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

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Václav Koubek
Jan Kratochvíl
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Table of Contents

Invited Lectures

A Case Study of Genome Evolution: From Continuous to Discrete
Time Model ...................................................... 1
   Jerzy Tiuryn, Ryszard Rudnicki, Damian Wójtowicz

Multicoloring: Problems and Techniques ......................... 25
   Magnús M. Halldórsson, Guy Kortsarz

Some Recent Progress in Algorithmic Randomness ................ 42
   Rod Downey

Ubiquitous Parameterization — Invitation
to Fixed-Parameter Algorithms ................................ 84
   Rolf Niedermeier

PRAM-On-Chip: A Quest for Not-So-Obvious Non-obviousness .... 104
   Uzi Vishkin

Theory and Applied Computing: Observations and Anecdotes ...... 106
   Matthew Brand, Sarah Frisken, Neal Lesh, Joe Marks,
   Daniel Nikowski, Ron Perry, Jonathan Yedidia

Boxed Ambients with Communication Interfaces .................. 119
   Eduardo Bonelli, Adriana Compagnoni,
   Mariangiola Dezani-Ciancaglini, Pablo Garralda

Algebraic Recognizability of Languages .......................... 149
   Pascal Weil

Geometric Optimization and Unique Sink Orientations of Cubes .... 176
   Emo Welzl

Congestion Games and Coordination Mechanisms .................. 177
   Elias Koutsoupias

Graph Algorithms

Equitable Colorings of Bounded Treewidth Graphs .................. 180
   Hans L. Bodlaender, Fedor V. Fomin

The Bidimensional Theory of Bounded-Genus Graphs .............. 191
   Erik D. Demaine, MohammadTaghi Hajiaghayi,
   Dimitrios M. Thilikos
Parallel Knock-Out Schemes in Networks ............................ 204
   Hajo Broersma, Fedor V. Fomin, Gerhard J. Woeginger

Online Algorithms for Disk Graphs .............................. 215
   Ioannis Caragiannis, Aleksei Fishkin, Christos Kaklamanis,
   Evi Papaioannou

Approximations

Protein Folding in the HP Model on Grid Lattices with Diagonals ...... 227
   Hans-Joachim Böckenhauer, Dirk Bongartz

Optimization, Games, and Quantified Constraint Satisfaction ............ 239
   Hubie Chen, Martin Pál

Approximating Boolean Functions by OBDDs .......................... 251
   Andre Gronemeier

On Approximation Hardness of the Minimum 2SAT-DELETION Problem .......... 263
   Miroslav Chlebík, Janka Chlebíková

Graphs and Complexity

Group Coloring and List Group Coloring Are \( \Pi^P_2 \)-Complete .... 274
   Daniel Král', Pavel Nejedlý

Complexity Results in Graph Reconstruction ................................ 287
   Edith Hemaspaandra, Lane A. Hemaspaandra,
   Stanislaw Radziszowski, Rahul Tripathi

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

Packing Directed Cycles Efficiently .................................. 310
   Zeev Nutov, Raphael Yuster

Circuits

The Complexity of Membership Problems for Circuits 
   over Sets of Integers ............................................. 322
   Stephen D. Travers

Some Meet-in-the-Middle Circuit Lower Bounds .......................... 334
   Kristoffer Arnsfelt Hansen, Peter Bro Miltersen

The Enumerability of P Collapses P to NC ............................ 346
   Alina Beygelzimer, Mitsunori Ogihara
On NC$^1$ Boolean Circuit Composition of Non-interactive
Perfect Zero-Knowledge .................................................. 356
   *Alfredo De Santis, Giovanni Di Crescenzo, Giuseppe Persiano*

**General Complexity**

All Superlinear Inverse Schemes Are coNP-Hard .................... 368
   *Edith Hemaspaandra, Lane A. Hemaspaandra, Harald Hempel*

The Complexity of Equivalence and Isomorphism of Systems
of Equations over Finite Groups .................................. 380
   *Gustav Nordh*

Generation Problems ................................................... 392
   *Elmar B¨ohler, Christian Glaßer, Bernhard Schwarz,
   Klaus Wagner*

One Query Reducibilities Between Partial Information Classes .... 404
   *Sebastian Bab, Arfst Nickelsen*

**Automata**

A New Dimension Sensitive Property for Cellular Automata .......... 416
   *Vincent Bernardi, Bruno Durand, Enrico Formenti, Jarkko Kari*

