Preface

The Sixth International Colloquium on Grammatical Inference (ICGI 2002) was held in Amsterdam on September 23-25th, 2002. ICGI 2002 was the sixth in a series of successful biennial international conferences on the area of grammatical inference. Previous meetings were held in Essex, U.K.; Alicante, Spain; Montpellier, France; Ames, Iowa, USA; Lisbon, Portugal.

This series of meetings seeks to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of original research on all aspects of grammatical inference. Grammatical inference, the process of inferring grammars from given data, is a field that not only is challenging from a purely scientific standpoint but also finds many applications in real-world problems.

Despite the fact that grammatical inference addresses problems in a relatively narrow area, it uses techniques from many domains, and is positioned at the intersection of a number of different disciplines. Researchers in grammatical inference come from fields as diverse as machine learning, theoretical computer science, computational linguistics, pattern recognition, and artificial neural networks.

From a practical standpoint, applications in areas like natural language acquisition, computational biology, structural pattern recognition, information retrieval, text processing, data compression and adaptive intelligent agents have either been demonstrated or proposed in the literature.

The technical program included the presentation of 23 accepted papers (out of 41 submitted). Moreover, for the first time a software presentation was organized at ICGI. Short descriptions of the corresponding software are included in these proceedings, too.

We would like to thank the members of the technical program committee and the reviewers for their careful evaluation of the submissions, the members of the local organizing committee, Menno van Zaanen, Marjan Veldhuisen, and Marco Vervoort for their help in setting up the event, the invaluable secretarial support, and updating the website.

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