

Foreword

The papers contained in this volume were presented at the 11th Conference on String Processing and Information Retrieval (SPIRE), held Oct. 5–8, 2004 at the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Padova, Italy. They were selected from 123 papers submitted in response to the call for papers. In addition, there were invited lectures by C.J. van Rijsbergen (University of Glasgow, UK) and Setsuo Arikawa (Kyushu University, Japan). In view of the large number of good-quality submissions, some were accepted this year also as short abstracts. These also appear in the proceedings.

Papers solicited for SPIRE 2004 were meant to constitute original contributions to areas such as string pattern searching, matching and discovery; data compression; text and data mining; machine learning; tasks, methods, algorithms, media, and evaluation in information retrieval; digital libraries; and applications to and interactions with domains such as genome analysis, speech and natural language processing, Web links and communities, and multilingual data.

SPIRE has its origins in the South American Workshop on String Processing which was first held in 1993. Starting in 1998, the focus of the symposium was broadened to include the area of information retrieval due to the common emphasis on information processing. The first 10 meetings were held in Belo Horizonte (Brazil, 1993), Valparaiso (Chile, 1995), Recife (Brazil, 1996), Valparaiso (Chile, 1997), Santa Cruz (Bolivia, 1998), Cancun (Mexico, 1999), A Coruña (Spain, 2000), Laguna San Rafael (Chile, 2001), Lisbon (Portugal, 2002), and Manaus (Brazil, 2003).

SPIRE 2004 was held as part of Dialogues 2004, a concerted series of conferences and satellite meetings fostering exchange and integration in the modeling, design and implementation of advanced tools for the representation, encoding, storage, search, retrieval and discovery of information and knowledge. In Dialogues 2004, the companion conferences for SPIRE were the 15th International Conference on Algorithmic Learning Theory and the 7th International Conference on Discovery Science.

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Alberto Apostolico
Massimo Melucci

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