Captive Cellular Automata ............................................ 427
   *Guillaume Theyssier*

Simulating 3D Cellular Automata with 2D Cellular Automata ........ 439
   *Victor Poupet*

Graph Exploration by a Finite Automaton ................................ 451
   *Pierre Fraigniaud, David Ilcinkas, Guy Peer, Andrzej Pele,
   David Peleg*

**Parametrized and Kolmogorov Complexity**

On Polynomially Time Bounded Symmetry of Information ............ 463
   *Troy Lee, Andrei Romashchenko*

Scaled Dimension and the Kolmogorov Complexity
of Turing-Hard Sets ............................................... 476
   *John M. Hitchcock, María López-Valdés, Elvira Mayordomo*

A Geometric Approach to Parameterized Algorithms for Domination
Problems on Planar Graphs ........................................ 488
   *Henning Fernau, David Juedes*
Polynomial Time Approximation Schemes and Parameterized Complexity ........................................ 500
  Jianer Chen, Xiuzhen Huang, Iyad A. Kanj, Ge Xia

Semantics

Epistemic Foundation of the Well-Founded Semantics over Bilattices .... 513
  Yann Loyer, Umberto Straccia

Structural Model Checking for Communicating Hierarchical Machines ... 525
  Ruggero Lanotte, Andrea Maggiolo-Schettini, Adriano Peron

Compositional Verification: Decidability Issues
Using Graph Substitutions .......................................................... 537
  Olivier Ly

Event Structures for Resolvable Conflict .................................... 550
  Rob van Glabbeek, Gordon Plotkin

Scheduling

Optimal Preemptive Scheduling for General Target Functions .......... 562
  Leah Epstein, Tamir Tassa

The Price of Anarchy for Polynomial Social Cost ......................... 574
  Martin Gairing, Thomas Lücking, Marios Mavronicolas,
  Burkhard Monien

Agent-Based Information Handling in Large Networks ..................... 586
  Robert Elsässer, Ulf Lorenz, Thomas Sauerwald

Approximating Earliest Arrival Flows with Flow-Dependent Transit Times .......................................................... 599
  Nadine Baumann, Ekkehard Köhler

Algebraic Theory of Languages

A Hierarchy of Irreducible Sofic Shifts ..................................... 611
  Marie-Pierre Béal, Francesca Fiorenzi, Dominique Perrin

Membership and Reachability Problems
for Row-Monomial Transformations ......................................... 623
  Alexei Lisitsa, Igor Potapov

On Pseudovarieties of Semiring Homomorphisms .......................... 635
  Libor Polák

An Algebraic Generalization of ω-Regular Languages .................... 648
  Zoltán Ésik, Werner Kuich
Games

A Protocol for Serializing Unique Strategies .......................... 660
Marcel Crasmaru, Christian Glaßer, Kenneth W. Regan,
Samik Sengupta

A Combinatorial Strongly Subexponential Strategy Improvement
Algorithm for Mean Payoff Games ..................................... 673
Henrik Björklund, Sven Sandberg, Sergei Vorobyov

When Can You Play Positionally? ....................................... 686
Hugo Gimbert, Wiesław Zielonka

Languages

The Dual of Concatenation ............................................. 698
Alexander Okhotin

Computational Aspects of Disjunctive Sequences .................... 711
Klaus Ambos-Spies, Edgar Busse

Decidability of Trajectory-Based Equations ........................... 723
Michael Domaratzki, Kai Salomaa

Geometry

Efficient View Point Selection for Silhouettes of Convex Polyhedra ...... 735
Therese Biedl, Masud Hasan, Alejandro López-Ortiz

Angles and Lengths in Reconfigurations of Polygons and Polyhedra ...... 748
Therese Biedl, Anna Lubiw, Michael J. Spriggs

Improved Bounds and Schemes for the Declustering Problem .......... 760
Benjamin Doerr, Nils Hebbinghaus, Sören Werth

Crossing Number Is Hard for Cubic Graphs ............................. 772
Petr Hliněný

Languages and Complexity

A Reducibility for the Dot-Depth Hierarchy ............................ 783
Victor L. Selivanov, Klaus W. Wagner

Sublogarithmic Ambiguity ............................................. 794
Klaus Wich

An Elementary Proof for the Non-parametrizability
of the Equation $xyz = zvx$ ............................................. 807
Elena Petre
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, Mirian 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