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## Preface

This special issue of Theoretical Computer Science is dedicated to the 30th International Colloquium on Automata, Languages and Programming (ICALP) that has been held from June 30 to July 4, 2003, in Eindhoven (The Netherlands). The ICALP conference, which is operated and sponsored by the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS), is traditionally divided into two tracks. These conference tracks roughly correspond to the two tracks into which the journal Theoretical Computer Science is divided: track A is devoted to algorithms, automata, and complexity, whereas track B focuses on logic, semantics, and the theory of programming. For this special issue, we have selected a distinguished sample of the track A contributions. Our aim was to reflect both the vast diversity and the high quality of ICALP.

In response to the call for papers for ICALP 2003, the program committee for track A received 131 submissions from 35 countries. Each paper was reviewed by at least three program committee members who were usually assisted by subreferees. At the pc meeting, the committee selected 52 papers from track A for presentation. The program committee was overwhelmed by the quality of the submissions and impressed by the diversity of the scientific program of ICALP 2003: ICALP represents Theoretical Computer Science in all its aspects, a vibrant field that is increasingly turning into a valuable and abundant source of ideas and concepts for other research disciplines and applications.

The authors of the contributions of this special issue of TCS were asked to submit journal versions of their ICALP articles. These submissions were thoroughly reviewed according to the standards of regular issues of TCS.

We would like to thank all authors for their efforts in preparing the journal versions of their ICALP contributions. We also thank the numerous reviewers, who were recruited from the ICALP 2003 program committee as well as from external institutions, for their thorough reports.

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