

EDITORIAL

The complexity of finite descriptions of infinite objects is the main investigation subject of *descriptive complexity*, one of the traditional areas of computer science. Because of the wide interest and of the many research activities in this field, in 1997 the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) founded the Working Group 1.2 (WG 1.2) on Descriptive Complexity. Since then, IFIP WG 1.2 promotes a series of workshop related to this field.

Descriptive Complexity of Formal Systems (DCFS) is the successor workshop to and the merger of two related workshops, *Descriptive Complexity of Automata, Grammars and Related Systems* (DCAGRS) and *Formal Descriptions and Software Reliability* (FDSR). DCAGRS was previously held in Magdeburg (1999), London, Ontario (2000), and Vienna (2001). FDSR was previously held in Paderborn (1998), Boca Raton (1999), and San Jose (2000). DCFS was first held in London, Ontario (2002), then in Budapest (2003), and in London, Ontario (2004).

The seventh workshop, Descriptive Complexity of Formal Systems (DCFS 2005) took place in Como (Italy), June 30 – July 2, 2005. It was jointly organized by the IFIP Working Group 1.2 on Descriptive Complexity and the Computer Science Departments (Dipartimento di Informatica e Comunicazione and Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Informazione) of the University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano). The scientific program consisted of 4 invited lectures and 23 contributions (16 regular papers and 7 short papers), selected by an international program committee.

This volume contains 19 papers based on invited lectures and contributions presented at DCFS 2005. All selected papers have passed the customary refereeing procedure.

We are grateful to the Program Committee which consisted of Cristian Calude (Auckland), Christian Choffrut (Paris), Erzsébet Csuhaj-Varju (Budapest), Jürgen Dassow (Magdeburg), Michael Harrison (Berkeley), Oscar Ibarra (Santa Barbara), Lucian Ilie (London, Ontario), Martin Kutrib (Giessen), Carlos Martin-Vide (Tarragona), Carlo Mereghetti (Milano), Giovanni Pighizzini (Milano, Co-Chair), Arto Salomaa (Turku), Kai Salomaa (Kingston, Ontario), Jacques Sakarovitch (Paris), Petr Sosik (London, Ontario and Opava), and Detlef Wotschke (Frankfurt/Main, Co-Chair). We also thank the additional reviewers of the papers for their careful evaluation.

We are strongly indebted to Beatrice Palano and Carlo Mereghetti, for their cooperation in the organization of the workshop.

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