

# Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 29th Symposium on Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science, MFCS 2004, held in Prague, Czech Republic, August 22–27, 2004. The conference was organized by the Institute for Theoretical Computer Science (ITI) and the Department of Theoretical Computer Science and Mathematical Logic (KTIML) of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague. It was supported in part by the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS) and the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM).

Traditionally, the MFCS symposia encourage high-quality research in all branches of theoretical computer science. Ranging in scope from automata, formal languages, data structures, algorithms and computational geometry to complexity theory, models of computation, and applications including computational biology, cryptography, security and artificial intelligence, the conference offers a unique opportunity to researchers from diverse areas to meet and present their results to a general audience.

The scientific program of this year's MFCS took place in the lecture halls of the recently reconstructed building of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics in the historical center of Prague, with the famous Prague Castle and other celebrated historical monuments in sight. The view from the windows was a challenging competition for the speakers in the fight for the attention of the audience. But we did not fear the result: Due to the unusually tough competition for this year's MFCS, the admitted presentations certainly attracted considerable interest. The conference program (and the proceedings) consisted of 60 contributed papers selected by the Program Committee from a total of 167 submissions. These are accompanied in the proceedings by abstracts or full versions of the 10 invited talks. It has already become a tradition that EATCS offers a Best Student Paper Award for the best paper submitted to MFCS and authored solely by students. The winner of the award was announced during the conference.

As the editors of these proceedings, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the symposium and to its scientific merit. First of all the authors of the contributed papers for the record number of submissions, the invited speakers for accepting our invitation and sharing their knowledge and skills with us, the Program Committee members for their demanding and responsible work, their subreferees for careful reading of all the submissions, Springer-Verlag for excellent cooperation in the publication of this volume, and last but not least the Organizing Committee and Action-M Agency (our partner responsible for the local arrangements) for smooth running of the symposium. We hope the attendees all had a fruitful and enjoyable time in Prague.

August 2004

Jiří Fiala  
Václav Koubek  
Jan Kratochvíl

## Organizers

Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague

- Institute for Theoretical Computer Science
- Department of Theoretical Computer Science and Mathematical Logic

Action-M Agency (local arrangements)

## Supporters

European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS)

European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM)

Institute for Theoretical Computer Science (ITI) — provided support for 11 students to participate at MFCS 2004

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1984 Praha (Czechoslovakia)	2000 Bratislava (Slovakia)
1986 Bratislava (Czechoslovakia)	2001 Mariánské Lázně (Czech Republic)
1988 Karlovy Vary (Czechoslovakia)	2002 Warsaw-Otwock (Poland)
1989 Porabka-Kozubnik (Poland)	2003 Bratislava (Slovakia)

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