Visual Languages and Logic

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Diagrams of one sort or another have always been used as aids to abstract reasoning. Although many are informal mnemonics, reminding their authors about structures and relationships they have observed or deduced, considerable research effort has been expended on formalising graphical notations so that they may play a more central role in the application of logic to problems.

While early work concentrated on diagrammatic representations of logic as a more intuitive or revealing paper-based replacement for textually represented logic, research in this area now mostly involves notations specifically designed for computer implementation either as computational models or interface languages. Examples include relational and existential graphs (C.S. Peirce), conceptual graphs (J.F. Sowa), various flavours of semantic networks, such as conceptual dependency graphs (R. Schank), graphical deduction systems, such as clause interconnectivity graphs (S. Sickel), Venn diagrams, Euler diagrams, constraint diagrams, and visual logic programming languages.

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the current state of research at the intersection of logic and visual languages.

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