Report on the Thirty-Second International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS-32)

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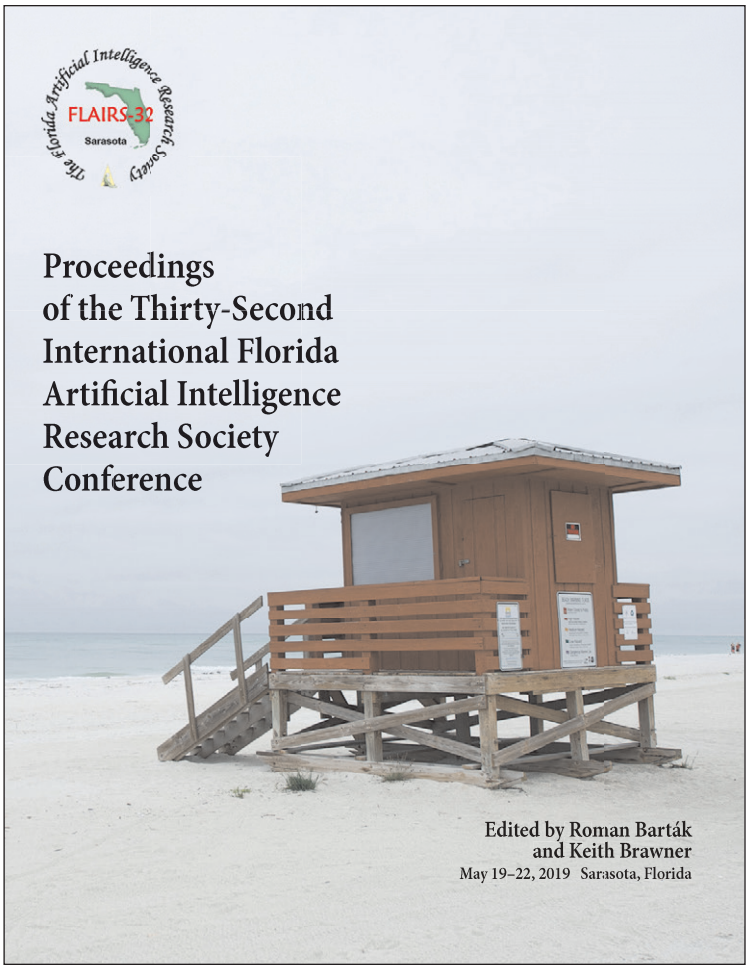
■ *The Thirty-Second International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference was held May 19–22, 2019, at the Lido Beach Resort in Sarasota, Florida, USA. The conference events included tutorials, invited speakers, special tracks, and presentations of papers, posters, and awards. The conference chair was Vasile Rus from the University of Memphis. The program cochairs were Keith Brawner from the Army Research Laboratory and Roman Barták from Charles University, Prague. The special tracks were coordinated by Eric Bell.*

The Florida Artificial Intelligence Society (FLAIRS) was founded in 1987 to promote and advance artificial intelligence research in the state of Florida and to foster the exchange of ideas and collaboration among the state's researchers from universities and industry through an annual conference. Shortly thereafter the FLAIRS conference, a general artificial intelligence (AI) conference, grew to become a major venue for AI researchers from around the world to present their work. The conference continues its in-cooperation status with the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence.



Continuing a long tradition of presenting and discussing state-of-the-art AI research in a sociable atmosphere within a beautiful setting, the Thirty-Second International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS-32) took place May 19–22, 2019, in Sarasota, Florida, USA. It attracted 252 PC members from 33 countries, with more than half coming from outside the United States. The attendees of the conference included 158 individuals from 16 countries with about a quarter coming from outside the USA. The program included a general session spanning a broad range of AI research areas such as machine learning and reasoning, and nine special tracks focused on particular topics in AI. An integral part of the conference, the special tracks, provide researchers working in similar areas opportunity to meet and present work in those areas. These focused sessions also offer forums for interactions among a broader community of AI researchers. The special tracks program included sessions and papers on AI in healthcare informatics; applied natural language processing; AI for big social data analysis; AI in games, serious games, and multimedia; AI for the internet of things and fab laboratories, makerspaces; autonomous robots and agents; case-based reasoning; data mining; intelligent learning technologies; recommender systems; semantic, logics, information extraction and AI and uncertain reasoning.

The call for papers attracted 128 papers submission, 38 to the general conference and 90 to the special tracks, and 38 poster abstracts. The accepted submissions included 66 full papers, 17 from the general conference and 49 from the special tracks, 25 short papers presented as posters, and 38 poster abstracts that appeared in the proceedings. The best paper award went to Benjamin Mitchell and John Sheppard for Spatially Biased Random Forest. The best student paper was awarded to Josiah Wong and Avelino Gonzalez for Learning Behavioral Memory Representations from Observation. The best poster award was presented to Ayan Dutta, Emily Czarnecki, Asai Asaithambi, and Vladimir Ufimtsev for Distributed Coalition Formation with Heterogeneous Agents for Task Allocation. The Douglas D. Dankel II Award for service to FLAIRS community went to Rita Rodriguez, who was part of the original core group that started FLAIRS.

The conference featured a stimulating set of invited talks by three distinguished speakers. Judy Goldsmith from the University of Kentucky gave a talk about AI Ethics Education and the Moral Imagination, Tuomas Sandholm from Carnegie Mellon University gave a talk on New Results for Solving Imperfect-Information Games, and Maarten Sierhuis from Nissan Research Center talked about Autonomous Systems with Humans-in-the-Loop. In addition, the special-track invited speaker was Leila Kosseim from Concordia University (Canada), who presented Computational Discourse Analysis.

For the first time, the conference program was preceded with a day of tutorials. Cynthia Freeman and Ian Beaver from Verint Intelligent Self-Service gave a tutorial on How to Determine the Optimal Anomaly Detection Method For Your Application and David Bisant from Central Security Service gave a tutorial on Neural Nets 101.

The next FLAIRS conference (FLAIRS-33) will be held May 17–20, 2020 in North Miami Beach, Florida, USA. Information about FLAIRS-33, including the call for papers, is available online at www.flairs-33.info.

Roman Barták is a full professor of computer science at Charles University, Prague. His research areas are in intelligent autonomous agents, model-based approaches, constraint reasoning, and automated planning and scheduling.

Eric Bell is a data scientist and computational linguist. His research interests are in the areas of data science, human language technology, and social media analytics.

Keith Brawner is a researcher and project manager at the Army Research Laboratory. His research interests are in the areas of machine learning for educational applications and cognitive architectures.

Vasile Rus is the William Duanavant Professor of Computer Science at the University of Memphis. His research areas are natural language processing, interactive systems, and data science.