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## Symbolic and Quantitative Approaches to Uncertainty

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## **Preface**

In recent years a variety of formalisms have been developed which address such aspects of handling imperfect knowledge as uncertainty, vagueness, imprecision, incompleteness, and partial inconsistency. Some of the most familiar approaches in this research field are nonmonotonic logics, modal logics, probability theory (Bayesian and non-Bayesian), belief function theory, and fuzzy sets and possibility theory.

The ESPRIT Basic Research Action 3085, entitled Defeasible Reasoning and Uncertainty Management Systems (DRUMS), aims to contribute to the elucidation of similarities and differences between the formalisms mentioned above. It consists of 11 active European research groups working on this topic. Their activities have already been coordinated, but there is a need for a larger forum where researchers working on imperfect knowledge in Europe can meet and discuss their scientific results. The European Conference on Symbolic and Quantitative Approaches to Uncertainty (ECSQAU), sponsored by ESPRIT Basic Research Action 3085, serves this need.

This volume contains the papers accepted for the ECSQAU, several articles presenting the activities of the DRUMS groups, two manuscripts by invited speakers. Unfortunately, due to lack of time, the third invited speaker, L. Zadeh, could not provide a paper.

The Executive Scientific Committee for the conference consisted of: Philippe Besnard (Rennes), John Bigham (London), Michael Clarke (London), Didier Dubois (Paris), Rudolf Kruse (chair, Braunschweig).

Our particular thanks go to the many referees who have been part of the reviewing process for this conference. We gratefully acknowledge the work of the reviewers who were also members of the scientific committee: B. Bouchon-Meunier, M. Delgado, D. Driankov, L. Farinas del Cerro, J. Fox, Ch. Froidevaux, D.M. Gabbay, R. Lopez de Mantaras, A. Mamdani, O. Paillet, H. Prade, M. Reinfrank, E. Sanchez, P. Smets, D.J. Spiegelhalter, K. Sundermeyer, D. Vermeir, C. Whitney, H.-J. Zimmermann, as well as the other reviewers: J. Gebhardt, J. Heinsohn, F. Klawonn, B. Nebel, U.G. Oppel, G. Paaß.

We would like to thank the universities in Braunschweig and Marseille for the support they gave the organizers, and we extend our gratitude to Detlef Nauck for his efficient and knowledgeable support. Pierre Siegel was responsible for the local organization in Marseille.

We hope that this conference will lead to future joint research and successful collaboration in Europe.

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