

STACS 2008 Foreword

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The Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science (STACS) is held annually, alternating between France and Germany, and has become one of the most important European annual meetings for the theoretical computer science community covering a wide range of topics in the area of foundations of computer science: algorithms and data structures, automata and formal languages, computational and structural complexity, logic, verification, and current challenges.

The 25th conference of the series, STACS 2008, was held at the Laboratoire Bordelais de Recherche en Informatique, CNRS and Université de Bordeaux, on February 21–23. Its call for papers led to approximately 200 submissions from all over the world.

The scientific quality of the submissions made selecting the best ones a very difficult task. This was achieved by a two-week, very intense electronic meeting of the Program Committee, which retained only 54 papers for presentation at the conference. In the course of this very demanding process, many good and relevant papers with positive reviews had to be rejected from the final program. Yet, such a rigorous selection process, which is usual for STACS, is the guarantee that this conference series is a scientifically rich and very fruitful forum for theoretical computer science.

The articles in this special issue of *Theory of Computing Systems* are a further selection from the best results presented at STACS 2008. The full versions of these papers underwent an additional strict refereeing process as is standard for a high-

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level scientific journal. The contributions illustrate very well the wide range of topics addressed by STACS.

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Guest Editors