

Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 2711

Edited by J. G. Carbonell and J. Siekmann

Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science

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Thomas Dyhre Nielsen
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Symbolic and Quantitative Approaches to Reasoning with Uncertainty

7th European Conference, ECSQARU 2003
Aalborg, Denmark, July 2-5, 2003
Proceedings



Springer

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Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

Bibliographic information published by Die Deutsche Bibliothek
Die Deutsche Bibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie;
detailed bibliographic data is available in the Internet at <<http://dnd.ddb.de>>.

CR Subject Classification (1998): I.2, F.4.1

ISSN 0302-9743

ISBN 3-540-40494-5 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York,
a member of BertelsmannSpringer Science+Business Media GmbH

<http://www.springer.de>

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Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by PTP-Berlin GmbH
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 10928769 06/3142 5 4 3 2 1 0

Preface

Since 1991, the European Conference on Symbolic and Quantitative Approaches to Reasoning with Uncertainty (ECSQARU) has been a major forum for advances in the theory and practice of reasoning and decision making under uncertainty. The scope of ECSQARU is wide and includes, but is not limited to, fundamental issues, representation, inference, learning, and decision making in qualitative and numeric paradigms. The first ECSQARU conference (1991) was held in Marseilles, and since then it has been held in Granada (1993), Fribourg (1995), Bonn (1997), London (1999) and Toulouse (2001).

This volume contains the papers that were presented at ECSQARU 2003, held at Aalborg University, Denmark, from July 2 to July 5, 2003. The papers went through a rigorous reviewing process: three program committee members reviewed each paper monitored by an area chair, who made a final recommendation to the program co-chairs. In addition to the regular presentations, the technical program for ECSQARU 2003 also included talks by three distinguished invited speakers: Didier Dubois, Philippe Smets and Jeroen Vermunt. Didier Dubois and Jeroen Vermunt also contributed to this volume with papers on the subjects of their talks.

As a continuation of tradition, an affiliated workshop was held prior to the conference itself. The workshop was entitled “Uncertainty, Incompleteness, Imprecision and Conflict in Multiple Data Sources” and it was organized by Weiru Liu (UK), Laurence Cholvy (France), Salem Benferhat (France) and Anthony Hunter (UK). ECSQARU 2003 also included a special software demo session which was intended to promote software development activities in the area of tools supporting symbolic and quantitative approaches to reasoning with uncertainty. This volume contains two special papers that describe two of the presentations.

Finally, we would like to thank the area chairs, the members of the program committee and all the additional referees for their work. We would also like to thank Regitze Larsen and Lene Mogensen for their help with the organization of the conference.

April 2003

Thomas D. Nielsen
Nevin L. Zhang

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