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Arto Salomaa and Magnus Steinby



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PREFACE

The Fourth Colloquium on Automata, Languages and Programming was preceded by similar colloquia in Paris (1972), Saarbrücken (1974) and Edinburgh (1976), all sponsored by EATCS (European Association for Theoretical Computer Science). Because of the growing interest in these broadly-based colloquia on theoretical computer science, it has been planned by EATCS to organize a colloquium in this series every year from now on. This seems justified also in view of the fact that some 100 papers, among them some of very high quality, were submitted to this Fourth Colloquium, in spite of the fact that there are exceptionally many conferences in theoretical computer science during 1977.

The program committee of the Fourth Colloquium consisted of A.V. Aho, J.W. de Bakker, C. Böhm, R.V. Book, I.M. Havel, H. Maurer, M. Nivat, M.S. Paterson, Z. Pawlak, A. Paz, G.D. Plotkin, G. Rozenberg, A. Salomaa (chairman) and M. Steinby. The editors would like to thank the other members of the program committee for their hard work in evaluating the submitted papers, as well as the following referees who assisted the members of the program committee: J. Albert, K.R. Apt, M. Arbib, G. Ausiello, J. Bečvář, J.A. Bergstra, A. Blikle, J. Brzozowski, M.P. Chytil, R. Cohen, A. Cremers, K. Culik II, J. Darlington, P. Dembinski, H. Ehrig, P. van Emde Boas, M.H. van Emden, J. Engelfriet, M. Fokkinga, M. Gordon, W. Haase, P. Hájek, T. Harju, P. Hitchcock, H. Hule, K. Indermark, A. Itai, D. Johnson, J. Karhumäki, J. Král, H.P. Kriegel, W. Kwasowiec, D.J. Lehmann, M. Linna, W. Lipski Jr., M.A. Machtey, D. MacQueen, W. Marek, O. Mayer, A. Mazurkiewicz, R. Meersman, J. Metuszyński, R. Milner, A. Nijholt, Th. Ottmann, M. Penttonen, J. Reynolds, K. Ruohonen, W. Savitch, P. Schlichtiger, H. Schneider, J. Schwarz, E. Shamir, H.W. Six, S. Skyum, G. Slutzki, M.B. Smyth, P. Turakainen, L. Valiant, P. Vitányi, C. Wadsworth, J. Winkowski, C. Wrathall, P. Young.

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Turku, April 1977

Arto Salomaa

Magnus Steinby

CONTENTS

A.V. Aho and R. Sethi

How hard is compiler code generation? (Invited address) . . . 1

D.A. Alton

"Natural" complexity measures and time versus memory:
some definitional proposals 16

K.R. Apt and J.W. de Bakker

Semantics and proof theory of PASCAL procedures 30

G. Ausiello, A. D'Atri and M. Protasi

On the structure of combinatorial problems and
structure preserving reductions 45

R.C. Backhouse and R.K. Lutz

Factor graphs, failure functions and bi-trees 61

D.B. Benson and R.D. Jeffords

Parallel decomposition of LR(k) parsers 76

A. Bertoni, G. Mauri and M. Torelli

Some recursively unsolvable problems relating to
isolated cutpoints in probabilistic automata 87

C. Böhm, M. Coppo and M. Dezani-Ciancaglini	
Termination tests inside λ -calculus	95
R.V. Book and C.K. Yap	
On the computational power of reversal-bounded machines	111
F.-J. Brandenburg	
The context sensitivity bounds of context sensitive grammars and languages	120
M.P. Chytil and V. Jákł	
Serial composition of 2-way finite-state transducers and simple programs on strings	135
K. Čulik II and I. Friš	
The sequence equivalence problem for DOL systems is decidable	148
W. Damm	
Languages defined by higher type program schemes	164
E.-W. Dietrich	
Parsing and syntactic error recovery for context-free grammars by means of coarse structures	180
A.Ja. Dikovskii and L.S. Modina	
On three types of unambiguity of context-free language	193

H. Ehrig and B.K. Rosen	
The mathematics of record handling	206
J. Engelfriet	
Macro grammars, Lindenmayer systems and other copying devices	221
W.J. Erni	
On the time and tape complexity of hyper(1)-AFL's	230
M. Höpner and M. Opp	
Renaming and erasing in Szilard languages	244
A. Itai and M. Rodeh	
Some matching problems	258
G. Jacob	
Complexite des demi-groupes de matrices	269
T.M.V. Janssen and P. van Emde Boas	
On the proper treatment or referencing, dereferencing and assignment	282
N.D. Jones and S. Skyum	
Complexity of some problems concerning L systems	301
H.P. Kriegel and Th. Ottmann	
Left-fitting translations	309

K. Mehlhorn	
Dynamic binary search	323
B. Monien	
About the derivation languages of grammars and machines	337
A. Nijholt	
Simple chain grammars	352
W.J. Paul and R.E. Tarjan	
Time-space trade-offs in a pebble game	365
A. Paz and S. Moran	
Non-deterministic polynomial optimization problems and their approximation	370
A. Pnueli and G. Slutzki	
Simple programs and their decision problems	380
V. Rajlich	
Theory of data structures by relational and graph grammars	391
W.P. de Roever	
On backtracking and greatest fixpoints	412
G. Rozenberg and D. Vermeir	
L systems of finite index	430

J. Sajaniemi	
The safety of a coroutine system	440
W.J. Savitch and P.M.B. Vitányi	
Linear time simulation of multihead Turing machines with head-to-head jumps	453
A. Shamir and W.W. Wadge	
Data types as objects	465
J. Simon	
On the difference between one and many	480
S. Sippu and E. Soisalon-Soininen	
On defining error recovery in context-free parsing	492
I. Streinu	
LL(k) languages are closed under union with finite languages	504
I.H. Sudborough	
The time and tape complexity of developmental languages	509
M. Takahashi	
Rational relations of binary trees	524
H. K.-G. Walter	
Structural equivalence of context-free grammar forms is decidable	539

APPENDIX

B. Courcelle

On the definition of classes of interpretations 554