

## The After-Conference Report

I am a PhD student at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev under Industrial Engineering & Management Department. I am studying distributed planning algorithms for group of robots, and I am in my 3-rd year of the program.

This year (2023) I was at the International AAMAS Conference with our new paper: "CAMS: Collision Avoidance Max-Sum for Mobile Sensor Team". And it was absolutely one of the favorite moments in my PhD journey. We had there relatively a big group of students from Israel and, as expected, we were very supportive one to each other. But some things really surprised me, and I want to share some of them with you.

One of the biggest surprises for me was the feeling of the community, an amazing quality of between-lectures mingling talks and amount of think-alike people in the same room did some magic. The conference was mainly focused on multi-agent systems, which is exactly my research field. And the people whose papers I have read thoroughly are there in person and open to talk. Another great surprise was that aside from my topic, I've got to know a lot of other closely related but still quite different venues for future research that I would consider. From multi-agent learning to theoretical studies, from planning to evolution algorithms. The amount of research is enormous and yet you feel very comfortable among those subjects.

Third major surprise came from the amount of interest that my work can receive. Many researchers came to me at the poster session and went deep with the details while giving me new ideas, some of which I will apply for sure in the future.

And finally, after the conference I sense a lot more confident and far more motivated to pursue new challenges than ever before. As I said, this was one of the core experiences and I intimately thankful to everyone, who allows to this to happen, including ISTRC for their support.

Thank you once again,

Arseni Pertzovskiy