Foreword

The Fifth International Conference on Implementation and Application of Automata (CIAA 2000) was held at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada on July 24-25, 2000. This conference series was formerly called the International Workshop on Implementing Automata (WIA)

This volume of the Lecture Notes in Computer Science series contains all the papers that were presented at CIAA 2000, and also the abstracts of the poster papers that were displayed during the conference.

The conference addressed issues in automata application and implementation. The topics of the papers presented at this conference ranged from automata applications in software engineering, natural language and speech recognition, and image processing, to new representations and algorithms for efficient implementation of automata and related structures.

Automata theory is one of the oldest areas in computer science. Research in automata theory has always been motivated by its applications since its early stages of development. In the 1960s and 1970s, automata research was motivated heavily by problems arising from compiler construction, circuit design, string matching, etc. In recent years, many new applications have been found in various areas of computer science as well as in other disciplines. Examples of the new applications include statecharts in object-oriented modeling, finite transducers in natural language processing, and nondeterministic finite-state models in communication protocols. Many of the new applications do not and cannot simply apply the existing models and algorithms in automata theory to their problems. New models, or modifications of the existing models, are needed to satisfy their requirements. A feature that can be found in many of the new applications is that the sizes of the problems in practice are astronomically larger than those occurring in the traditional applications. New algorithms and new representations of automata are in demand to reduce the time and space requirements of the computation.

The CIAA conference series provides a forum for those new problems and new challenges. In these conferences, both theoretical and practical results related to application and implementation of automata can be presented and discussed, and software packages and toolkits can be demonstrated. The participants of the conference series have come from both research institutions and industry.

I wish to thank all the program committee members and referees for their efforts in refereeing and selecting papers. This volume is edited with much help from Andrei Pǎun and Mihaela Pǎun. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

We wish to thank EATCS and ACM SIGACT for their sponsorship and HyperVision for their donation to the conference. We also thank the editors of
the Lecture Notes in Computer Science series and Springer-Verlag, in particular Ms. Anna Kramer, for their help in publishing this volume.

May 2001

Sheng Yu

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## List of Referees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M.-P. Béal</th>
<th>O. H. Ibarra</th>
<th>M. Mohri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Berstel</td>
<td>T. Jiang</td>
<td>A. Păun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Bultan</td>
<td>H. Jürgensen</td>
<td>J.-E. Pin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.-M. Champarnaud</td>
<td>L. Kari</td>
<td>G. Roussel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Crochemore</td>
<td>L. Karttunen</td>
<td>K. Salomaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Culik II</td>
<td>R. Kitto</td>
<td>J. Senellart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Daley</td>
<td>R. Laporte</td>
<td>W. Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.G. Eramian</td>
<td>C. Löding</td>
<td>J. Vöge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Günthner</td>
<td>P. Madhusudan</td>
<td>B. Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Holzer</td>
<td>D. Maurel</td>
<td>D. Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Huerter</td>
<td>S. Michelin</td>
<td>S. Yu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

## Invited Lectures

- Synthesizing State-Based Object Systems from LSC Specifications .......................... 1
  *David Harel, Hillel Kugler*

- Applications of Finite-State Transducers in Natural Language Processing ........ 34
  *Lauri Karttunen*

## Technical Contributions

- Fast Implementations of Automata Computations ........................................... 47
  *Anne Bergeron, Sylvie Hamel*

- Regularly Extended Two-Way Nondeterministic Tree Automata ......................... 57
  *Anne Brügge-man-Klein, Derick Wood*

- Glushkov Construction for Multiplicities .................................................. 67
  *Pascal Caron, Marianne Flouret*

- Implicit Structures to Implement NFA’s from Regular Expressions ................. 80
  *Jean-Marc Champarnaud*

- New Finite Automaton Constructions Based on Canonical Derivatives ............. 94
  *Jean-Marc Champarnaud, D. Ziadi*

- Experiments with Automata Compression .................................................... 105
  *Jan Daciuk*

- Computing Raster Images from Grid Picture Grammars .................................. 113
  *Frank Drewes, Sigrid Ewert, Renate Klempien-Hinrichs, Hans-Jörg Kreowski*

- A Basis for Looping Extensions to Discriminating-Reverse Parsing ............... 122
  *Jacques Farré, José Fortes Gálvez*

- Automata for Pro-V Topologies ............................................................... 135
  *Pierre-Cyrille Héam*

- Reachability and Safety in Queue Systems .............................................. 145
  *Oscar H. Ibarra*

- Generalizing the Discrete Timed Automaton ............................................ 157
  *Oscar H. Ibarra, Jianwen Su*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factorization of Ambiguous Finite-State Transducers</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>André Kempe</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONA Implementation Secrets</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nils Klarlund, Anders Möller, Michael I. Schwartzbach</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cursors</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vincent Le Maout</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Automaton Model of User-Controlled Navigation on the Web</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>K. Lodaya, R. Ramanujam</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Construction of Minimal Acyclic Subsequential Transducers</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stoyan Mihov, Denis Maurel</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generic ε-Removal Algorithm for Weighted Automata</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mehryar Mohri</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An O(n^2) Algorithm for Constructing Minimal Cover Automata for Finite Languages</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Andrei Păun, Nicolae Sâncean, Sheng Yu</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unary Language Concatenation and Its State Complexity</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Giovanni Pighizzini</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of a Strategy Improvement Algorithm for Finite-State Parity Games</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dominik Schmitz, Jens Vöge</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Complexity and Jacobsthal’s Function</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jeffrey Shallit</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Package for the Implementation of Block Codes as Finite Automata</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priti Shankar, K. Sasidharan, Vikas Aggarwal, B. Sundar Rajan</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Least-Cost Error Repair</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M. Vilares, V.M. Darriba, F.J. Ribadas</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parameterized Complexity of Intersection and Composition Operations on Sets of Finite-State Automata</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H. Todd Wareham</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directly Constructing Minimal DFAs: Combining Two Algorithms by Brzozowski</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bruce W. Watson</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The MERLin Environment Applied to *-NFAs</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lynette van Zijl, John-Paul Harper, Frank Olivier</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstracts

Visual Exploration of Generation Algorithms for Finite Automata on the Web ................................................. 327
   Stephan Diehl, Andreas Kerren, Torsten Weller

TREEBAG ......................................................... 329
   Frank Drewes, Renate Klempien-Hinrichs

Word Random Access Compression .................................. 331
   Jiří Dvorský, Václav Snášel

Extended Sequentialization of Transducers ......................... 333
   Tamás Gaál

Lessons from INR in the Specification of Transductions .......... 335
   J. Howard Johnson

Part-of-Speech Tagging with Two Sequential Transducers ....... 337
   André Kempe

Solving Complex Problems Efficiently with Adaptive Automata .... 340
   João José Neto

Author Index ...................................................... 343