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Preface

A central aspect of the annual conferences on Artificial Intelligence of the AI chapter of the "Gesellschaft für Informatik" is the presentation of research results. Apart from all contributions chosen by the program committee, the present volume additionally contains full papers of four of the six invited talks as well as a compilation of to-date German AI projects, thus presenting a comprehensive survey of AI research in Germany.

The 22nd Annual Conference on Artificial Intelligence (KI-98) took place in September 1998 at the University of Bremen and featured predominantly technical papers, six invited talks, 16 workshops with numerous contributions, four application-oriented user panels, a technical exhibition, and a poster session.

With its emphasis on "Methods of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Environmental Protection" it was our aim at this conference to illustrate a trend which as such is not new but still developing: as "conventional" methods are not powerful enough, many applications are frequently only made possible by artificial intelligence methods. This fact still constitutes a great opportunity and challenge for the application of these methods.

The focus of this conference was further broadened by the combination with the

- 12th International Symposium "Computer Science for Environmental Protection" - Umwelt-Informatik '98
- and the 43rd Annual Conference of the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Medizinische Informatik, Biometrie und Epidemiology e.V.".

The overlapping of the different conferences with joint workshops, a joint technical exhibition, and invited talks demonstrated as well the synergistic potential of this conference week.

The Best-Paper-Award donated by the Springer publishing company was awarded by the program committee to the authors:

Dirk Hähnel, Wolfram Burgard, and Gerhard Lakemeyer
for their contribution
"GOLEX - Bridging the Gap betweet Logic (GOLOG) and a Real Robot".

We would like to thank the program committee, the referees, and all those who put considerable effort into the preparation of this conference.

Bremen, July 1998

Otthein Herzog
Andreas Günter

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