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Proceedings



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Volume Editors

Jiří Fiala

Jan Kratochvíl

Charles University, Department of Applied Mathematics

Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Malostranské nám. 25, 118 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic

E-mail: {fiala, honza}@kam.mff.cuni.cz

Václav Koubek

Charles University, Department of Theoretical Computer Science

and Mathematical Logic, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Malostranské nám. 25, 118 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic

E-mail: koubek@ksi.mff.cuni.cz

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Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 29th Symposium on Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science, MFCS 2004, held in Prague, Czech Republic, August 22–27, 2004. The conference was organized by the Institute for Theoretical Computer Science (ITI) and the Department of Theoretical Computer Science and Mathematical Logic (KTIML) of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague. It was supported in part by the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS) and the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM).

Traditionally, the MFCS symposia encourage high-quality research in all branches of theoretical computer science. Ranging in scope from automata, formal languages, data structures, algorithms and computational geometry to complexity theory, models of computation, and applications including computational biology, cryptography, security and artificial intelligence, the conference offers a unique opportunity to researchers from diverse areas to meet and present their results to a general audience.

The scientific program of this year's MFCS took place in the lecture halls of the recently reconstructed building of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics in the historical center of Prague, with the famous Prague Castle and other celebrated historical monuments in sight. The view from the windows was a challenging competition for the speakers in the fight for the attention of the audience. But we did not fear the result: Due to the unusually tough competition for this year's MFCS, the admitted presentations certainly attracted considerable interest. The conference program (and the proceedings) consisted of 60 contributed papers selected by the Program Committee from a total of 167 submissions. These are accompanied in the proceedings by abstracts or full versions of the 10 invited talks. It has already become a tradition that EATCS offers a Best Student Paper Award for the best paper submitted to MFCS and authored solely by students. The winner of the award was announced during the conference.

As the editors of these proceedings, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the symposium and to its scientific merit. First of all the authors of the contributed papers for the record number of submissions, the invited speakers for accepting our invitation and sharing their knowledge and skills with us, the Program Committee members for their demanding and responsible work, their subreferees for careful reading of all the submissions, Springer-Verlag for excellent cooperation in the publication of this volume, and last but not least the Organizing Committee and Action-M Agency (our partner responsible for the local arrangements) for smooth running of the symposium. We hope the attendees all had a fruitful and enjoyable time in Prague.

August 2004

Jiří Fiala
Václav Koubek
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1988 Karlovy Vary (Czechoslovakia)	2002 Warsaw-Otwock (Poland)
1989 Porabka-Kozubnik (Poland)	2003 Bratislava (Slovakia)

Table of Contents

Invited Lectures

A Case Study of Genome Evolution: From Continuous to Discrete Time Model	1
<i>Jerzy Tiuryn, Ryszard Rudnicki, Damian Wójtowicz</i>	
Multicoloring: Problems and Techniques	25
<i>Magnús M. Halldórsson, Guy Kortsarz</i>	
Some Recent Progress in Algorithmic Randomness	42
<i>Rod Downey</i>	
Ubiquitous Parameterization — Invitation to Fixed-Parameter Algorithms	84
<i>Rolf Niedermeier</i>	
PRAM-On-Chip: A Quest for Not-So-Obvious Non-obviousness	104
<i>Uzi Vishkin</i>	
Theory and Applied Computing: Observations and Anecdotes	106
<i>Matthew Brand, Sarah Frisken, Neal Lesh, Joe Marks, Daniel Nikovski, Ron Perry, Jonathan Yedidia</i>	
Boxed Ambients with Communication Interfaces	119
<i>Eduardo Bonelli, Adriana Compagnoni, Mariangiola Dezani-Ciancaglini, Pablo Garralda</i>	
Algebraic Recognizability of Languages	149
<i>Pascal Weil</i>	
Geometric Optimization and Unique Sink Orientations of Cubes	176
<i>Emo Welzl</i>	
Congestion Games and Coordination Mechanisms	177
<i>Elias Koutsoupias</i>	

Graph Algorithms

Equitable Colorings of Bounded Treewidth Graphs	180
<i>Hans L. Bodlaender, Fedor V. Fomin</i>	
The Bidimensional Theory of Bounded-Genus Graphs	191
<i>Erik D. Demaine, MohammadTaghi Hajiaghayi, Dimitrios M. Thilikos</i>	

