

# Foreword

The papers contained in this volume were presented at the 11th Conference on String Processing and Information Retrieval (SPIRE), held Oct. 5–8, 2004 at the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Padova, Italy. They were selected from 123 papers submitted in response to the call for papers. In addition, there were invited lectures by C.J. van Rijsbergen (University of Glasgow, UK) and Setsuo Arikawa (Kyushu University, Japan). In view of the large number of good-quality submissions, some were accepted this year also as short abstracts. These also appear in the proceedings.

Papers solicited for SPIRE 2004 were meant to constitute original contributions to areas such as string pattern searching, matching and discovery; data compression; text and data mining; machine learning; tasks, methods, algorithms, media, and evaluation in information retrieval; digital libraries; and applications to and interactions with domains such as genome analysis, speech and natural language processing, Web links and communities, and multilingual data.

SPIRE has its origins in the South American Workshop on String Processing which was first held in 1993. Starting in 1998, the focus of the symposium was broadened to include the area of information retrieval due to the common emphasis on information processing. The first 10 meetings were held in Belo Horizonte (Brazil, 1993), Valparaiso (Chile, 1995), Recife (Brazil, 1996), Valparaiso (Chile, 1997), Santa Cruz (Bolivia, 1998), Cancun (Mexico, 1999), A Coruña (Spain, 2000), Laguna San Rafael (Chile, 2001), Lisbon (Portugal, 2002), and Manaus (Brazil, 2003).

SPIRE 2004 was held as part of Dialogues 2004, a concerted series of conferences and satellite meetings fostering exchange and integration in the modeling, design and implementation of advanced tools for the representation, encoding, storage, search, retrieval and discovery of information and knowledge. In Dialogues 2004, the companion conferences for SPIRE were the 15th International Conference on Algorithmic Learning Theory and the 7th International Conference on Discovery Science.

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The following external reviewers helped with the selection of papers: Eduardo Abinader, *Federal Univ. of Amazonas, Brazil*, Halil Ali, *RMIT Univ., Australia*, Charles Ornelas Almeida, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Shlomo Argamon, *Illinois Institute of Technology*, Hagay Aronowitz, *Bar-Ilan University*, Michela Bacchin, *Univ. of Padova, Italy*, Claudine Santos Badue, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Bodo Billerbeck, *RMIT Univ., Australia*, Fabiano Cupertino Botelho, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Pável Calado, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Alexandra Carvalho, *Instituto Superior Técnico/INESC-ID, Portugal*, Tom Conway, *Inquirion Pty. Ltd., Australia*, Ido Dagan, *Bar-Ilan University*, Imerio Reis da Silva, *Federal Univ. of Uberlândia, Brazil*, Giorgio Maria Di Nunzio, *Univ. of Padova, Italy*, Paolo Ferragina, *Universita di Pisa*, Nicola Ferro, *Univ. of Padova, Italy*, Gudrun Fischer, *Univ. of Duisburg-Essen, Germany*, Bruno Maciel Fonseca, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Leszek Gasieniec, *University of Liverpool*, Gosta Grahne, *Concordia Univ., Canada*, Danny Hermelin, *Univ. of Haifa, Israel*, Heikki Hyyrö, *PRESTO, JST, Japan*, Juha Kärkkäinen, *Univ. of Helsinki, Finland*, Carmel Kent, *Univ. of Haifa, Israel*, Dong Kyue Kim, *Pusan National Univ., South Korea*, Sung-Ryul Kim, *Konkuk Univ., South Korea*, Tomi Klein, *Bar-Ilan University*, Anisio Mendes Lacerda, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Alberto Lavelli, *ITC-IRST, Italy*, Kjell Lemström, *Univ. of Helsinki, Finland*, Veli Mäkinen, *Univ. of Helsinki, Finland*, Henrik Nottelmann, *Univ. of Duisburg-Essen*, Nicola Orio, *Univ. of Padova*, Kimmo Palin, *Univ. of Helsinki, Finland*, Heejin Park, *Hanyang Univ., South Korea*, Alvaro Rodrigues Pereira Junior, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Marco Antônio Pinheiro de Cristo, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Cinzia Pizzi, *Univ. of Padova, Italy*, Luca Pretto, *Univ. of Padova, Italy*, Thierson Couto Rosa, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Luís Russo, *Instituto Superior Técnico/INESC-ID, Portugal*, Falk Scholer, *RMIT Univ., Australia*, Shinichi Shimosono, *Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan*, Dekel Tsur, *CRI Univ. of Haifa, Israel*, Bruno Augusto Vivas e Possas, *Federal Univ. of Minas Gerais, Brazil*, Oren Weimann, *Univ. of Haifa, Israel*, Jianfei Zhu, *Concordia Univ., Canada*, Michal Ziv-Ukelson, *Technion Haifa, Israel*.

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Alberto Apostolico  
Massimo Melucci

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