

Lecture Notes in Computer Science

Edited by G. Goos and J. Hartmanis

162

Computer Algebra

EUROCAL '83, European Computer Algebra Conference
London, England, March 28–30, 1983
Proceedings

Edited by J. A. van Hulzen



Springer-Verlag
Berlin Heidelberg New York Tokyo 1983

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CR Subject Classifications (1982): I.1., J.2.

ISBN 3-540-12868-9 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York Tokyo
ISBN 0-387-12868-9 Springer-Verlag New York Heidelberg Berlin Tokyo

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Printed in Germany

Printing and binding: Beltz Offsetdruck, Hemsbach/Bergstr.
2145/3140-543210

PREFACE

EUROCAL '83 is the second major conference which is organized by the European computer algebra community. However, there is a remarkable difference with the previous symposium, EUROCAL '82, held in Marseille in April 1982 (this Series, nr. 144). In view of the success EUROCAM '82 certainly was, it was decided during this meeting to formally establish a European organization, called SAME, Symbolic and Algebraic Manipulation in Europe. This decision naturally evolved from the increasing interest in algebraic computation and symbolic manipulation in Europe during the past decade. The main motivation behind the creation of SAME was the wish to be able to easily coordinate the activities of different smaller groups, some of which had already a "long" history, at least in terms of computer science. Hence EUROCAL '83 is the first reflection of the existing intentions to annually organize meetings in Europe.

It is fair to state that ACM's Special Interest Group on Symbolic and Algebraic Manipulation (SIGSAM), the major world-wide organization in this area of computer science, had a stimulating and constructive influence on these European developments. Its regularly held and excellent conferences also served to bring interested Europeans together. In fact SAME can be considered as a credit for SIGSAM. This in view of the willingness of SIGSAM officials to regularly organize symposia in Europe, always in cooperation with the European groups: EUROSAM '74 and EUROSAM '79 (this Series nr. 72) will be followed by EUROSAM '84, to be held in Cambridge, England, during July 9-11, 1984. This forthcoming meeting is a joint effort of SAME and SIGSAM, with the latter organization having the main responsibility. And like its predecessor, EUROCAL '83 was organized in cooperation with SIGSAM, with official approval of ACM. This cooperation serves our computer algebra community as a whole. It motivated the Europeans to decide not to organize an official conference in those years SIGSAM is having its official symposia.

A conference like EUROCAL '83 can only be successful when many individuals are willing to spend part of their time and efforts in its preparation. Sincere thanks are due to A.C. Hearn, past SIGSAM chairman, and M. Mignotte, my predecessor as chairman of SAME, who gave their support and advice, to J. Aman, SAME secretary, who spend a lot of time in distributing information and announcements, to the members of the program committee, who devoted many hours to the submissions and the referee reports before the final program was settled, and last, but certainly not least to Patricia D. Pearce, who was responsible for the local arrangements. She did a

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marvellous job. The enjoyable hospitality of Kingston Polytechnic largely contributed to the success of the Conference. I owe a special word of thanks to Mrs. Therese ter Heide-Noll. Without her secretarial support, given during all stages of preparing EUROCAL '83, I would have been helpless.

J.A. van Hulzen

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