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Antonio A. Sánchez-Ruiz ·
Michael W. Floyd (Eds.)

Case-Based Reasoning Research and Development

29th International Conference, ICCBR 2021
Salamanca, Spain, September 13–16, 2021
Proceedings

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Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 29th International Conference on Case-Based Reasoning (ICCBR 2021), which was held virtually during September 13–16, 2021. ICCBR is the premiere annual meeting of the Case-Based Reasoning (CBR) research community and serves an important role in disseminating the newest findings and developments in the field. The previous ICCBR, ICCBR 2020, had originally been planned to be held in Salamanca, Spain, but was instead held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had hoped that Salamanca could instead serve as the venue for ICCBR 2021 but, unfortunately, the difficult decision was made to again hold it virtually due to ongoing health, safety, and travel concerns.

Previous ICCBR editions, including the merged European Workshops and Conferences on CBR, were held in the following locations: Otzenhausen, Germany (1993); Chantilly, France (1994); Sesimbra, Portugal (1995); Lausanne, Switzerland (1996); Providence, USA (1997); Dublin, Ireland (1998); Seon Monastery, Germany (1999); Trento, Italy (2000); Vancouver, Canada (2001); Aberdeen, UK (2002); Trondheim, Norway (2003); Madrid, Spain (2004); Chicago, USA (2005); Fethiye, Turkey (2006); Belfast, UK (2007); Trier, Germany (2008); Seattle, USA (2009); Alessandria, Italy (2010); Greenwich, UK (2011); Lyon, France (2012); Saratoga Springs, USA (2013); Cork, Ireland (2014); Frankfurt, Germany (2015); Atlanta, USA (2016); Trondheim, Norway (2017); Stockholm, Sweden (2018); Otzenhausen, Germany (2019); and Salamanca, Spain, with virtual attendance (2020).

ICCBR 2021 received 85 submissions from 18 countries, spanning Europe, North America, and Asia. Each paper was initially reviewed by the conference co-chairs to determine whether it met the submission criteria and conference topics. Submissions that passed the initial review were then reviewed by at least three Program Committee (PC) members. If a consensus was not reached among the Program Committee reviewers, additional meta-reviews were provided by members of the Advisory Board. Of the 85 submissions, 21 were accepted for oral presentation. Although poster presentations have often been included in previous ICCBR editions, none were included in the ICCBR 2021 program as the presentation is more difficult in a virtual setting.

ICCBR 2021 took place over four days, from September 13 to 16, 2021. On the first day of the conference, the workshop program was held with meetings dedicated to specific sub-areas of CBR. Following the workshops, the first technical session of the main conference was held, with a virtual social event afterwards in the evening. The second day of the conference started with a keynote invited talk by Professor Santiago Ontañón Villar of Google Research and Drexel University, USA. The majority of the day was comprised of oral presentations, concluding with another virtual social event in the evening. The third day started with oral presentations and concluded with a virtual cooking class, serving as a gala dinner, where attendees were able to create Spanish dishes in their homes. This event brought a taste of Spain to the attendees, even though we were unable to physically meet in Salamanca. The final day of the

conference began with an invited keynote talk by Professor Kerstin Bach of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Following the keynote talk, a panel was held to remember the life and career of Professor Dr. Michael M. Richter. Michael had a significant and lasting impact on the CBR community, including his research, his involvement with ICCBR, and the numerous CBR researchers who studied under him. A final technical session consisting of oral presentations followed. The day, and the conference, concluded with a private Program Committee meeting followed by a general community meeting to discuss future plans for ICCBR.

The task of organizing ICCBR 2021 was supported by the tireless efforts of many people. Juan Manuel Corchado and Fernando de la Prieta, along with their team, handled all aspects of the local organization – both the in-person planning for a physical conference in Salamanca as well as the online organization when the conference transitioned to a virtual event. Hayley Borck and Viktor Eisenstadt organized an excellent workshop program for the conference and coordinated with the various workshop chairs to plan those meetings. Stewart Massie and Stelios Kapetanakis chaired the Doctoral Consortium, an invaluable annual event that helps nurture the next generation of CBR researchers. We are extremely grateful for the guidance, advice, and support of the ICCBR Advisory Board members: Belen Díaz-Agudo, David W. Aha, David Leake, Barry Smyth, Rosina O. Weber, and Nirmalie Wiratunga. Additionally, the thoughtful, thorough, and constructive reviews provided by the PC and additional reviewers assisted us greatly in making decisions for the ICCBR 2021 program. We thank all those mentioned for their effort and assistance in making ICCBR 2021 a success.