Parallel Knock-Out Schemes in Networks	204
<i>Hajo Broersma, Fedor V. Fomin, Gerhard J. Woeginger</i>	

Online Algorithms for Disk Graphs	215
<i>Ioannis Caragiannis, Aleksei Fishkin, Christos Kaklamanis, Evi Papaioannou</i>	

Approximations

Protein Folding in the HP Model on Grid Lattices with Diagonals	227
<i>Hans-Joachim Böckenhauer, Dirk Bongartz</i>	

Optimization, Games, and Quantified Constraint Satisfaction	239
<i>Hubie Chen, Martin Pál</i>	

Approximating Boolean Functions by OBDDs	251
<i>Andre Gronemeier</i>	

On Approximation Hardness of the Minimum 2SAT-DELETION Problem	263
<i>Miroslav Chlebík, Janka Chlebíková</i>	

Graphs and Complexity

Group Coloring and List Group Coloring Are Π_2^P -Complete	274
<i>Daniel Král', Pavel Nejedlý</i>	

Complexity Results in Graph Reconstruction	287
<i>Edith Hemaspaandra, Lane A. Hemaspaandra, Stanisław Radziszowski, Rahul Tripathi</i>	

Generating Paths and Cuts in Multi-pole (Di)graphs	298
<i>Endre Boros, Khaled Elbassioni, Vladimir Gurvich, Leonid Khachiyan, Kazuhisa Makino</i>	

Packing Directed Cycles Efficiently	310
<i>Zeev Nutov, Raphael Yuster</i>	

Circuits

The Complexity of Membership Problems for Circuits over Sets of Integers	322
<i>Stephen D. Travers</i>	

Some Meet-in-the-Middle Circuit Lower Bounds	334
<i>Kristoffer Arnsfelt Hansen, Peter Bro Miltersen</i>	

The Enumerability of P Collapses P to NC	346
<i>Alina Beygelzimer, Mitsunori Ogihara</i>	

On NC ¹ Boolean Circuit Composition of Non-interactive Perfect Zero-Knowledge	356
<i>Alfredo De Santis, Giovanni Di Crescenzo, Giuseppe Persiano</i>	

General Complexity

All Superlinear Inverse Schemes Are coNP-Hard	368
<i>Edith Hemaspaandra, Lane A. Hemaspaandra, Harald Hempel</i>	
The Complexity of Equivalence and Isomorphism of Systems of Equations over Finite Groups	380
<i>Gustav Nordh</i>	
Generation Problems	392
<i>Elmar Böhler, Christian Glaßer, Bernhard Schwarz, Klaus Wagner</i>	
One Query Reducibilities Between Partial Information Classes	404
<i>Sebastian Bab, Arfst Nickelsen</i>	

Automata

A New Dimension Sensitive Property for Cellular Automata	416
<i>Vincent Bernardi, Bruno Durand, Enrico Formenti, Jarkko Kari</i>	
Captive Cellular Automata	427
<i>Guillaume Theyssier</i>	
Simulating 3D Cellular Automata with 2D Cellular Automata	439
<i>Victor Poupet</i>	
Graph Exploration by a Finite Automaton	451
<i>Pierre Fraigniaud, David Ilcinkas, Guy Peer, Andrzej Pelc, David Peleg</i>	

Parametrized and Kolmogorov Complexity

On Polynomially Time Bounded Symmetry of Information	463
<i>Troy Lee, Andrei Romashchenko</i>	
Scaled Dimension and the Kolmogorov Complexity of Turing-Hard Sets	476
<i>John M. Hitchcock, María López-Valdés, Elvira Mayordomo</i>	
A Geometric Approach to Parameterized Algorithms for Domination Problems on Planar Graphs	488
<i>Henning Fernau, David Juedes</i>	

Polynomial Time Approximation Schemes and Parameterized Complexity	500
<i>Jianer Chen, Xiuzhen Huang, Iyad A. Kanj, Ge Xia</i>	

Semantics

Epistemic Foundation of the Well-Founded Semantics over Bilattices	513
<i>Yann Loyer, Umberto Straccia</i>	
Structural Model Checking for Communicating Hierarchical Machines ...	525
<i>Ruggero Lanotte, Andrea Maggiolo-Schettini, Adriano Peron</i>	
Compositional Verification: Decidability Issues Using Graph Substitutions	537
<i>Olivier Ly</i>	
Event Structures for Resolvable Conflict	550
<i>Rob van Glabbeek, Gordon Plotkin</i>	

