

Preface

The European Conferences on Planning (ECP) are a major forum for the presentation of new research in Artificial Intelligence Planning and Scheduling. They developed from a series of European workshops and became successfully established as international meetings. Previous conferences took place in St. Augustin (Germany) in 1991, Vadstena (Sweden) in 1993, Assisi (Italy) in 1995, and Toulouse (France) in 1997.

ECP-99 was held in Durham, United Kingdom. The conference received submissions from all over Europe, from the US, Canada, South America, and New Zealand.

This volume contains the 27 papers that were presented at the conference. They cover a variety of aspects in current AI Planning and Scheduling. Several prominent planning paradigms are represented, including planning as satisfiability and other model checking strategies, planning as heuristic state-space search, and Graphplan-Based approaches. Moreover, various new scheduling approaches and combinations of planning and scheduling methods are introduced.

In addition to the conference papers, three invited talks were presented by distinguished researchers of the field: Fausto Giunchiglia (IRST Trento, Italy) gave an introduction to *Planning as Model Checking*. The corresponding paper by Fausto Giunchiglia and Paolo Traverso is included in this volume. Claude Le Pape (Bouygues Telecom, France) presented *Constraint-Based Scheduling: Theory and Applications*, and Nicola Muscettola (NASA Ames, USA) talked about *Planning at 96 Million Kilometers from Earth*.

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March 2000

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