July 2021

Antonio A. Sánchez-Ruiz
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Contents

The Bites Eclectic: Critique-Based Conversational Recommendation for Diversity-Focused Meal Planning	1
<i>Fakhri Abbas, Nadia Najjar, and David Wilson</i>	
Evaluation of Similarity Measures for Flight Simulator Training Scenarios . . .	17
<i>Rubén Dapica and Federico Peinado</i>	
Instance-Based Counterfactual Explanations for Time Series Classification . . .	32
<i>Eoin Delaney, Derek Greene, and Mark T. Keane</i>	
User Evaluation to Measure the Perception of Similarity Measures in Artworks	48
<i>Belén Díaz-Agudo, Guillermo Jimenez-Diaz, and Jose Luis Jorro-Aragoneses</i>	
Measuring Financial Time Series Similarity with a View to Identifying Profitable Stock Market Opportunities	64
<i>Rian Dolphin, Barry Smyth, Yang Xu, and Ruihai Dong</i>	
A Case-Based Reasoning Approach to Predicting and Explaining Running Related Injuries	79
<i>Ciara Feely, Brian Caulfield, Aonghus Lawlor, and Barry Smyth</i>	
Bayesian Feature Construction for Case-Based Reasoning: Generating Good Checklists	94
<i>Eirik Lund Flogard, Ole Jakob Mengshoel, and Kerstin Bach</i>	
Revisiting Fast and Slow Thinking in Case-Based Reasoning	110
<i>Srashti Kaurav, Devi Ganesan, Deepak P, and Sutanu Chakraborti</i>	
Harmonizing Case Retrieval and Adaptation with Alternating Optimization	125
<i>David Leake and Xiaomeng Ye</i>	
Adaptation Knowledge Discovery Using Positive and Negative Cases	140
<i>Jean Lieber and Emmanuel Nauer</i>	
When Revision-Based Case Adaptation Meets Analogical Extrapolation	156
<i>Jean Lieber, Emmanuel Nauer, and Henri Prade</i>	
Inferring Case-Based Reasoners' Knowledge to Enhance Interactivity	171
<i>Pierre-Alexandre Murena and Marie Al-Ghossein</i>	

A Case-Based Approach for the Selection of Explanation Algorithms in Image Classification	186
<i>Juan A. Recio-García, Humberto Parejas-Llanovarced, Mauricio G. Orozco-del-Castillo, and Esteban E. Brito-Borges</i>	
Towards Richer Realizations of Holographic CBR	201
<i>Renganathan Subramanian, Devi Ganesan, Deepak P, and Sutanu Chakraborti</i>	
Handling Climate Change Using Counterfactuals: Using Counterfactuals in Data Augmentation to Predict Crop Growth in an Uncertain Climate Future	216
<i>Mohammed Temraz, Eoin M. Kenny, Elodie Ruelle, Laurence Shalloo, Barry Smyth, and Mark T. Keane</i>	
A Case-Based Approach to Data-to-Text Generation	232
<i>Ashish Upadhyay, Stewart Massie, Ritwik Kumar Singh, Garima Gupta, and Muneendra Ojha</i>	
On Combining Knowledge-Engineered and Network-Extracted Features for Retrieval	248
<i>Zachary Wilkerson, David Leake, and David J. Crandall</i>	
Task and Situation Structures for Case-Based Planning	263
<i>Hao Yang, Tavan Eftekhari, Chad Esselink, Yan Ding, and Shiqi Zhang</i>	
Learning Adaptations for Case-Based Classification: A Neural Network Approach	279
<i>Xiaomeng Ye, David Leake, Vahid Jalali, and David J. Crandall</i>	
Similar Questions Correspond to Similar SQL Queries: A Case-Based Reasoning Approach for Text-to-SQL Translation	294
<i>Wei Yu, Xiaoting Guo, Fei Chen, Tao Chang, Mengzhu Wang, and Xiaodong Wang</i>	
Deciphering Ancient Chinese Oracle Bone Inscriptions Using Case-Based Reasoning	309
<i>Gechuan Zhang, Dairui Liu, Barry Smyth, and Ruihai Dong</i>	
Author Index	325