EDITORIAL

The workshop

Descriptional Complexity of Formal Systems

held in London, Canada, 21 – 24 August, 2002, merged two series of related workshops, *Descriptional Complexity of Automata, Languages, and Related Systems* (DCAGRS) and *Formal Descriptions and Software Reliability* (FDSR). DCAGRS previously took place in Magdeburg, Germany (1999); in London, Canada (2000); and in Vienna, Austria (2001). FDSR was previously held in Paderborn, Germany (1998); in Boca Raton, U.S.A. (1999); and in San Jose, U.S.A. (2000). The merger of these workshops was motivated by the intention of stimulating the interaction between abstract and applied research in the field of descriptions and their complexities.

The program of the workshop *Descriptional Complexity of Formal Systems* consisted of six invited lectures presented by

E. Csuhaj-Varjú	J. Hartmanis
M. Kappes	L. Kari
J. Shallit (K. Ellul, M.-W. Wang)	S. Yu

and 17 talks selected by the international program committee. The papers were presented by scientists from Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, The Netherlands, Romania, and the U.S.A.

Since its beginning selected papers of the DCAGRS workshops were published in an issue of the *Journal of Automata, Languages and Combinatorics.* Following this tradition, this issue contains two of the invited lectures and 12 further papers. All these contributions passed the usual refereeing process of the journal.

September 2004

J. Dassow (Magdeburg)
H. Jürgensen (London and Potsdam)
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