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Guest Editorial: 10th Argentinean Symposium on Artificial Intelligence (ASAI 2009)

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This special issue contains a selection of six articles from ASAI 2009, the 10th Argentinean Symposium on Artificial Intelligence. ASAI is an annual event held continuously since 1999. Its main objective is to provide an international forum for discussion and exchange of experiences in the field of Artificial Intelligence. This Symposium is part of the Argentine Conference on Informatics (JAIIO) organized by the Argentinean Society of Informatics (SADIO). The tenth edition of the symposium, ASAI 2009, was placed in Mar del Plata between 24th and 25th of August of 2009, as part of the 38th edition of JAIIO.

ASAI 2009 received 40 papers, each evaluated by 3 experts in the paper's main topic. Members of the program committee selected 19 out of the 40 papers for presentation at the symposium. The program committee was conformed by around 30 renowned researchers from around the world, with expertise covering a wide spectrum of areas in the field of Artificial Intelligence. In addition to the PC members, 20 reviewers collaborated in the evaluation process.

The topics addressed at the symposium were wide and rich. Aspects as feature selection to improve prediction algorithms, their precision, performance or minimizing training errors were discussed. Also, topics related to intelligent assistance during software development were introduced, from recommender systems to natural language processing. Applications of 3D for facial recognition had their space, as well as topics such as personalized assistance to groups of users; application of multi-agent systems in education or robotics; and intelligent labeling of network traffic for supervised learning approaches of intrusion detection. All the presentations showed a wide variety of AI techniques, allowing a good interaction with the audience.

In addition to these presentations, the Symposium had three invited talks. Dra. Rosanna Costaguta, from the Catholic University of Santiago del Estero (Argentina) talked about the use of multi agents systems in computer-supported collaborative learning environments. Dr. Diego Milone, from the National University of Litoral, Santa Fe (Argentina), gave a brief tutorial on Hidden Markov models, theory, practice, and current research. Finally, Dr. Hector Geffner, ICREA, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Spain), gave an entertaining and quite informative talk about "Problem Solvers", a journey from the beginnings of Artificial Intelligence to its current state, and beyond. All the conferences had a full auditorium, that combined with enough time for discussion, resulted in a fluid exchange of opinions and questions. The clear presentation and the deep knowledge and expertise in their subject area of the invi-

ted speakers was highly appreciated by the audience, that left the auditorium grateful for having learned something new.

As mention above, among the 19 selected papers, the best 6 were selected for publication in this special issue. To assure higher standards, a second round of evaluations was performed on these six articles. The topics covered by these articles span diverse areas of Artificial Intelligence. The article titled Array of Multilayer Perceptrons with No-class Resampling Training for Face Recognition, by David Capello, Cesar Martinez, Diego Milone and Georgina Stegmayer, presents an array of multilayer perceptron neural networks trained with a novel no-class resampling strategy. This strategy takes into account the problem of balancing between class and no-class examples, resulting in an increase of the generalization capabilities. The article titled Evolving Disjunctive and Conjunctive Topical Queries based on Multi-objective Optimization Criteria, by Rocío L. Cecchini, Carlos M. Lorenzetti, and Ana G. Maguitman, propose techniques based on single and multi-objective evolutionary algorithms for automatically evolving a population of topical queries. The article Feature selection on wide multiclass problems using OVA-RFE, by Pablo M. Granitto and Andrés Burgos, combined the well-known recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) algorithm with the simple One-Vs-All (OVA) technique for multiclass problems, to produce the new OVA-RFE selection method. Semi-Supervised Classification of Non-Functional Requirements: An Empirical Analysis, by Agustín Casamayor, Daniela Godoy and Marcelo Campo, proposes a recommender system based on a semi-supervised learning approach for assisting analysts in the detection and classification of NFRs from textual requirements descriptions. The paper Minimum Classification Error Training of Hidden Markov Models for Sequential Data in the Wavelet Domain, by Diego Tomassi, Diego Milone and Liliana Forzani takes a step forward in the development of sequential pattern recognizers based on wavelet-domain hidden Markov models by introducing a new discriminative training method. In the last paper in this special issue, Métodos de agrupamiento no supervisado para la integración de datos genómicos y metabólicos de múltiples líneas de introgresión, by Diego Milone, Georgina Stegmayer, Matías Gerard, Laura Kamenetzky, Mariana López and Fernando Carrari, three methods of non-supervised clustering are compared in relation with the integration and discovery of relationships among variations in the contents of metabolites and gene expression of tomato fruits.

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We want to thank the authors of the papers and the reviewers for their effort. We also wish to thank SADIO for their assistance in organizing ASAI 2009. Finally, we are grateful to the “Revista Iberoamericana de Inteligencia Artificial” for publishing this special issue, which reflects many of the current research trends in our community.