Sources of Scientific Literature for Multiagent Systems

Multiagent Systems LS
Sistemi Multiagente LS

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Academic Year 2009/2010
1 Scientific Literature
- Scientific Literature: Generality
- Scientific Literature: Details

2 Agent-Oriented Literature
- General Sources of Informatics Literature
- Agent-Oriented Journals, Series & Books
- Agent-Oriented Conferences & Workshops
Outline

1. Scientific Literature
   - Scientific Literature: Generality
   - Scientific Literature: Details

2. Agent-Oriented Literature
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Scientific literature is the result of a complex process

- Involving thousands of skilled people world-wide
- Growing constantly in size and width in the last decades
- Where individual, social, organisational, economical, political issues are often as important as scientific ones
- Articulated essentially around four stages
  - production
  - publication
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  - access

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Scientific literature is the result of the activity of many actors

- Many actors are involved in the process
  - researchers
  - universities & research centres
  - funding bodies
  - publishers
- They participate in the process with different aims and roles.
- Abstracting away from *motivations* of actors in the research process could make understanding the process and its results difficult, and participating to it actively even more problematic.
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- working in the academia, industry, research institutions
- working either individually or in team, in isolation or in research labs
- are mainly involved in the production stage

Production of scientific results means nothing alone

- (Expert) researchers are typically involved in the other three stages, too
  - promoting, participating to, and coordinating scientific meetings
  - promoting, participating to, and coordinating scientific projects
  - promoting, participating to, and coordinating publication of books and journals
  - promoting dissemination of published results
  - possibly, making access to published results as wide as possible
- A huge number of non-scientific, non-technical issues to be faced & solved
  - like, say, fund raising
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Universities & research centres

- Some institutional actors have the promotion of scientific research among their main goals
  - universities
  - public & private research institutes
  - industrial research centres

- Promoting research is not their only aim, however
  - universities have to produce and transmit knowledge
  - research institutes have to make their own results visible, and possibly to transfer them to industry
  - industrial research centres have to produce competitive advantage as well as long-term profits
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Public & private funding bodies

- Investing in research
- Funding theoretical & applied research
  - either occasionally, or systematically
  - either as an exceptional measure, or as part of the mission of the funding body
- Typical examples
  - public: European Community, Italian Ministry of Research, Region Emilia Romagna, ...
  - private: mostly, big industrial groups like FIAT, British Telecom, Siemens, IBM, ...

Modes for funding

- Often in the form of projects, involving individuals & groups from either the same body or different bodies
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- An idea is not a scientific result *per se*
- A scientific result is something that
  - is presented & structured in a way that can be *understood* by non-authors
  - has a form that can be *shared* and accessed by members of the scientific community
  - gives readers enough information upon its results, so that they could in principle be reproduced and possibly *confuted* by any (expert, knowledgeable) reader [Popper, 2002]

Articles & Books

- The primary sharable form for scientific results are *articles* (also called *papers*), collected and published
- In scientific journals
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- Review is conducted by experts in the field, and concludes in a final evaluation.
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- Before it is published an article is *submitted* in some form to a *review process*
  - for publication in a scientific journal, a book collection, a conference, a symposia, a workshop
- Review is conducted by experts in the field, and concludes in a final evaluation
- In case the article is considered worth of publication, it might anyway be revised according to the reviewer’s indications, and finally accepted for publication
- When published, the article represents a piece of scientific literature
  - In case of conferences, workshops, symposia, public presentation of the article and discussion of the content is an essential part of the *dissemination* process
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Scientific literature is published (and disseminated) by publishers

- Once ready, proceedings, journal issues, collections and monographies are ready as scientific products, but not yet as typographic ones
- Often, publishers intervene on the form (language, formatting, illustrations, ...) of the scientific material before it is published
  - with the consent of authors / editors

The role of publishers

- Publishers have a twofold goal
  - primarily, earn money — at least do not loose money
  - secondarily, earn reputation through high quality publications
- Publishers dictate the pace for publication of volumes / issues, the total number of pages
  - they also may provide suggestions on the general goals of a published volume / journal
- Publishers handle organisational issues, and introduce social & economical factors in the scientific process
- Publishers are also in charge of dissemination
- Publishers rule access to scientific literature
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Dissemination of scientific literature is a multi-faceted process

- Publication is just a premise
- Presentation at scientific meetings adds momentum
  - interpersonal communication is an essential even though non-technical key-point
- Promotion of demos at scientific meetings is fine for systems
- Mailing to selected lists may be good
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- The main tool & index of dissemination is citation
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- When you read a paper, you may as well go through the bibliography, and possibly follow citations for further readings

