

Preface

CICLing 2002 was the third annual Conference on Intelligent text processing and Computational LINGuistics (hence the name CICLing); see www.CICLing.org. It was 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 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 we were honored by the presence of our invited speakers *Nicoletta Calzolari* (Inst. for Computational Linguistics, Italy), *Ruslan Mitkov* (U. of Wolverhampton, UK), *Ivan Sag* (Stanford U., USA), *Yorick Wilks* (U. of Sheffield), and *Antonio Zampolli* (Inst. for Computational Linguistics, Italy). They delivered excellent extended lectures and organized vivid discussions.

Of 67 submissions received, after careful reviewing 48 were selected for presentation; of them, 35 as full papers and 13 as short papers; by 98 authors from 19 countries: Spain (18 authors), Mexico (13), Japan, UK (8 each), Israel (7), Germany, Italy, USA (6 each), Switzerland (5), Taiwan (4), Ireland (3), Australia, China, Czech Rep., France, Russia (2 each), Bulgaria, Poland, Romania (1 each).

In addition to high scientific level, one of the success factors of the CICLing conferences is their excellent cultural program. CICLing 2002 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 Ruslan Mitkov, Ted Pedersen, Grigori Sidorov, and many others – a complete list would be too long.

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 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 third time.

Organization

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VIII Organization

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Organization, Website, and Contact

The conference was organized by the Natural Language Laboratory (www.cic.ipn.mx/Investigacion/lttexto.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.

The website of the CICLE conferences is www.CICLE.org (mirrored at www.cic.ipn.mx/cicling). Contact: gelbukh@CICLE.org; also gelbukh@cic.ipn.mx, gelbukh@earthling.net, or gelbukh@dr.com; see also www.gelbukh.com.