

Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of AI 2001, the 14th Australian Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence. The aim of this conference series is to support the Australian artificial intelligence community with a forum for discussion and presentation. As before, this conference not only brought together a great deal of Australian AI research, but also attracted widespread international interest.

The conference this year saw an impressive array of about 110 submitted papers from no fewer than 16 countries. Full-length versions of all submitted papers were refereed by the international program committee. As a result, these proceedings contain 55 papers not just from Australia, but also Canada, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the UK and USA.

The conference also comprised a tutorial program and several workshops, and featured five invited speakers on theoretical, philosophical, and applied topics: Didier Dubois of the Université Paul Sabatier, James Hendler of the University of Maryland, Liz Sonenberg of the University of Melbourne, Peter Struss of OCC'M Software and TU Munich, and Alex Zelinsky of the Australian National University.

We extend our thanks to the members of the program committee who processed a large review workload under tight time constraints. We especially thank our host, Professor Robin King, Pro Vice Chancellor of the Division of Information Technology, Engineering, and the Environment at UniSA, for providing infrastructure and financial support. We are also grateful to the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development, and the Commonwealth Defence Science and Technology Organisation for their financial support. Finally we would like to thank all those who contributed to the conference organization, without their help the conference could not have taken place.

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Dan Corbett
Markus Stumptner