Scheduling

Optimal Preemptive Scheduling for General Target Functions.....	562
<i>Leah Epstein, Tamir Tassa</i>	
The Price of Anarchy for Polynomial Social Cost.....	574
<i>Martin Gairing, Thomas Lücking, Marios Mavronicolas, Burkhard Monien</i>	
Agent-Based Information Handling in Large Networks	586
<i>Robert Elsässer, Ulf Lorenz, Thomas Sauerwald</i>	
Approximating Earliest Arrival Flows with Flow-Dependent Transit Times	599
<i>Nadine Baumann, Ekkehard Köhler</i>	

Algebraic Theory of Languages

A Hierarchy of Irreducible Sofic Shifts	611
<i>Marie-Pierre Béal, Francesca Fiorenzi, Dominique Perrin</i>	
Membership and Reachability Problems for Row-Monomial Transformations	623
<i>Alexei Lisitsa, Igor Potapov</i>	
On Pseudovarieties of Semiring Homomorphisms	635
<i>Libor Polák</i>	
An Algebraic Generalization of ω -Regular Languages	648
<i>Zoltán Ésik, Werner Kuich</i>	

Games

A Protocol for Serializing Unique Strategies	660
<i>Marcel Crasmaru, Christian Glaßer, Kenneth W. Regan, Samik Sengupta</i>	
A Combinatorial Strongly Subexponential Strategy Improvement Algorithm for Mean Payoff Games	673
<i>Henrik Björklund, Sven Sandberg, Sergei Vorobyov</i>	
When Can You Play Positionally?	686
<i>Hugo Gimbert, Wiesław Zielonka</i>	

Languages

The Dual of Concatenation	698
<i>Alexander Okhotin</i>	
Computational Aspects of Disjunctive Sequences	711
<i>Klaus Ambos-Spies, Edgar Busse</i>	
Decidability of Trajectory-Based Equations	723
<i>Michael Domaratzki, Kai Salomaa</i>	

Geometry

Efficient View Point Selection for Silhouettes of Convex Polyhedra	735
<i>Therese Biedl, Masud Hasan, Alejandro López-Ortiz</i>	
Angles and Lengths in Reconfigurations of Polygons and Polyhedra	748
<i>Therese Biedl, Anna Lubiw, Michael J. Spriggs</i>	
Improved Bounds and Schemes for the Declustering Problem	760
<i>Benjamin Doerr, Nils Hebbinghaus, Sören Werth</i>	
Crossing Number Is Hard for Cubic Graphs	772
<i>Petr Hliněný</i>	

Languages and Complexity

A Reducibility for the Dot-Depth Hierarchy	783
<i>Victor L. Selivanov, Klaus W. Wagner</i>	
Sublogarithmic Ambiguity	794
<i>Klaus Wich</i>	
An Elementary Proof for the Non-parametrizability of the Equation $xyz = zvx$	807
<i>Elena Petre</i>	

A Generalization of Repetition Threshold 818
Lucian Ilie, Pascal Ochem, Jeffrey Shallit

Quantum Computing

An Algorithmic Argument for Nonadaptive Query Complexity Lower
Bounds on Advised Quantum Computation 827
Harumichi Nishimura, Tomoyuki Yamakami

Universal Test for Quantum One-Way Permutations 839
*Akinori Kawachi, Hirotada Kobayashi, Takeshi Koshiba,
Raymond H. Putra*

A Common Algebraic Description for Probabilistic
and Quantum Computations 851
Martin Beaudry, José M. Fernandez, Markus Holzer

XML

Extraction and Implication of Path Constraints 863
*Yves André, Anne-Cécile Caron, Denis Debarbieux,
Yves Roos, Sophie Tison*

Schema Evolution for XML: A Consistency-Preserving Approach 876
*Béatrice Bouchou, Denio Duarte, Mírian Halfeld Ferrari Alves,
Dominique Laurent, Martin A. Musicante*

Complexity of Decision Problems for Simple Regular Expressions 889
Wim Martens, Frank Neven, Thomas Schwentick

Author Index 901