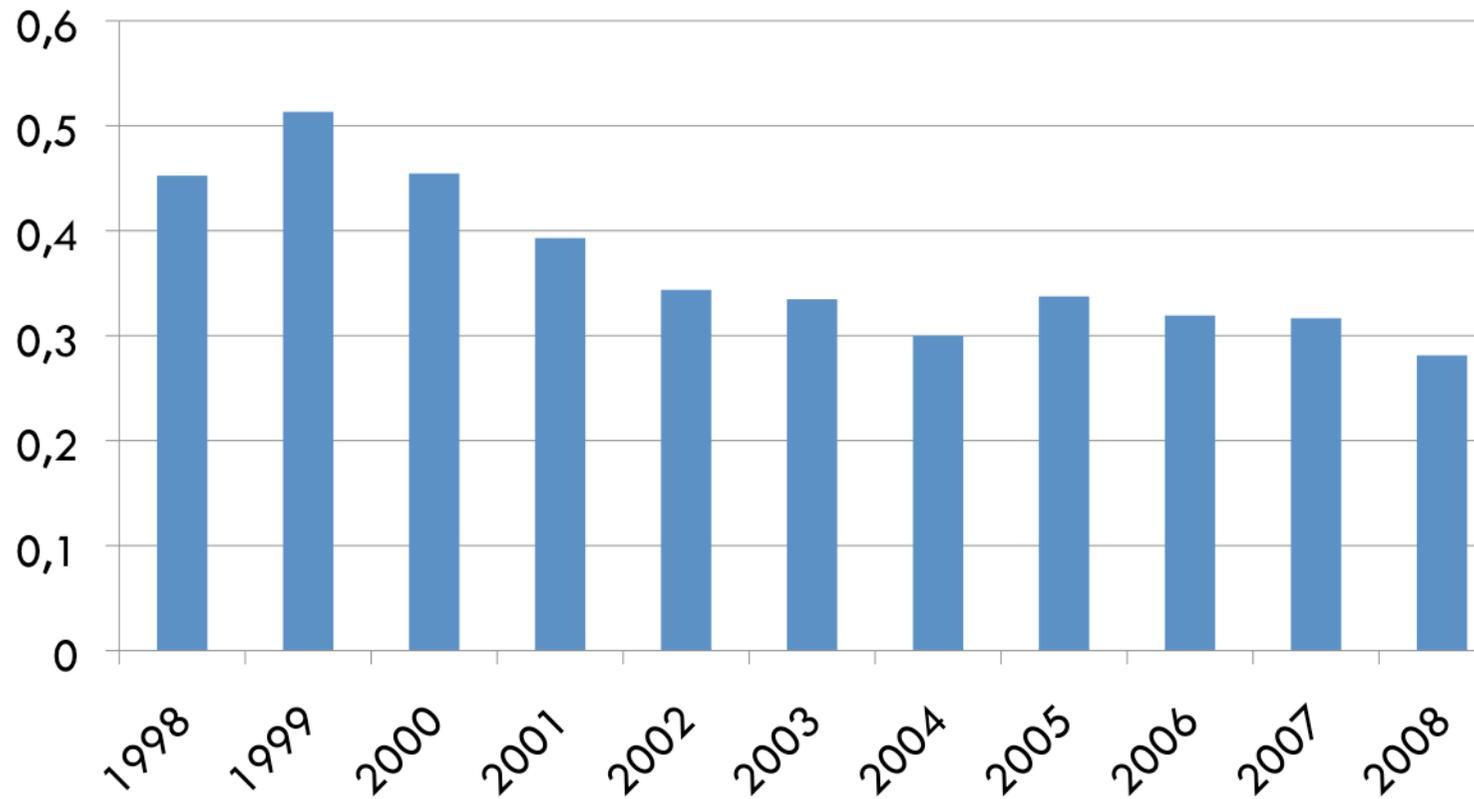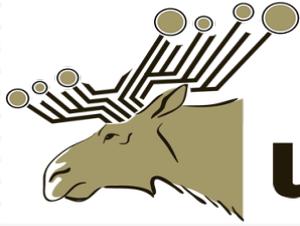
7 Awards

Best paper award

- David Sontag, Talya Meltzer, Amir Globerson, Tommi Jaakkola and Yair Weiss: Tightening LP Relaxations for MAP using Message Passing

Best paper award runner up

- Marc Toussaint, Laurent Charlin and Pascal Poupart: Hierarchical POMDP Controller Optimization by Likelihood Maximization

Best student paper award

- Enrique Munoz de Cote and Michael Littman: A Polynomial-Time Nash Equilibrium Algorithm for Repeated Stochastic Games

Best student paper award runner ups

- Tal El-Hay, Nir Friedman and Raz Kupferman: Gibbs Sampling in Factorized Continuous Time Markov Processes
- Tamir Hazan and Amnon Shashua: Convergent Message-Passing Algorithms for Inference over General Graphs with Convex Free Energies
- Jim Huang and Brendan Frey: Cumulative Distribution Networks and the Derivative-Product Algorithm
- Mathias Niepert, Dirk Van Gucht and Marc Gyssens: On the Conditional Independence Implication Problem: A Lattice-Theoretic Approach

