

Preface

CICLing 2001 is the second annual Conference on Intelligent text processing and Computational Linguistics (hence the name CICLing), see www.CICLing.org. It is intended to provide a balanced view of the cutting edge developments in both theoretical foundations of computational linguistics and practice of natural language text processing with its numerous applications. A feature of the CICLing conferences is their wide scope that covers nearly all areas of computational linguistics and all aspects of natural language processing applications. The conference is a forum for dialogue between the specialists working in these two areas.

This year our invited speakers were Graeme Hirst (U. Toronto, Canada), Sylvain Kahane (U. Paris 7, France), and Ruslan Mitkov (U. Wolverhampton, UK). They delivered excellent extended lectures and organized vivid discussions.

A total of 72 submissions were received, all but very few of surprisingly high quality. After careful reviewing, the Program Committee selected for presentation 53 of them, 41 as full papers and 12 as short papers, by 98 authors from 19 countries: Spain (19 authors), Japan (15), USA (12), France, Mexico (9 each), Sweden (6), Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Russia, United Arab Emirates (3 each), Argentina (2), Bulgaria, The Netherlands, Ukraine, UK, and Uruguay (1 each).

In addition to their high scientific level, one of the success factors of CICLing conferences is their excellent cultural program. CICLing 2001 was held in Mexico, a wonderful country very rich in culture, history, and nature. The participants of the conference – in their souls active researchers of the world – had a chance to see the solemn 2000-years-old pyramids of legendary Teotihuacanas, a Monarch butterfly wintering site where the old pines are covered with millions of butterflies as if they were leaves, a great cave with 85-meter halls and a river flowing from it, Aztec warriors dancing in the street in their colorful plumages, and the largest anthropological museum in the world; see photos at www.CICLing.org.

A conference is the result of the work of many people. First of all I would like to thank the members of the Program Committee for the time and effort they devoted to the reviewing of the submitted articles and to the selection process. Especially helpful were Igor Bolshakov, Nicoletta Calzolari, Ted Pedersen, Grigori Sidorov, Karin Verspoor, Manuel Vilares-Ferro, and many others – a complete list would be too long. I also thank David Escorial for his constant help.

Obviously I thank the authors for their patience in the preparation of the papers, not to mention the very development of their scientific results that form this book. I also express my most cordial thanks to the members of the local Organizing Committee for their considerable contribution to making this conference become a reality. Last but not least, I thank our sponsoring organization – the Center for Computing Research (CIC, www.cic.ipn.mx) of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), Mexico, for hosting the conference for the second time.

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Organization

The conference was organized by the Natural Language Laboratory (www.cic.ipn.mx/Investigacion/ltexto.html) of the Center for Computing Research (CIC, Centro de Investigación en Computación, www.cic.ipn.mx) of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, www.ipn.mx), Mexico City, Mexico.

Website and Contact

The website of the CICLing conferences is <http://www.CICLing.org> currently mirrored at <http://www.cic.ipn.mx/cicling>. Specifically, this conference's website is <http://www.CICLing.org/2001>. The contact email address is gelbukh@CICLing.org; also gelbukh@cic.ipn.mx or gelbukh@earthling.net.