

# Preface

Welcome to the Workshop on Spatial and Temporal Reasoning at AAAI-08 in Chicago, Illinois. This workshop continues in the spirit of a series of activities that started with the Workshop on Spatial and Temporal Reasoning at IJCAI-93 in Chambéry, France. These activities have led to numerous publications over the last fifteen years, spanning related communities of researchers that study representing and reasoning about either space or time or both.

Various basic representational problems in space (direction, location, proximity, geometry, intersection) and in time (coincidence, order, concurrency, overlap, granularity) attract repeated attention due to their fundamental and difficult nature. Likewise, common reasoning problems thread their way through many papers on space (path finding, orientation, relative position) and time (constraint satisfaction, schedule optimisation, precedence). Beyond that, however, the richness of different ontologies, different applications, and different objectives assures that no small collection of solutions will serve to satisfy all needs. The established intractability of many reasoning problems also broadens the search for approximate and partial solutions.

This workshop has a total of eight contributions, with four of them covering spatial aspects, two of them temporal ones, and another two both spatial and temporal ones. It is the continued wish of the organisers that the contributions to this workshop stimulate cross-fertilisation, new applications of known techniques, and new approaches to well-studied applications. Your attendance at the workshop indicates your interest in finding computerised solutions to representation and reasoning problems that deal with space and time, be they geographic or robotic, dealing with transportation or communication, theoretical or applied. We hope you come away with a richer knowledge, sharing our view that space and time may serve as a unifying theme for many areas.

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– Gérard Ligozat (LIMSI-CNRS, Paris-Sud University, France)  
– Rita V. Rodriguez (National Science Foundation, USA)