
University of Lethbridge

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

***** Colloquium *****

Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer, University of Alberta

Title: The Games Computers (and People) Play

Date: Friday May 24/02 @ 2:00 - 2:50 pm

Room: L1060

Abstract:

The development of high-performance game-playing programs has been one of the major successes of artificial intelligence research. The results have been outstanding but, with one notable exception (Deep Blue), they have not been widely disseminated. Success has been achieved largely by ignoring the human example, inventing solutions that are "computer friendly."

This talk will discuss some of the (unusual) techniques used to develop "smart" game-playing programs. Case studies discussed include backgammon, bridge, checkers, chess, go, Othello, poker, and Scrabble. The next big challenge is discussed: creating realistic intelligence in commercial computer games.

Biography

Dr. Schaeffer will be receiving an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Science, from the University of Lethbridge on May 25. Dr. Schaeffer is recognized as a world authority in artificial intelligence applied to computer games. He developed Chinook, the first program to win a human world championship in any game, an accomplishment that is noted in the Guinness Book of World Records. He also received an NSERC E.W.R. Steacie fellowship in 1997 for his influential games-related research. He is one of seven Canadians ever named a Fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, and in Canada contributes substantially to the development of information technology both in Alberta and nationally. He is a member of Alberta's ICT Advisory Board and Celcorp's Scientific Advisory Board, and sits on the board of directors of the company BioTools, as well as the national organization for high performance computing in Canada, C3. He has designed numerous algorithms that have achieved widespread use, and has published widely, including almost 100 refereed publications, a book, and two edited volumes.

Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer is a professor in computing science at the University of Alberta and iCORE Chair of the High Performance Artificial Intelligence Systems. He was also recently awarded a Canada Research Chair.

ALL ARE WELCOME