

# Preface

The Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science (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: algorithms and data structures, automata and formal languages, computational and structural complexity, logic, verification, and current challenges.

STACS 2002, the 19th in this series, was held in Antibes - Juan les Pins, on the French Riviera, March 14–16, 2002. 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), Trier (1999), Lille (2000), and Dresden (2001). The proceedings of all these symposia have been published in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science series of Springer-Verlag.

STACS 2002 received 209 submissions from 30 countries, one of the highest numbers of submissions ever, for a European conference on theoretical computer science. They were dispatched to the Program Committee members, and underwent a thorough review process, where more than 900 reports were written. These reports then served as guidance to the Program Committee, which met on November 16–17, 2001, at the INRIA Sophia Antipolis (near Antibes), France, in order to select the conference program.

Fortunately, quantity yielded high scientific quality, and the task of selecting the best submissions was very difficult indeed. During the 2-day, very intense meeting of the Program Committee, less than 25% of the submissions were selected for oral presentation at the conference. The only drawback of this highly selective process was that many good, relevant papers with positive reviews could not be included in the final program. On the other hand, such a rigorous selection process was a guarantee that STACS 2002 was bound to be a scientifically rich and very fruitful forum for theoretical computer science.

We thank the three invited speakers at this symposium, Gilles Dowek (INRIA Rocquencourt), Michael O. Rabin (Harvard University), and Christian Scheidler (Johns Hopkins University) for accepting our invitation to share their insights on new developments in their research areas.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the members of the local organizing committee who invested their time and energy to organize this conference. In particular, we thank J. Durand-Lose (Local Organizing Chair), D. Coudert (web site), S. Choplin (submissions server), and E. Deriche, B. Martin, H. Rivano, B. Madeline, D. Sergeant, and M.-H. Zeitoun.

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December 2001

Helmut Alt  
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<sup>1</sup> This list has been automatically compiled from the conference's database. We apologize for any omissions or inaccuracies.

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