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MACHINE INTELLIGENCE 10

Intelligent Systems: Practice and Perspective

Machine Intelligence
Editor-in-Chief: Donald Michie

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To the memory of
John Gaschnig
June 6, 1950 – March 4, 1982

MACHINE INTELLIGENCE 10

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PREFACE

The year of the first MI Workshop, 1965, was a milestone for more reasons than one, not least for the appearance of a paper entitled "A machine-oriented logic based on the resolution principle". It was appropriate and a cause for pleasure that the author of that paper, J. A. Robinson, was the opening contributor to the scientific proceedings of MI-10, held in November 1981 at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA.

Among prominent guests at MI-10 first mention must be made of Bill Price of the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Workshop's sponsors, to whom warmest thanks are due. Tribute is also due to the deft organisation of local arrangements by George Ernst, who as an outstanding pioneering worker in our field contributes a paper with R. J. Hookway.

Followers of this series will know that Machine Intelligence 9 was held near Leningrad under the co-sponsorship of the Fredkin Foundation and the USSR Academy of Sciences, whose All-Union Council for Artificial Intelligence acted as host. The Council's scientific secretary, Leo Mikulich, had been a much appreciated visiting worker in Edinburgh some years earlier. He now attended the Tenth Workshop as bearer of good wishes from the Soviet Academy of Sciences and AI community, in addition to contributing the paper which appears as Chapter 19 in the present volume.

Through the good offices of Professor Yoh-Han Pao, co-director of the Workshop, we were further honoured by the presence of Professor P. J. Chu, who directs the Institute for Automation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, and of Dr Tibor Vamos from Budapest, Director of the Computer and Automation Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and President of the International Federation for Automatic Control. Science, it is often proclaimed, is international. Often, alas, the attempt to make it so goes no further than proclamation. Co-operation and the reasoned approach can be effectively nourished

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only by action; and as with nourishment of other kinds repetition is desirable at more or less regular intervals. One of the aims of the MI Workshop is to contribute, in however small a measure, to this process.

All workers in AI have been saddened by the tragic death of John Gaschnig. The paper he gave at the Workshop appears as Chapter 15 of this volume, which is dedicated to his memory.

DONALD MICHIE

May 1982