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# Preface

STACS, the Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science, is held annually, alternating between France and Germany. STACS is organized jointly by the Special Interest Group for Theoretical Computer Science of the Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI) in Germany and the Maison de l'Informatique et des Mathématiques Discrètes (MIMD) in France. STACS 2000 was the 17th in the series. It was held in Lille from February 17th to 19th, 2000. Previous STACS symposia took place in Paris (1984), Saarbrücken (1985), Orsay (1986), Passau (1987), Bordeaux (1988), Paderborn (1989), Rouen (1990), Hamburg (1991), Cachan (1992), Würzburg (1993), Caen (1994), München (1995), Grenoble (1996), Lübeck (1997), Paris (1998), and Trier (1999). All STACS proceedings have been published in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science of Springer-Verlag.

STACS has become one of the most important annual meetings in Europe for the theoretical computer science community. It covers a wide range of topics in the area of foundations of computer science. This time, 146 submissions from 30 countries were received, all in electronic form. Jochen Bern designed the electronic submission procedure, which performed marvelously. Many thanks to Jochen.

The submitted papers address fundamental problems from many areas of computer science: algorithms and data structure, automata and formal languages, complexity, verification, logic, cryptography. Many tackled new areas, including mobile computing and quantum computing. During the program committee meeting in Lille, 51 papers were selected for presentation. Most of the papers were evaluated by five members of the program committee, partly with the assistance of subreferees for a total of 700 reports. We thank the program committee for its demanding work in the evaluation process. We also thank all the reviewers whose names are listed on the next pages.

We are specially grateful to the invited speakers Pascal Koiran, Thomas Henzinger, and Amin Schokrollahi for accepting our invitation and presenting us their insights on their research area.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Anne-Cécile Caron, Rémi Gilleron, and Marc Tommasi who invested their time and energy to organize this conference. Thanks also to all members of the *Laboratoire d'Informatique Fondamentale de Lille*, especially to our secretaries, Annie Dancoisne and Michèle Driessens.

The conference was made possible by the financial support of the following institutions: European Community, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Ministère de l'Education Nationale de la Recherche et de la Technologie, Ministère de la Défense, Région Nord/Pas-de-Calais, Ville de Lille, Université de Lille 1, and other organizations.

December 1999

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