**Preface**

This volume contains the papers accepted for presentation at ICAPS 2026, the Thirty-Sixth International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling, to be held in Dublin Ireland, from June 27th to July 2nd 2026. The annual ICAPS conference series was formed in 2003 through the merger of two pre-existing biennial conferences, the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence Planning and Scheduling (AIPS) and the European Conference on Planning (ECP). ICAPS continues the traditional high standards of AIPS and ECP as an archival forum for new research in the field of automated planning and scheduling.

The 90 papers included in this volume, consisting of 70 long papers and 20 short papers, are those selected for plenary presentation at ICAPS 2026 from a total of 397 submissions, giving an acceptance rate of 23%. All submissions were reviewed by the International Program Committee, and this set of accepted papers reflects the Program Committee's high reviewing standards. The papers published at ICAPS 2026 include papers from the main track and four special tracks: Human-Aware Planning and Scheduling, Applications of Planning & Scheduling, Learning for Planning & Scheduling, and Planning & Scheduling in Robotics. All of these special tracks were chaired by two experts in the relevant disciplines. All papers present the latest advances in the field of automated planning and scheduling, ranging in scope from theoretical analyses of planning and scheduling problems and processes, to new algorithms for planning and scheduling under various constraints and assumptions, to empirical evaluation of planning and scheduling techniques in practical applications. They reflect recent research trends in particular in the subareas of multi-agent path finding, integrating learning with planning and scheduling, human-aware planning and scheduling, and new developments in heuristics for planning algorithms. Applications that are considered span diverse areas ranging from semiconductor manufacturing to autonomous driving. From this excellent collection of papers, four were selected for special recognition:

- **Best Paper Award:** *"Learning Lifted Action Models from Unsupervised Visual Traces"* by Kai Xi, Stephen Gould and Sylvie Thiebaux.
- **Best Paper Runner-Up Award**: *"Potential Heuristics as Real-Valued Multilinear Polynomials"* by Augusto B. Corrêa, Simon Dold and Malte Helmert.
- **Best Student Paper Award:** *"I Always Told My Mom That Order Is Overrated: Unordered HTN Planning is in PSPACE and Models Problems Beyond STRIPS"* by Pascal Lauer, Yifan Zhang, Patrik Haslum and Pascal Bercher.
- **Best Student Paper Runner-Up Award:** *"GPMS: A Generalized Parallel Machine Scheduling Framework with Rich Temporal and Resource Constraints"* by Lukas Frühwirth, Christoph Einspieler, Nysret Musliu and Felix Winter.

In addition to the oral presentation of these papers, the technical program of this year's ICAPS conference includes invited talks by three distinguished speakers: Nick Hawes (Better Autonomy Through Uncertainty), Nora Ayanian (From Agents to Robots), and Pascal Bercher (Planning with Hierarchies: An Invitation). The technical program also includes Systems Demonstrations, a Previously Published Papers Presentation track and two Industry Talks.

The ICAPS2026 Main Conference Program was preceded by two days of satellite events, including 12 workshops, 3 tutorials, and a doctoral consortium. The workshops this year are Constraint and Satisfiability-based Planning (CASPER); Generalization in Planning (GenPlan); Human-Aware and Explainable Planning (HAXP); Hierarchical Planning (HPlan); Heuristics and Search for Domain-Independent Planning (HSDIP); Knowledge Engineering for Planning and Scheduling (KEPS); Planning in the Era of Large Language Models (LM4Plan); Planning and Robotics (PlanRob); Planning and Reasoning about Beliefs, Goals, and Intentions (PR-BGI); Bridging the Gap Between AI Planning and Reinforcement Learning (PRL); Reliability in Planning and Learning (RIPL); Roles of Planning in Games (RPG). The tutorials offer in-depth perspectives on the following topics: Planning Ontology, Deepxube, and Language-to-Plan.

Following the tradition of ICAPS conferences, a Doctoral Consortium was once again organized, providing Ph.D. students in the field of automated planning and scheduling with the opportunity to present their current research during the conference and receive early feedback from experts in the field. New this year was a Shadow Program Committee, giving early career researchers mentorship in evaluating papers and writing reviews.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all of the members of the Program Committee, who performed admirably in reviewing the submissions. We would like to also thank the Organizing Committee for their efforts, behind the scenes, in organizing the events and activities of this conference. Without their talent and dedication, and without the expertise and hard work of the Program Committee in reviewing the submitted papers, this conference would not have been possible.

Finally, we thank our sponsors: the U.S. National Science Foundation, Fáilte Ireland, Eaton, David E. Smith, the Artificial Intelligence Journal, J.P.Morgan Chase, Intrinsic, Hexaly, SIFT, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Algorithm Alliance, and EurAI. We hope this volume maintains the tradition of past ICAPS proceedings and becomes a valuable reference for researchers and practitioners in the field of automated planning and scheduling.

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