The articles in this volume were presented at the 21st International Conference of the Chilean Computer Science Society held November 7-9, 2001, in Punta Arenas, Chile. This event was locally organized by the University of Magallanes with the support of the University of Chile at Santiago.

We received 60 contributions from which 32 were selected. They came from 13 countries in America (North and South) and Europe. The program was decided by an international program committee, and the primary criteria for selection was quality but we also considered relevance, clarity and the potential benefit to the community. This volume also includes a paper from the last conference, which by an unfortunate event was not published at that time.

The conference is devoted to all areas of computer science. The papers included in this proceedings are in software engineering, computer networks, databases, object oriented systems, algorithms, artificial intelligence, CSCW, image processing, etc.

The Chilean CS Society (SCCC) seeks to facilitate the interchange of knowledge and experience among academics and professionals who work in the field of computing. This conference, being one of the oldest and highest quality computer science conference in Latin America, is helping to bring the work done in Latin America to the attention of computer scientists from around the world. It also helps to keep Latin American scientists and computer professionals up to date with major advances in the field.

We wish to thank the organizing committee, the program committee, and the other reviewers for their work and dedication. We acknowledge the support of our institutions and governmental and industrial sponsors. We would like also to thank IEEE CS Press for publishing the proceedings.

These proceedings are dedicated to the memory of Javier Pinto who died in a tragic accident last August. Javier was a gifted researcher in the area of artificial intelligence and logic. He was in the past treasurer and member of the board of governors of our society. His last service was as a program committee member of this conference. We will surely miss him.

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