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A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CHAIR

This proceedings and the presentations it represents are in some sense the culmination of 26 years of research and development about fuzzy sets and models. Indeed, years after Zadeh introduced the idea of fuzziness in 1965, many scientists and engineers felt that this was yet another new and bizarre technology with little to offer other than vacuous theories, uninteresting papers, and lots of graduate students! While (non-vacuous) fuzzy theories have indeed grown in almost all conceivable directions since 1965, the proof of any new technology ultimately lies in its utility for solving real problems. Models based on Zadeh's idea have emerged, in the last five years, as an enabling technology for many commercially successful products using fuzzy control and pattern recognition. Sophisticated applications to complex problems in many military and industrial domains are well on the way to becoming parts of fielded systems. This conference and its proceedings are the first evidence that the IEEE, the largest professional engineering society in the world, has recognized the significance of these developments. Readers of this proceedings will be able to confirm for themselves that fuzzy models have earned a place in the evolution of science and technology; this fact makes the rest of my introduction easy.

All that is left to do here is thank everyone who has helped make the conference and its proceedings a reality. The conference was put together very rapidly, and there have been, inevitably, some glitches in the processing of papers, assembly of the program, logistics of the meeting, and so on. On the whole, however, things proceeded smoothly, and this is directly attributable to the cooperation I received from a large number of helpful people. There are, of course, far too many people who had an active hand in this production for me to recognize each one individually. All that has been done would have been quite impossible without the able and professional help of the people on (and behind) the committees that appear following these pages. However, a few persons should be specifically mentioned. First, Bob Marks, Pat Simpson, Russ Eberhart and Toshio Fukuda, who had the vision to lead the IEEE Neural Networks Council towards their decision to sponsor this event at all. And I would be remiss if I did not single out for special thanks Didier Dubois and Henri Prade, who served as program co-chairs for the conference, and really did almost all of the hard work. Without them, none of this would have been possible. Finally, Nomi Feldman and her staff should be credited for accounting for many of the tedious details that go unnoticed when things work.

I hope you all enjoy this conference, and that you find this proceedings as valuable as I think it will be.

Jim Bezdek, General Chair
March, 1992