

Preface

We are excited about submissions to our symposium and hope to have productive sessions discussing issues. We hope we will all try to cut down on promoting our research programs and “political party issues” and instead embrace the issues to construct a firm basis for our choices in design and implementation of autonomous agents.

It has been four years since the last symposium dedicated to intelligent architectures (Spring, 1991) and a great deal has happened in those years. This symposium will give us a chance to stop and look back over our success and failures and discuss what works and why. In doing so we will find some answered questions and some unanswered questions that will inspire future research.

We have made an attempt to attract robotics researchers typically not in mainstream AI to join us in exploring what is learned from building smart agents. By doing this we hope to demystify AI issues to people outside AI mainstream and gain a scientific validity. We could also learn from real-world issues other researchers face and test AI theories against real world problems.

The formal sessions are organized to give participants a chance to bring out their point of view and food for thought. Be topical, concise, and if you prefer controversial. Please try, somewhere in your talk (preferably at the end) to have a slide that explicitly states the lessons that you have learned in the course of implementing your architecture. Don't be afraid to include negative lessons about what didn't work and why. You may save us all a great deal of time.

We have set aside some time for people to discuss issues in smaller subgroups. Tentatively, we have organized subgroups along the topics raised in the questions we asked in our call for papers. However, other subgroups may be formed on an ad hoc basis. Each subgroup has an organizer whose role is to present the results of the sub-group's discussion to the assembled group on the last day of the symposium. Subgroup break-outs are formally scheduled at the end of each day. This is done to encourage continued discussion over dinner or into the evening.

The subgroups should focus on a few questions with respect to their topic: 1) Is there consensus among researchers about certain issues within the topic; 2) What are the relevant questions that need to be answered within the topic; 3) What are the irrelevant questions that should not be asked within the topic; 4) What have researchers learned about the topic from actually implementing architectures on agents? On the last day, there will be a panel discussion focusing on these issues as they apply to architectures in general.

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