Preface

These are the proceedings of the fourth biennial conference in the *Intelligent Data Analysis* series. The conference took place in Cascais, Portugal, 13–15 September 2001. The theme of this conference series is the use of computers in intelligent ways in data analysis, including the exploration of intelligent programs for data analysis. Data analytic tools continue to develop, driven by the computer revolution. Methods which would have required unimaginable amounts of computing power, and which would have taken years to reach a conclusion, can now be applied with ease and virtually instantly. Such methods are being developed by a variety of intellectual communities, including statistics, artificial intelligence, neural networks, machine learning, data mining, and interactive dynamic data visualization. This conference series seeks to bring together researchers studying the use of intelligent data analysis in these various disciplines, to stimulate interaction so that each discipline may learn from the others. So as to encourage such interaction, we deliberately kept the conference to a single track meeting. This meant that, of the almost 150 submissions we received, we were able to select only 23 for oral presentation and 16 for poster presentation. In addition to these contributed papers, there was a keynote address from Daryl Pregibon, invited presentations from Katharina Morik, Rolf Backhofen, and Sunil Rao, and a special 'data challenge' session, where researchers described their attempts to analyse a challenging data set provided by Paul Cohen. This acceptance rate enabled us to ensure a high quality conference, while also permitting us to provide good coverage of the various topics subsumed within the general heading of intelligent data analysis.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone involved in the organization of the meeting and the selection of the papers. It is the behind-the-scenes efforts which ensure the smooth running and success of any conference. We would also like to express our gratitude to the sponsors: Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Ministério da Ciência e da Tecnologia, Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian and IPE Investimentos e Participações Empresariais, S.A.

September 2001

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Organization

IDA 2001 was organized by the department of Computer Science, New University of Lisbon.

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