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Foreword

This volume constitutes the proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Software (TACS'97) held at Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan in September 1997.

The TACS symposium focuses on theoretical foundations of programming and their applications. As this volume shows, TACS is an international symposium, with participants from many different institutions and countries.

TACS'97 is the third symposium in the TACS series, following TACS'91 and TACS'94. The proceedings of TACS'91 and TACS'94 were published as Volumes 526 and 789, respectively, of Springer-Verlag's Lecture Notes in Computer Science series.

The TACS'97 technical program consists of invited talks, contributed talks, and informal presentations. In conjunction with this program there is a special open lecture by Martín Abadi; this lecture is open to non-registrants.

TACS gratefully acknowledges the generous sponsorship of Tohoku University, and the cooperation of the following organizations:

Information Processing Society of Japan
Japan Society for Software Science and Technology
Association for Computing Machinery – SIGACT
Association for Symbolic Logic

TACS'97 has benefited from the efforts of many people. Among them are Shin-ichi Kawamoto and Masahiko Ohtomo, who lent their assistance in preparing the proceedings and in making local arrangements, the members of the program committee, and the members of the Advisory Board:

Rodney Burstall, *University of Edinburgh*
Robert L. Constable, *Cornell University*
Albert R. Meyer, *MIT* (chair)
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Gordon Plotkin, *University of Edinburgh*
Masahiko Sato, *Kyoto University*
Akinori Yonezawa, *University of Tokyo*

June 1997

Takayasu Ito
Symposium Chair
TACS'97

Preface

The program of TACS'97 included the presentations of twenty contributed papers and six invited talks. The program committee, with help from additional referees, selected the twenty contributed papers from forty-six submissions. The selection process was both smooth and careful, although it was not a formal refereeing process of the kind conducted by scientific journals. Professor Takayasu Ito and I chose the six invited speakers.

The papers in this volume constitute the record of the technical program. Generally, these papers are reports on research in progress. It is expected that many of the authors will continue to polish or extend their papers, and will publish them in journals.

I had the pleasure of chairing the program committee with Professor Ito. In addition, he served as symposium chair and as local organizer. In all these roles, Professor Ito made a great contribution to this volume and to the symposium.

We both wish to thank the other members of our program committee and the additional referees, who are listed below.

June 1997

Martín Abadi
Program Co-Chair
TACS'97

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Contents

Invited Talk 1

Strong Normalisation in Higher-Order Action Calculi	1
<i>Robin Milner</i>	

Session 1

Extending ML with Semi-explicit Higher-Order Polymorphism	20
<i>Jacques Garrigue and Didier Rémy</i>	
Optimal Representations of Polymorphic Types with Subtyping	47
<i>Alexander Aiken, Edward L. Wimmers, and Jens Palsberg</i>	
Cyclic Lambda Calculi	77
<i>Zena M. Ariola and Stefan Blom</i>	

Invited Talk 2

Type System for Specializing Polymorphism	107
<i>Atsushi Ohori</i>	

Session 2

On Strictness and Totality	138
<i>Mario Coppo, Ferruccio Damiani, and Paola Giannini</i>	
Sound Specialization in the Presence of Computational Effects	165
<i>Julia L. Lawall and Peter Thiemann</i>	

Session 3

An Axiomatic Approach to Binary Logical Relations with Applications to Data Refinement	191
<i>Yoshiki Kinoshita, Peter W. O'Hearn, A. John Power, Makoto Takeyama, and Robert D. Tennent</i>	
Infinitary Domain Logic for Finitary Transition Systems	213
<i>Marcello M. Bonsangue and Joost N. Kok</i>	

Invited Talk 3

Some Results in the Join-Calculus	233
<i>Jean-Jacques Lévy</i>	

Session 4

Local Model Checking for Value-Passing Processes	250
<i>Julian Rathke and Matthew Hennessy</i>	

Data Refinement of Remote Procedures	267
<i>Kaisa Sere and Marina Waldén</i>	

A Type-Theoretic Approach to Deadlock-Freedom of Asynchronous Systems	295
<i>Samson Abramsky, Simon Gay, and Rajagopal Nagarajan</i>	

Invited Talk 4

Composable Semantic Models for Actor Theories	321
<i>Carolyn L. Talcott</i>	

Session 5

“Classical” Programming-with-Proofs in λ_{PA}^{sym} : An Analysis of Non-confluence	365
<i>Franco Barbanera, Stefano Berardi, and Massimo Schivalocchi</i>	

Environments, Continuation Semantics and Indexed Categories	391
<i>John Power and Hayo Thielecke</i>	

Session 6

Comparing Object Encodings	415
<i>Kim B. Bruce, Luca Cardelli, and Benjamin C. Pierce</i>	

System F with Width-Subtyping and Record Updating	439
<i>Erik Poll</i>	

Invited Talk 5

Relational Interpretations of Recursive Types in an Operational Setting	458
<i>Lars Birkedal and Robert Harper</i>	

Session 7

Extending a Logical Framework with a Modal Connective for Validity	491
<i>Seán Matthews</i>	

Using Reflection to Build Efficient and Certified Decision Procedures	515
<i>Samuel Boutin</i>	

Sets in Types, Types in Sets	530
<i>Benjamin Werner</i>	

Session 8

Combining Petri Nets and PA-Processes	547
<i>Richard Mayr</i>	

Symbolic Model-Checking Method Based on Approximations and Binary Decision Diagrams for Real-Time Systems	562
<i>Satoshi Yamane and Kazuhiro Nakamura</i>	

Types and Models for Higher-Order Action Calculi	583
<i>Philippa Gardner and Masahito Hasegawa</i>	

Invited Talk 6

Finite-State Transducers as Regular Böhm Trees	604
<i>Gérard Huet and Henri Laulhère</i>	

TACS Open Lecture

Secrecy by Typing in Security Protocols	611
<i>Martín Abadi</i>	

Author Index	639
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