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Foreword

This volume contains the texts of 26 lectures and contributions to the program of the International Summer School *Advanced Topics in Artificial Intelligence* held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, July 6 – 17, 1992.

The International Summer School was jointly organized by the Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Vienna, Austria, by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czechoslovakia, by the Department of Medical Cybernetics and AI, University of Vienna, Austria, and by the Technical University of Brno, Czechoslovakia, under the sponsorship of the European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence (ECCAI) and with significant support from EC Project TEMPUS No. 1191 TAIC. We gratefully acknowledge the help of all the cooperating institutions mentioned above. We would like to express our special appreciation to Dr. Pavel Brázdil, coordinator of the TEMPUS Project, for his admirable understanding and support in many respects.

The International Summer School *Advanced Topics in Artificial Intelligence* is intended for (postgraduate) students, researchers and all those who want to learn about recent progress in both theoretical and applied AI. We hope that this event will also help to satisfy the needs for information within the expanding AI community in the post--communist countries.

We would like to give our cordial thanks to many people who have encouraged us and helped, namely those co-operating with us in the Advisory Board: Prof. Ivan Bratko (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), Dr. Pavel Brázdil (University of Porto, Portugal), Prof. Nicholas V. Findler (Arizona State University), Dr. Eva Hajičová (Charles University, Prague), Prof. George J. Klir (State University of New York), Prof. Yves Kodratoff (University Paris-Sud), Prof. Robert Kowalski (Imperial College, London), Dr. Igor Mozetič (Austrian Research Institute for AI, Vienna) and Dr. Sam W. Steel (University of Essex, UK).

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Prague, Vienna, May 1992 V. Mařík, O. Štěpánková, R. Trappl

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