Preface

AI 2002 is the 15th in the series of annual conferences on artificial intelligence held in Australia. This conference is the major forum for the presentation of artificial intelligence research in Australia, encompassing all aspects of that broad field. It has traditionally attracted significant international participation, as was again the case in 2002.

The current volume is based on the proceedings of AI 2002. Full length versions of all submitted papers were refereed by an international program committee, each paper receiving at least two independent reviews. As a result, 62 papers were selected for oral presentation in the conference, and 12 more for poster presentation, out of 117 submissions. One-page abstracts of the posters are published in this volume, along with the full papers selected for oral presentation.

In addition to the scientific track represented here, the conference featured a program of tutorials and workshops, and plenary talks by five invited speakers: Peter van Beek (University of Waterloo, Canada), Eric Bonabeau (Icosystem Corporation, USA), Ming Li (University of California at Santa Barbara), Bernhard Nebel (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany) and Zoltan Somogyi (University of Melbourne, Australia). It was colocated with a number of related events: an AI Applications Symposium, the 6th Australia-Japan Joint Workshop on Intelligent and Evolutionary Systems, the Australasian Workshop on Computational Logic (AWCL), and the annual conference of the Australasian Association for Logic (AAL).

AI 2002 was presented by the Australian National University, the University of Canberra, and the University of New South Wales through the Australian Defence Force Academy. In addition to those institutions, we wish to thank the many people whose contribution made the conference possible, starting with the Program Committee and panel of reviewers who produced over 200 reviews of papers under time constraints. We also wish to thank our colleagues on the Conference Committee chaired by John Lloyd, and especially the Organizing Chair, Hussein Abbass.

December 2002   Robert I. McKay
                                                                   John Slaney

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