Preface

This year, Brazil celebrates its 500 years of discovery. To mark this great event, the Brazilian Artificial Intelligence (AI) community organized a special international joint conference putting together SBIA 2000 (the Brazilian AI Symposium) and IBERAMIA 2000 (the Ibero-American AI Conference).

SBIA 2000 is the 15th conference of the SBIA conference series, which is the leading conference in Brazil for presentation of research and applications in Artificial Intelligence. Since 1995, SBIA has become an international conference, with papers written in English, an international program committee, and proceedings published in Springer-Verlag's *Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence* (LNAI) series.

IBERAMIA 2000 is the 7th conference of the IBERAMIA conference series, which has been one of the most suitable forums for ibero-american AI researchers (from South and Central America, Mexico, Spain, and Portugal) to present their results. Following the SBIA and EPIA (Portuguese conference on AI) experiences, from IBERAMIA'98 on, it has also become an international conference, with proceedings published in Springer-Verlag's LNAI series.

The IBERAMIA–SBIA 2000 was held in Atibaia, São Paulo, Brazil, 19–22 November 2000. The call for papers was very sucessful resulting in 156 submissions for the paper track and 69 for the open discussion track, from 18 different countries. In order to mantain the good standard of the conference, each submission was sent to at least three members of the program committee. A total of 48 papers were accepted for paper track presentation and are included in this volume. In addition, 36 papers were accepted for the open discussion track and were published in a local procceedings.

The IBERAMIA–SBIA 2000 program was completed with the presentation of invited talks, some introductory and advanced tutorials, several workshops covering specific topics, and the 2nd Ibero-American Thesis and Dissertation Contest.

We would like to thank all researchers for submitting their papers, and the PC members and additional referees for the work they have done. We are also very grateful to our colleagues who provided invaluable organizational support.

November 2000
Maria Carolina Monard
Jaime Simão Sichman

Organization

IBERAMIA–SBIA 2000 was organized by several AI research groups that belong to the University of São Paulo (USP):

Laboratório de Técnicas Inteligentes (LTI)
Departamento de Engenharia de Computação e Sistemas Digitais (PCS)
Escola Politécnica (EP)

Laboratório de Inteligência Computacional (LABIC)
Departamento de Ciências de Computação e Estatística (SCE)
Instituto de Ciências Matemáticas e de Computação (ICMC)

Laboratório de Lógica, Inteligência Artificial e Métodos Formais (LIAMF)
Departamento de Ciência da Computação (MAC)
Instituto de Matemática e Estatística (IME)

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AAIA	Associación Argentina de Inteligencia Artificial
AEPIA	Associación Española para Inteligencia Artificial
APPIA	Associação Portuguesa para Inteligência Artificial
AVINTA	Associación Venezuelana de Inteligencia Artificial
SCCC	Sociedad Chilena de Ciencia de la Computación
SMCC	Sociedad de Matemática y Computación de Cuba
SMIA	Sociedad Mexicana de Inteligencia Artificial

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