

IWPT'95



**FOURTH
INTERNATIONAL
WORKSHOP
ON
PARSING
TECHNOLOGIES**

Sponsored by ACL/SIGPARSE

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Copies can be ordered at the address of the workshop secretariat.

IWPT'95 Organization

- General Chairman: Harry Bunt (Tilburg University)
- Workshop Chair: Eva Hajičová (Charles University, Prague)
- Programme Committee: Bernard Lang (chair)
Robert Berwick
Harry Bunt
Bob Carpenter
Ken Church
Eva Hajičová
Aravind Joshi
Ronald Kaplan
Martin Kay
Makoto Nagao
Anton Nijholt
Mark Steedman
Henry Thompson
Masaru Tomita
K. Vijay-Shanker
Yorick Wilks
Kent Wittenburg
- Additional Referees: Peter Asveld
Hugo ter Doest
Gerrit van der Hoeven
Sadao Kurohashi
Jan Rekers
- Workshop Secretariat: Libuše Brdičková
UFAL MFF UK
Charles University
Malostranské n. 25
11800 Prague 1
Czech Republic
phone: +42-2-2451 0286
fax: +42-2-532 742
email: {hajicova,brdickov}@ufal.mff.cuni.cz



Preface

In 1989, Masaru Tomita organized the *First International Workshop on Parsing Technologies (IWPT'89)* in Pittsburgh and Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. This workshop was a great success. The contributed papers were of high quality and the unusual bilocation formula, with an emphasis on presentations during the first half of the workshop at the premises of Carnegie-Mellon University, and on discussions during the second half in a secluded conference resort, worked very well.

Inspired by this success, which led to the book *Current Issues in Parsing Technologies* (Kluwer, Boston, 1991), the Second International Workshop on Parsing Technologies (IWPT'91) was organized by Masaru Tomita in Mexico. This workshop was successful too, although it suffered a little from travel restrictions related to the Gulf war. By then it seemed clear that IWPT'89 and IWPT'91 had established the beginning of a series of biannual workshops. Together, Masaru Tomita and I organized the third workshop in the series, IWPT'93, reusing the original '89 formula by having the first part of the workshop at Tilburg University (the Netherlands) and the second part in the small medieval town of Durbuy, in the Belgian Ardennes mountain range. This workshop has led to the follow-up volume *Recent Advances in Parsing Technologies*, edited by Harry Bunt and Masaru Tomita, currently in production with Kluwer Science Publishers.

By the time of IWPT'93 the Special Interest Group on Parsing *SIGPARSE* was set up within ACL, with Masaru Tomita and Harry Bunt as designated officers, and with the primary aim to give continuity to the IWPT series. During the preparation of IWPT'95, Masaru Tomita left the arena of natural language parsing and moved into biological engineering, applying and extending NL parsing techniques to DNA analysis. We are sorry that he has left the organization of the IWPT series, but we are happy to welcome him as invited speaker at IWPT'95 on the subject of DNA parsing.

On this occasion, I would like to thank the people primarily responsible for making IWPT'95 possible and, we hope, equally successful as its predecessors. Thanks go to the members of the Programme Committee, in particular to chairman Bernard Lang, for the careful work in reviewing submissions and deciding on the workshop programme, and to Eva Hajicova and her colleagues at Charles University in Prague, for making all the necessary bilocal (again!) arrangements in Prague and Karlovy Vary, sometimes with rather uncertain prospects, and for producing these proceedings.

Harry Bunt
IWPT'95 General Chairman

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* *short paper (poster)*

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