

Foreword

These are the proceedings of the 1998 European Workshop on Validation and Verification of Knowledge-Based Systems. This 1998 Edition of the workshop is unusual in being colocated with the International Knowledge Representation Conference (KR'98), instead of with ECAI, as was the case with the previous workshops. The aim of this non-standard colocation was to make the workshop accessible to a different, and perhaps wider community. This aim has succeeded in some respects and failed in others.

One of our hopes was that the colocation with KR'98 would attract an American audience to a European workshop. From the list of authors, it is clear that this was too much to hope for. This workshop has not succeeded as a meeting place with the American KBS-V&V community, which continues to meet at AAAI workshops.

However, the aim of attracting a different audience has succeeded in another and perhaps more important way. The list of titles shows that this workshop is concerned with new, modern and innovative topics, that distinguish this workshop from its predecessors. The papers in the current workshop focus on verification and validation of *representations and models* of knowledge, rather than the traditional focus on verification and validation of KBS *implementations*. The papers on V&V of agent systems, the papers emphasising methodological issues, and the use of formal methods, combined with papers on realistic applications of V&V techniques all show that the field of V&V of KBS is closely following modern developments in the fields of Knowledge Representation and Knowledge Engineering. In my view, the feeling at some of the past workshops that many of the important problems in V&V of KBS were solved has been replaced by a focus on set of new and challenging problems. This promises well, not only for the current workshop, but also for the future of this subfield of AI.

At the end of this foreword, I would like to thank the organisers of KR'98 for hosting this workshop, the members of the programme committee (Grigoris Antoniou, Dieter Fensel, Alun Preece, Marie-Christine Rousset and Jan van Thienen), plus two additional reviewers (Annette ten Teije and Wojtek Kowalczyk) for reviewing all the contributions to this workshop, the Computer Science and Mathematics Faculty of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam for their financial backing, and particularly Alessandro Cimatti for his excellent support with the local organisation of this workshop.

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workshop chair.