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Sommario/riassunto

These are the conference proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Discovery Science (DS 2001). Although discovery is naturally ubiquitous in s- ence, and scientific discovery itself has been subject to scientific investigation for centuries, the term Discovery Science is comparably new. It came up in conn-tion with the Japanese Discovery Science project (cf. Arikawa's invited lecture on The Discovery Science Project in Japan in the present volume) some time during the last few years. Setsuo Arikawa is the father in spirit of the Discovery Science conference series. He led the above mentioned project, and he is currently serving as the chairman of the international steering committee for the Discovery Science c- ference series. The other members of this board are currently (in alphabetical order) Klaus P. Jantke, Masahiko Sato, Ayumi Shinohara, Carl H. Smith, and Thomas Zeugmann. Colleagues and friends from all over the world took the opportunity of me- ing for this conference to celebrate Arikawa's 60th birthday and to pay tribute to his manifold contributions to science, in general, and to Learning Theory and Discovery Science, in particular. Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT, for short) is another conference series initiated by Setsuo Arikawa in Japan in 1990. In 1994, it amalgamated with the conference series on Analogical and Inductive Inference (AII), when ALT was held outside of Japan for the first time.