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Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming – CP98

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Preface

Constraints have emerged as the basis of a representational and computational paradigm that draws from many disciplines and can be brought to bear on many problem domains. This volume contains papers dealing with all aspects of computing with constraints. In particular, there are several papers on applications of constraints, reflecting the practical usefulness of constraint programming.

The papers were presented at the 1998 International Conference on Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming (CP'98), held in Pisa, Italy, 26–30 October, 1998. It is the fourth in this series of conferences, following conferences in Cassis (France), Cambridge (USA), and Schloss Hagenberg (Austria).

We received 115 high quality submissions. In addition, 7 abstracts submissions were not followed by a full paper, hence were not counted as submissions. The program committee selected 29 high quality papers after thorough refereeing by at least 3 experts and further discussion by committee members.

We thank the referees and the program committee for the time and effort spent in reviewing the papers. The program committee invited three speakers:

- Joxan Jaffar
- Peter Jeavons
- Patrick Prosser

Their papers are in this volume.

In addition to the invited and contributed talks, the conference also contained a poster session, which provided attendees with a wider view of the active research in constraint programming. One-page abstracts of the posters appear at the end of this volume. The program also contained four tutorials, presented by Alexander Bockmayr and Thomas Kasper, Rina Dechter, Claude Le Pape and Mark Wallace, and Makoto Yokoo. Following the conference there were five workshops on a range of constraint-based computing topics.

This year, a pre-conference competition was run for the best use of constraints to tackle telecommunication applications. The competition was sponsored by Telecom Italia. The judges were Henry Kautz, Ora Lassila, Claude Le Pape, Michael Maher, Remo Pareschi, and Jean-Francois Puget. The winning entry was “Optimal placement of base stations in wireless indoor telecommunications” by Thom Fruewirth and Pascal Brisset. This application was presented in the program of the conference and a summary appears in this proceedings.

The success of a conference depends primarily on organization. We thank Francesca Rossi, the conference chair, for the excellent job she did organizing the conference, and for her cooperation and proactive support in preparing the conference program. We also thank Stefano Bistarelli for his work as publicity chair and local organizer, and Roland Yap for his work as workshop chair.

CP'98 was organized in cooperation with AAAI and EATCS. The conference was jointly sponsored by AI IA, APT Pisa, Compulog Net, Cosytec, ILOG, Prologia, SINTEF, ToscoDati, and GNIM-CNR.

September 1998

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