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David Fernández-Baca (Ed.)

LATIN 2012: Theoretical Informatics

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Proceedings

Volume Editor

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Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 10th Latin American Symposium on Theoretical Informatics (LATIN 2012), held at the Universidad Católica San Pablo (UCSP), in Arequipa, Peru. Previous editions of LATIN took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil (1992), Valparaiso, Chile (1995), Campinas, Brazil (1998), Punta del Este, Uruguay (2000), Cancun, Mexico (2002), Buenos Aires, Argentina (2004), Valdivia, Chile (2006), Buzios, Brazil (2008), and Oaxaca, Mexico (2010).

The conference received 153 submissions from 42 countries. Each submission was reviewed by at least three Program Committee members (indeed, 94% had at least four reviewers), and carefully evaluated on quality, originality, and relevance to the conference. Overall, the committee members wrote 632 reviews with the help of 309 external referees. Based on an extensive electronic discussion, the committee selected 55 papers, leading to an acceptance rate of 36%.

In addition to the accepted contributions, the symposium featured distinguished lectures by Scott Aaronson (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Martin Davis (New York University), Luc Devroye (McGill University), Marcos Kiwi (Universidad de Chile), Kirk Pruhs (University of Pittsburgh), and Dana Randall (Georgia Institute of Technology). LATIN 2012 was part of the world-wide commemoration of the Alan Turing Year. The invited talks by Scott Aaronson and Martin Davis formed the core of the celebration. Luc Devroye's talk and the session that followed it were devoted to the memory of Philippe Flajolet, who passed away tragically in March 2011. Prior to Luc's talk, Daniel Panario offered a remembrance of Philippe's life and work.

The Imre Simon Test-of-Time Award was given to the authors of the LATIN paper deemed to be most influential among all those published at least ten years prior to the current edition of the conference. Papers published in the LATIN proceedings up to and including 2002 were eligible for the 2012 award. The winners of the first award were Michael Bender and Martin Farach-Colton, for their paper "The LCA Problem Revisited," which appeared at LATIN 2000.

A School of Theoretical Computer Science was co-located and ran in parallel with the conference. This was the first of what we hope will be a series of such schools, whose aim is to encourage the attendance of Latin American students to LATIN, to expose them to recent developments in advanced research topics, and to stimulate their interaction with researchers working inside and outside of Latin America.

Many people helped make LATIN 2012 possible. First, I would like to recognize the outstanding work of the members of the Program Committee. The LATIN Steering Committee offered valuable advice and feedback; the conference benefitted immensely from their knowledge and experience.

Our industrial sponsors, Yahoo! Research and Microsoft Research provided much-needed seed funding. In particular, Yahoo! provided funds for the Imre

Simon Award. I thank Ricardo Baeza-Yates and Renato Werneck for serving as contacts to those institutions.

At Iowa State University, Julie Kieffer and her staff at the Office of Conference Planning and Management took care of the financial aspects of LATIN and Barry Britt, of the Department of Computer Science, administered the conference website.

Ernesto Cuadros-Vargas, Dean of the School of Engineering and Computing at UCSP and Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, has for almost a decade been a proponent of holding LATIN in Arequipa. It is hard to imagine that the conference would have taken place without his enthusiasm and drive. The rest of the Local Arrangements Committee, including Regina Ticona, Gina Lovón, María Pilar Rondón, and Alex Cuadros-Vargas, ably handled the innumerable logistical details that had to be dealt with along the way.

Finally, I thank Lisa Kay McEnaney for the encouragement she offered during the year and a half that it took to make LATIN 2012 a reality.

April 2012

David Fernández-Baca

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