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Revised Selected Papers

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Preface

Since its foundation in 1983, the Spanish Association for Artificial Intelligence (AEPIA) has helped to guide and gather together Spanish researchers working on AI. To this aim, it was agreed in 1985 that AEPIA would promote a national conference every two years. Since then, the AEPIA Conference, known as CAEPIA, has taken place in Madrid, Alicante, Málaga, Murcia, Gijón and Donostia.

Two other foundational objectives of AEPIA are to establish and keep relationships with other national and international organizations in the AI field and to favour the exchange of information and/or experiences among AI researchers. The first objective was accomplished when AEPIA became a member of ECCAI (European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence) and a founder member of IBERAMIA (Iberoamerican Conference on Artificial Intelligence). The second objective was attained by raising the quality of CAEPIA to usual international standards, focusing on international committees, participants and invited speakers. In 2003, an important step in this direction was taken with the publication of an English volume of selected papers presented at the conference, aiming to boost a more fruitful exchange of ideas within the international AI scientific community.

In November 2005, the 11th Conference of the Spanish Association for Artificial Intelligence (CAEPIA 2005) was hosted by the city of Santiago de Compostela, giving the participants the opportunity of enjoying its superb historical and cultural atmosphere. The conference was jointly organized by the University of Santiago de Compostela and the University of A Coruña. The goals of CAEPIA 2005 were to create conditions for participants to disseminate their research work, to strengthen the relationships among international AI research groups, to facilitate contact between new researchers and already consolidate existing groups, and to help the new developments be spread to society.

The participation rate of CAEPIA 2005 shows the maturity of current research on AI in Spain and the strong links of international collaboration between Spanish and foreign researchers. CAEPIA 2005 received 147 submissions from 17 different countries, with 24.5% of the authors coming from abroad.

The papers were reviewed by an international committee composed of 76 members from 14 different countries. Each paper was sent to three different reviewers, with an average of 2.67 reviews per paper. The best contributions to CAEPIA 2005 were selected for a second review process that produced 48 papers out of 147 (32.7 % of the total), to be published in this post-proceedings volume.

The editors would like to acknowledge the work of the members of the Program Committee in reviewing and selecting the papers. Let us also express our deepest gratitude to the invited lecturers and speakers and to the researchers, who contributed with their valuable work towards achieving a high scientific

level for the conference. The members of the local Organization Committee at the University of Santiago de Compostela and the University of A Coruña, as well as the members of the supporting group for the Program Committee at the University of Murcia also deserve our acknowledgement. Special thanks are due to Springer for publication of this volume and to the staff at Springer for the valuable support they provided throughout the publication process.

The 11th Conference of the Spanish Association for Artificial Intelligence (CAEPIA 2005) took place shortly before the 50th anniversary of what is considered to be the historical birth of the field of AI, the two-month meeting at Dartmouth College during the summer of 1956. This anniversary offers us the opportunity to look back and take a critical glance at the present state of AI in the world. We hope this volume, containing a selection of the best papers presented at CAEPIA 2005, constitutes a small contribution in this direction.

May 2006

Roque Marín
Eva Onaindía
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The 11th Conference of the Spanish Association for Artificial Intelligence (CAEPIA 2005) was jointly organized by the University of Santiago de Compostela and the University of A Coruña, in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, November 16–18, 2005.

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