Preface

The AI*IA Doctoral Consortium (DC) was held as part of the 12th Symposium of the Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence (AI*IA). It took place at University of Rome "La Sapienza" on June 15th, 2012. It follows the very positive experience of the first edition of the DC in the 2010 AI*IA Symposium, according to the spirit of the DCs within main international conferences (such as IJCAI and AAAI).

The Consortium was planned to give Ph.D. students conducting research in the field of Artificial Intelligence an opportunity to interact with established researchers and with other students. Although the DC was designed primarily for students currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program, the call for proposals was also open to exceptions (e.g., students currently in a Master's program and interested in doctoral studies). Students at any stage in their doctoral studies were encouraged to apply, since contributions describing both mature and preliminary work were welcomed.

Eleven contributions were received, of which 9 were accepted for presentation. The Consortium consisted in a poster session in the courtyard of the conference venue. Attendance was open to all AI*IA Symposium participants.

We are pleased with the quality of the contributed research summaries and posters. Submitted works covered a broad spectrum of topics within AI, including machine learning, scheduling and optimization, knowledge representation and reasoning, natural language processing. Most contributions highlighted the practical applications of the investigated AI techniques in cutting-edge fields such as embedded systems design, ubiquitous computing and ambient intelligence, question answering, business process management. All students were able to describe their work in a clear and interesting way, as well as to sustain discussion with competence and maturity.

We are particularly grateful to mentors who took part at the DC. We received very positive responses to our invitations to read the students' proposals and discuss them at the venue. Discussions were very open and mentors provided valuable suggestions and ideas to the students, displaying genuine interest for their work.

In conclusion, we are confident that the DC was a good experience for all participants, promoting mutual exchange of ideas and possibly even future research collaborations.

July 2012   Paolo Liberatore, Michele Lombardi, Floriano Scioscia
DC Co-chairs