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Preface

The 22nd Symposium on Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science (MFCS'97) was held in Bratislava, Slovakia, August 25–29, 1997. This volume contains all contributed papers as well as 11 invited papers presented at the symposium.

The MFCS series was established in 1972 as an annual event for researchers in mathematical foundations of computer science. The aim of these symposia is to bring together specialists in theoretical fields of computer science from various countries and to stimulate mathematical research in theoretical computer science. The previous meetings took place in Jablona, 1972; Štrbské Pleso, 1973; Jadwisin, 1974; Mariánské Lázně, 1975; Gdańsk, 1976; Tatranská Lomnica, 1977; Zakopane, 1978; Olomouc, 1979; Rydzina, 1980; Štrbské Pleso, 1981; Prague, 1984; Bratislava, 1986; Carlsbad, 1988; Porąbka-Kozubnik, 1989; Banská Bystrica, 1990; Kazimierz Dolny, 1991; Prague, 1992; Gdańsk, 1993; Košice, 1994; Prague, 1995; and Cracow, 1996.

The program committee for MFCS'97 consisted of: G. Ausiello (Italy), J. Díaz (Spain), P. Ďuriš (Slovakia), T. Eiter (Austria), R. Freivalds (Latvia), F. Gécseg (Hungary), J. Karhumäki (Finland), H. Kirchner (France), H.-J. Kreowski (Germany), M. Nielsen (Denmark), W. Penczek (Poland), V. Pratt (USA), I. Prívára (co-chair, Slovakia), B. Rován (Slovakia), P. Ružička (chair, Slovakia), A. Salwicki (Poland), D. Sotteau (France), J. van Leeuwen (The Netherlands), J. Wiedermann (Czech Republic), J. Zlatuska (Czech Republic).

The program committee met on May 10–11, 1997, in Bratislava and out of 94 submitted papers it selected 40 papers for inclusion in the scientific program of MFCS'97. The selection was based on originality, quality, and relevance to theoretical computer science. We would like to thank the program committee members for their meritorious work on evaluating and selecting the papers. We would also like to thank all those who submitted papers for consideration, and all referees and colleagues who helped in the evaluation process.

The symposium was organized by the Slovak Society for Computer Science and the Comenius University in Bratislava in cooperation with other institutions in Slovakia, and it is supported by the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science. Many thanks are due to the organizing committee of MFCS'97 for making the symposium happen. The organizing committee consisted of: R. Červenka, Š. Dobrev, J. Džubas, P. Ďuriš (chair), V. Hambáľková, M. Nehéz, D. Olejár, D. Pardubská, J. Staudek, A. Zavarský. The program committee profited a lot from the electronic support system designed and managed by R. Červenka.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Springer-Verlag for excellent cooperation in publication of this volume.

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