Awards sponsored by AIJ and Nokia. Award certificates handed out at the Banquet.
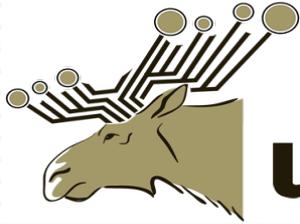
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Program

| Thu	10 July	9:00-16:50 UAI Technical sessions	8:30-18:30 COLT Technical sessions
		17:15-18:15 UAI Poster Spotlights	18:30-19:00 COLT Open Problem session
		18:15-21:00 UAI Poster session	20:00-21:30 COLT Business meeting
Fri	11 July	9:00-18:30 UAI Technical sessions	8:30-19:00 COLT Technical sessions
		18:30-20:00 UAI Business meeting	19:00-20:00 COLT Rump session
		20:00-23:00 Joint UAI/COLT Banquet	
Sat	12 July	9:00-15:30 UAI Technical sessions	8:30-18:00 COLT Technical sessions

11 joint workshops with ICML and COLT on Wed. July 9

No tutorials this year (except as part of the workshops)
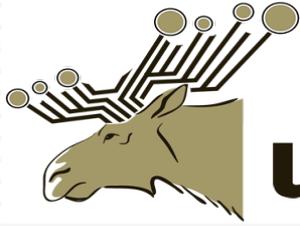
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Invited talks

Peter Grünwald (CWI): The Catch-Up Phenomenon in Bayesian Inference

Thursday, July 10, 10:40-11:40am in P1

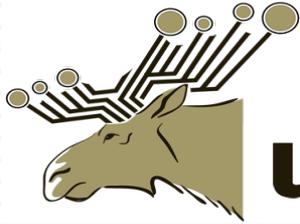Robin Hanson (George Mason University): Combinatorial Prediction Markets

Thursday, July 10, 2:30-3:30pm in P1

Gabor Lugosi (Pompeu Fabra University): Concentration Inequalities

Friday, July 11, 10:40-11:40am in P1

Dan Klein (UC Berkeley): Unsupervised Learning for Natural Language Processing

Friday, July 11, 2:30-3:30pm in P1

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Conference venue

Registration desk opening hours

Wed., July 9:	8:00-18:00	(Main Building)
Thu., July 10:	8:00-20:00	(Porthania)
Fri., July 11:	8:00-20:00	(Porthania)
Sat., July 12:	8:00-14:00	(Porthania)

UAI sessions & joint UAI/COLT invited talks

Lecture room PI of the Porthania building

COLT sessions

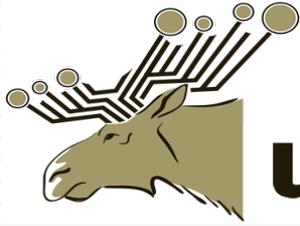PII next door (free access with the UAI badge)

Posters & coffee: Porthania lobby area

Ready rooms:

Teachers' lounge P219 (2nd floor, take the stairs by the elevators)

Rooms P723 and P724 (7th floor)

Smoking: Outside only

11 Poster Spotlight Details

Spotlight session: Thursday 5:15-6:15pm in PI

Presenters:

   Please line up in the order listed in program

   90 seconds/spotlight (strictly enforced!)

   One slide/spotlight (only!)

   To save time, consider leaving out reading out the title, the co-authors and their affiliations etc. (these can all be seen in the poster and in the proceedings anyway)

Audience:

   No questions during the spotlight session (wait until the poster session)

   No applauds between the spotlights (wait until the end of the spotlight session)
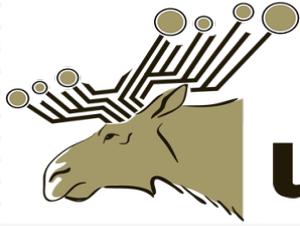
12 Posters

Poster session: Thursday at 6:15-9:00pm

Snacks available

40 posters in total: located in the lobby area, numbered according to the alphabetical list found in the program

A "bonus" poster:

Results from the UAI 2008 "Evaluation of Probabilistic Reasoning Systems", held during the month of June and reported in the Bayesian Modelling Applications Workshop on Wed. 9th. Presenters: Rina Dechter & Adnan Darwiche.

The COLT people will attend the session during their break at 7:00-8:00pm

Presenters:

Please set up posters during the lunch break

Please take down posters after the session
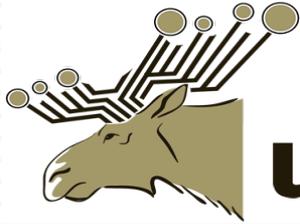
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Some Practical Details

WLAN: your personal access code for HUPnet can be found in your registration package

Lunches: on your own

- Several restaurants nearby (see e.g. http://eat.fi)
- University cafeterias in Porthania (2nd floor) and in the Main Building also serve lunch

Banquet: on Friday at 8-11pm in Valkoinen Sali (the White Hall), Aleksanterinkatu 16-18

- A 5 minute walk from here (a map can be found in the program leaflet)
- Your badge is your ticket

Student travel grant checks:

- See Ron Parr at the registration desk during the first break (or find him later, see picture on the first slide)