

## Foreword to the Special Focus on Constraints and Combinations

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Published online: 4 September 2015  
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This special focus of *Mathematics in Computer Science* (MCS) is a follow-up to the Fifth International Conference on Mathematical Aspects of Computer and Information Sciences, which took place in Nanning, China, on December 11–13, 2013. MACIS is a series of conferences where foundational research on theoretical and practical problems of mathematics for computing and information processing may be presented and discussed. MACIS also addresses experiments and case studies, computation in science and engineering, design and implementation of algorithms and software systems, and applications of mathematical methods and tools for outstanding and emerging problems in applied computer and information sciences.

Each MACIS conference focuses on two or three themes. Among the research areas covered by the 2013 edition of the conference there was, besides *Data Modeling and Analysis* and *Information Security and Cryptography*, a strong focus on *Constraints and Combinations*. We thank all authors and referees for contributing to the quality of the papers.

We hope that this special focus will promote new work in the research areas of the MACIS conference and, in particular, that it will trigger new applications of constraint solving and combination techniques to the fields of data modeling and analysis as well as information security and cryptography.

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