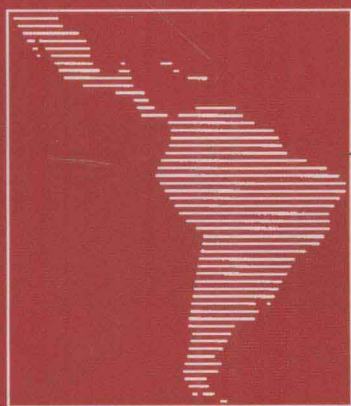


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Preface

This volume contains the papers accepted for publication at LATIN 2006, the 7th Latin American Theoretical Informatics Symposium held in Valdivia, Chile, March 20-24, 2006. The LATIN series of conferences presents recent results in theoretical computer science. It was launched in 1992 to foster the interaction between the Latin American community and computer scientists around the world. LATIN 2006 was the seventh of a series, after São Paulo, Brazil (1992); Valparaiso, Chile (1995); Campinas, Brazil (1998), Punta del Este, Uruguay (2000), Cancún, Mexico (2002), and Buenos Aires, Argentina (2004).

In response to the call for papers, a record number of 224 submissions were received. The Program Committee accepted 66 papers in order to meet the goal of having five days of talks with no parallel sessions. Therefore, many good papers could not be accepted. The Program Committee met electronically from October 25 to November 10, 2005. The selection of papers was based on originality, quality, and relevance to theoretical computer science. It is expected that most of these papers will appear in a more complete and polished form in scientific journals in the future.

In addition to the contributed papers, this volume contains the abstracts of seven invited plenary talks given at the conference by Ricardo Baeza-Yates, Anne Condon, Ferran Hurtado, R. Ravi, Madhu Sudan, Sergio Verdú and Avi Wigderson.

The Program Committee thanks all authors of submitted manuscripts for their support of LATIN, and the many colleagues listed in pages VIII-X, who helped reviewing the submissions.

The LATIN proceedings have been published by Springer since the first edition. We are grateful to Springer for their continuous support.

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