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  - even though citation is not necessarily a sign of approval...
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- Citations are typically used for evaluation of scientific production

- Web resources for citations
  - Impact Factor, ISI
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**Access to scientific literature is nowadays mostly Web-based**

- Even though traditional means are still widespread—like participation to scientific events, and access to printed materials in libraries and personal collections.
- ... *on-line access* is gaining more and more ground, and is already the most important means of access to scientific literature.
- Internet & Web technologies have obviously a key role since they allow an unprecedented flow of *dissemination* of and *access* to (either published or unpublished) technical results.
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Scientific Literature: Our Efforts

Producing & publishing scientific literature is not enough

- In the long run, disseminating results and providing easy & organised access to them is at least as relevant.
- The ongoing efforts in the portal at http://apice.unibo.it/ are exactly aimed at that.
- Other specialised portals are under development, concerning products, projects and publications as well.
  - however, they are non-funded activities, based on volunteer's efforts.
  - so, the process is often slow and painful.
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Outline

1. Scientific Literature
   - Scientific Literature: Generality
   - Scientific Literature: Details

2. Agent-Oriented Literature
   - General Sources of Informatics Literature
   - Agent-Oriented Journals, Series & Books
   - Agent-Oriented Conferences & Workshops
Digital Libraries from Main International Publishers

Springer  http://www.springerlink.com/
ScienceDirect  http://www.sciencedirect.com/
Taylor & Francis  http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/
IOS Press  http://www.iospress.nl/
World Scientific  http://www.worldscinet.com/
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IEEE DL  http://www.computer.org/portal/site/csdl/

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**J.AAMAS**  Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems  
http://www.springerlink.com/content/1573-7454/

**TAAS**  ACM Transactions on Autonomous and Adaptive Systems  
http://taas.acm.org/

**IJAOSE**  International Journal of Agent-Oriented Software Engineering  

**WIAS**  Web Intelligence and Agent Systems  
http://www.iospress.nl/loadtop/load.php?isbn=15701263

**MGS**  Multiagent and Grid Systems  
http://www.iospress.nl/loadtop/load.php?isbn=15741702
### MAS Journals

**J.AAMAS**  
Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems  
[http://www.springerlink.com/content/1573-7454/](http://www.springerlink.com/content/1573-7454/)

**TAAS**  
ACM Transactions on Autonomous and Adaptive Systems  
[http://taas.acm.org/](http://taas.acm.org/)

**IJAOSE**  
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**WIAS**  
Web Intelligence and Agent Systems  

**MGS**  
Multiagent and Grid Systems  
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MAS-related Journals

AAI  Applied Artificial Intelligence
    http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713191765

KER  Knowledge Engineering Review
    http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=KER

SCP  Science of Computer Programming
    http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scico
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http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scico
MAS Series

**LNCS** Springer’s Lecture Notes in Computer Science publishes most of the up-to-date MAS literature, based on a huge number of MAS-related conferences and workshops
http://www.springerlink.com/content/105633/

**LNAI** Its sub-series Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence collects most of the MAS-related LNCS volumes

**ENTCS** Elsevier’s Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science, even though not MAS-centred, publishes also some proceedings of MAS-related conferences and workshops
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/15710661/
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1 Scientific Literature
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   - Scientific Literature: Details

2 Agent-Oriented Literature
   - General Sources of Informatics Literature
   - Agent-Oriented Journals, Series & Books
   - Agent-Oriented Conferences & Workshops
MAS Conferences & Workshops

AAMAS  Joint Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems
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along with its many workshops
- DALT, E4MAS, PROMAS, AOSE, ESOA, ...
- most of them with post-proceedings published as LNCS / LNAI

IAT  International Conferences on Intelligent Agent Technologies

EUMAS  European Workshop on Multi-Agent Systems

ESAW  Workshop “Engineering Societies in the Agents World”

SELMAS  Workshop “Software Engineering for Large-scale Multi-Agent Systems”

CIA  Workshop “Cooperative Information Agents”

AT2AI  Workshop “From Agent Theory to Agent Implementation”

COIN  Workshop Series “Coordination, Organisation, Institutions and Norms”

WOA  Italian Workshop “From Objects to Agents”

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Andrea Omicini (Università di Bologna)
MAS-related Conferences & Workshops

IJCAI  International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence
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SAC   ACM Symposium on Applied Computing
AI*IA Italian Conference on Artificial Intelligence
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Sistemi Multiagente LS

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