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Foundations of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning

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Foreword

Knowledge representation (KR) has been a central area of research ever since work in Artificial Intelligence began some forty years ago. While there was no consensus on the theoretical underpinnings of KR until the late seventies, the situation has changed drastically over the past fifteen years with the formal logic-based approach being the clear winner. Today KR presents itself as a mature discipline with its own first rate conferences like the biannual *International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning.*

This collection of papers presents state-of-the-art research results on the foundations of KR combined with two survey articles, one by the editors intended as a guide to this book and another by Shoham and Cousins on mental attitudes. Except for the surveys, the papers grew out of a workshop on *Theoretical Foundations of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning*, which we organized in conjunction with the *10th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI-92)* in August 1992 in Vienna.

We are very grateful to Gerd Brewka (GMD, Germany), Maurizio Lenzerini (Rome, Italy), and Wolfgang Nejdl (Aachen, Germany), who served as members of the programme committee of the ECAI-workshop helping us select the best papers from a large number of submissions. We thank the authors for their hard work and patience in waiting for this book to appear. We also thank the ECAI-92 organizers, in particular Gerhard Widmer, for their help in making the initial workshop happen and Springer-Verlag for their professional support in the publication of this volume.

Finally, *Internet* deserves a special thanks as well. Without it the organization of the workshop and the preparation of this book would have been all but impossible.

Gerhard Lakemeyer
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