

Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence

5249

Edited by R. Goebel, J. Siekmann, and W. Wahlster

Subseries of Lecture Notes in Computer Science

Gerson Zaverucha
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Advances in Artificial Intelligence – SBIA 2008

19th Brazilian Symposium on Artificial Intelligence
Salvador, Brazil, October 26-30, 2008
Proceedings

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2008935544

CR Subject Classification (1998): I.2, F.4.1, F.1.1, H.2.8

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 7 – Artificial Intelligence

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN-10 3-540-88189-1 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York
ISBN-13 978-3-540-88189-6 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 12539758 06/3180 5 4 3 2 1 0

Preface

The 19th Brazilian Symposium on Artificial Intelligence (SBIA 2008) was held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, during October 26–30, 2008. It was hosted by the Federal University of Bahia (UFBa) and, as has occurred since 2002, was collocated with the Brazilian Symposium on Artificial Neural Networks (SBRN), now in its tenth edition. This year the two events took place jointly also with the Intelligent Robotics Journey (JRI).

SBIA, supported by the Brazilian Computer Society (SBC), is the leading conference in Brazil for the presentation of research and applications results in artificial intelligence. Since 1995, SBIA has become an international conference, with papers written exclusively in English, an international Program Committee (PC) and keynote speakers, and proceedings published in the *Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence* series of Springer. Since 1996, SBIA has been a biennial event.

The SBIA 2008 program included keynote talks/tutorials by some of the most distinguished researchers in the area, five workshops and a thesis and dissertation contest. SBIA 2008 continued the tradition of high selectivity for published papers and double-blind reviewing. A total of 142 submissions from 15 countries were received, of which only 27 were accepted for publication in this volume, yielding an acceptance rate of 19%. Each submission was reviewed by three PC members, and a recommendation was provided for each paper based on discussion among the reviewers moderated by the Program Chair.

We would like to thank all researchers who submitted their papers to SBIA 2008. We are indebted to the 150 PC members, and also to the other reviewers, for their excellent work: thorough and timely reviews, and participation in the discussions. SBIA 2008 had the privilege and honor of having this PC and invited speakers. We gratefully acknowledge everyone in the Organizing Committee for their invaluable support, Aline Paes for helping with the preparation of this volume, along with the agencies CNPq and CAPES for the financial support. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Alfred Hoffman and his staff at Springer for their continuing support of SBIA.

October 2008

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