

2010 Budapest Experience Report

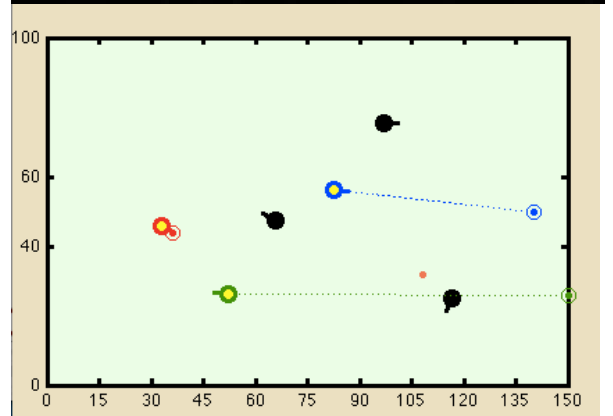
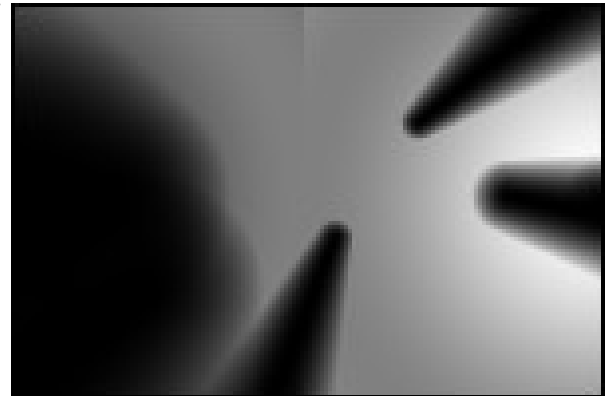
by Matthew Woelk

Through the C&CofMARS (Control and Coordination of Multi-Agent Robotics Systems) inter-University mobility program, my undergraduate final year design project was able to be done in Budapest,

Hungary at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. A bursary was supplied by the program to help pay for the costs of flights, food, and accommodation for the trip.

The project that Benjamin Bergman and I worked on was to create a simulated soccer team which ran using the soccer simulator that had been created by previous students. Our task was to make a team that would successfully defeat all of the other teams which had been created previously. The project was both difficult and rewarding. We learned about many other strategies that had been implemented, and in the end, made one of our own. The project was done in the MATLAB environment.

The city of Budapest was a beautiful place, especially in the spring time. Margaret Island, which has one of the most gorgeous parks in Budapest, had a running track around it which provided a 5.3km view of city skyline. The sights to see were also captivating. Fisherman's Bastion was a castle with a beautiful church on top of a hill. It provided a fantastic view of the parliament building, which is the second largest in Europe. The food was also incredible. Gulyás soup and Lángos were definite highlights, as well as all of the pastries which





could be purchased at any metro station around town.

The university did an excellent job of integrating me with the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), which organized events for the foreign students. Through the program I went spelunking in the caves of Budapest, and among other things, got to travel around Europe!

During the program, through ESN and by other means, on weekends I go to go to Kraków, Poland; Bratislava, Slovakia; Eger, Hungary; Szentendre, Hungary; and Munich, Germany.

Being in Europe also allowed me to travel to places after the project was over that I would not have had the opportunity to visit otherwise. These included Germany, Austria, Croatia, and Czech Republic.

I value having had the opportunity to see all of these different cultures and groups of people. It's difficult to see things for how they really are when there's nothing to compare them to. I feel that through this trip I have gained a greater understanding of both where I've been, and where I've come from.

Overall, this trip was an excellent experience. It put me in a place where I could learn many things, both technical and otherwise, and I have grown much because of this opportunity.

Thank you to Istvan Harmati, Jean Paul Burak, Nariman Sepehri, Wiltold Kinsner, and Cyrus Shafai for making this voyage possible and for coordinating the program.

