

# Preface

This is the conference record for the Fifth International Conference on Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming (CP'99), held in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, on October 11–14, 1999. The series of CP conferences deal with original papers on most aspects of constraint programming. After a few annual workshops, CP'95 took place in Cassis, France, CP'96 in Cambridge, USA, CP'97 in Schloss Hagenberg, Austria, and CP'98 in Pisa, Italy.

This year a total of 97 papers were submitted, and 30 were accepted as regular papers. In addition, there were three invited papers, by Krzysztof Apt, Christian Bessière and Benjamin Wah, and eight poster papers, included to showcase yet more interesting directions. The posters appear as short papers in this volume. In the conference, there was an invited tutorial, and following the conference, there were five workshops. All papers were reviewed by an excellent program committee and their designated referees. Detailed email discussions preceded the actual program committee meeting, which was held near the conference location in mid-July, 1999.

The CP conferences have had two major directions: constraint satisfaction problems and programming with constraints. This year, the submission/acceptance breakdown was subjectively estimated at 56/19 and 33/8, respectively, with the remaining ratio of 8/3 for application papers. The regional distribution of (first) authors for all submissions was 21 for France, 15 for Germany, 12 for USA, 7 for UK, 6 for Japan, 5 for Spain, 4 for Australia and Singapore, 3 each for Italy, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland, 2 for Canada and Belgium, and finally, one each for Greece, Finland, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Korea, and the Netherlands.

Last, but certainly not least of all, much is owed to the organizational skills of the CP'99 General Chairman Alex Brodsky. We are also indebted to Sean Wang, the Publicity Chair, and Jimmy Lee, the Workshops and Tutorials Chair. Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to Zhang Yuanlin who was instrumental in setting up and running the web-based review system, and to Răzvan Voicu for editorial help.

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