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5th International Colloquium, ICGI 2000
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Preface

The Fifth International Colloquium on Grammatical Inference (ICGI-2000) was held in Lisbon on September 11–13th, 2000. ICGI-2000 was the fifth in a series of successful biennial international conferences in the area of grammatical inference. Previous conferences were held in Essex, U.K.; Alicante, Spain; Montpellier, France; and Ames, Iowa, USA.

This series of meetings seeks to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of original research on all aspects of grammatical inference. Grammatical inference, the process of inferring grammar from given data, is a field that is not only challenging from a purely scientific standpoint but also finds many applications in real world problems.

Despite the fact that grammatical inference addresses problems in a relatively narrow area, it uses techniques from many domains, and intersects a number of different disciplines. Researchers in grammatical inference come from fields as diverse as machine learning, theoretical computer science, computational linguistics, pattern recognition and artificial neural networks.

From a practical standpoint, applications in areas such as natural language acquisition, computational biology, structural pattern recognition, information retrieval, text processing and adaptive intelligent agents have either been demonstrated or proposed in the literature.

ICGI-2000 was held jointly with CoNLL-2000, the Computational Natural Language Learning Workshop and LLL-2000, the Second Learning Language in Logic Workshop. The technical program included the presentation of 24 accepted papers (out of 35 submitted) as well as joint sessions with CoNLL and LLL. A tutorial program organized by Gabriel Pereira Lopes took place after the meetings and included tutorials by Raymond Mooney, Gregory Grefenstette, Walter Daelemans, António Ribeiro, Joaquim Ferreira da Silva, Gael Dias, Nuno Marques, Vitor Rossio, João Balsa and Alexandre Agostini. The joint realization of these events represents a unique opportunity for researchers in these related fields to interact and exchange ideas.

I would like to thank Claire Nédellec, Claire Cardie, Walter Daelemans, Colin de la Higuera and Vasant Honavar for their help in several aspects of the organization; the members of the technical program committee and the reviewers for their careful evaluation of the submissions; the members of the local organizing committee, Ana Teresa Freitas and Ana Fred, for their help in setting up the event; and Ana de Jesus for her invaluable secretarial support.

September 2000

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