
PROCEEDINGS OF

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL

ACM-SIAM SYMPOSIUM

ON DISCRETE ALGORITHMS

Baltimore, MD

2003

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Association for Computing Machinery

New York

Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Philadelphia

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL ACM-SIAM SYMPOSIUM ON DISCRETE ALGORITHMS

Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms,
Baltimore, MD, January 12–14, 2003.

This symposium was sponsored by the ACM Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computation Theory and the SIAM Activity Group on Discrete Mathematics.

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ISBN 0-89871-538-5

PREFACE

The papers in this volume were presented at the Fourteenth Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms, held January 12–14, 2003, in Baltimore, Maryland. The Symposium was jointly sponsored by the SIAM Activity Group on Discrete Mathematics and by SIGACT, the ACM Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computation Theory.

In response to the Call for Papers, 331 Long Form abstracts and 77 Short Form Abstracts were submitted. The program committee met “electronically” from July 9 to August 25, 2002, and accepted 92 Long Form abstracts and 20 Short Form abstracts. The decisions were based on originality, technical contribution, and relevance. The submissions were not formally refereed, although every attempt was made to verify the main claims. In addition to the program committee members, many additional reviewers contributed to this effort. It is expected that most of the accepted papers will appear in more complete form in scientific journals.

The program committee would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers for consideration. The committee also thanks Connie Young and Sara Murphy of the SIAM office for their enthusiastic and prompt handling of queries to SIAM.

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The SODA 2003 Program Committee gratefully acknowledges with thanks and extends its appreciation to the following colleagues who willingly gave their help and time to read and review the SODA 2003 submissions.

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Wigderson, Avi
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In Memoriam



Steven Seiden July 13, 1967 – June 11, 2002

The theoretical computer science community mourns the tragic loss of Steve Seiden, who died on June 11, 2002, when he was hit by an oncoming truck while cycling.

Steve Seiden grew up in Virginia and moved to California in 1985 to attend the University of California, Irvine as an undergraduate majoring in Information and Computer Science. After graduating, Steve worked in the Irvine area and then decided to return to UCI for his Ph.D. in 1991. His Ph.D. advisors were Dan Hirschberg and Sandy Irani. Steve's thesis focused on randomized algorithms for the online metrical task systems problem and online scheduling. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1997, Steve took a postdoctoral fellowship at the Technical University in Graz, Austria, working with Gerhard Woeginger, and then another at the Max-Planck-Institute for Computer Science in Saarbrücken, Germany. In 1999, Steve joined the faculty of the Computer Science Department at Louisiana State University.

Steve was a very productive researcher both as a student and after his graduation. It is remarkable that in his short career he worked with such an extensive list of colleagues—a testament to how much he enjoyed sharing the process of solving problems with his fellow researchers. This is in addition to a number of important results he obtained on his own. Steve's work was characterized by an impressive technical expertise. He attacked difficult problems and often made significant progress on them. He was also a champion of the use of computational methods in finding proofs. His papers focus primarily on online algorithms for bin packing, scheduling, server systems, and task systems. Among his most noteworthy results is the best known upper bound for online bin packing to date.

Steve took up cycling when he was an undergraduate at UC Irvine and had been an avid cyclist ever since. He rode for the UC Irvine Cycling Team and enjoyed racing even after his student days. Besides computer science and cycling, Steve had many hobbies and interests, among them cooking, gardening, and traveling.

Steve married Tracey Rovello in 1997. Tracey was eight months pregnant with their first child at the time of his death and gave birth the day after his accident to Steven Benjamin Richard Seiden.

Steve had a gentle unassuming nature and was fondly regarded by everyone who knew him. He clearly took great pleasure in his work and in his life. Steve will be greatly missed in our community as a fellow researcher and as a friend.

xii Preface

xiii Acknowledgments

xvi In Memoriam

Session 1A

1 Optimal Parallel Selection

Yijie Han

10 Selection with Monotone Comparison Costs

Sampath Kannan and Sanjeev Khanna

18 Property Testing of Data Dimensionality

Robert Krauthgamer and Ori Sasson

28 Comparing Top k Lists

Ronald Fagin, Ravi Kumar, and D. Sivakumar

Session 1B

37 Algorithms for Power Savings

Sandy Irani, Sandeep Shukla, and Rajesh Gupta

47 Dynamic TCP Acknowledgement: Penalizing Long Delays

Susanne Albers and Helge Bals

56 Approximately Optimal Control of Fluid Networks

Lisa Fleischer and Jay Sethuraman

66 Minimum Cost Flows over Time without Intermediate Storage

Lisa Fleischer and Martin Skutella

Session 1C

76 Sublogarithmic Approximation for Telephone Multicast: Path out of Jungle

Michael Elkin and Guy Kortsarz

86 On the Performance of User Equilibria in Traffic Networks

Andreas S. Schulz and Nicolás Stier Moses

88 Faster Approximation Algorithms for the Minimum Latency Problem

Aaron Archer and David P. Williamson

97 Data Migration to Minimize the Average Completion Time

Yoo-Ah Kim

Session 2: Invited Plenary Abstract

99 Browsing around a Digital Library

Ian H. Witten

Session 3A

- 100 Binary Space Partitions for 3D Subdivisions**
John Hershberger and Subhash Suri
- 109 Allocating Vertex π -Guards in Simple Polygons via Pseudo-triangulations**
Bettina Speckmann and Csaba D. Tóth
- 119 Straight-Skeleton Based Contour Interpolation**
Gill Barequet, Michael T. Goodrich, Aya Levi-Steiner, and Dvir Steiner
- 128 Möbius-Invariant Natural Neighbor Interpolation**
Marshall Bern and David Eppstein

Session 3B

- 130 Improved Bounds on the Average Length of Longest Common Subsequences**
George S. Lueker
- 132 Directed Scale-Free Graphs**
Béla Bollobás, Christian Borgs, Jennifer Chayes, and Oliver Riordan
- 140 The Cover Time of Sparse Random Graphs**
Colin Cooper and Alan Frieze
- 148 Perfect Matchings in Random Graphs with Prescribed Minimal Degree**
Alan Frieze and Boris Pittel

Session 3C

- 158 Certifying Algorithms for Recognizing Interval Graphs and Permutation Graphs**
Dieter Kratsch, Ross M. McConnell, Kurt Mehlhorn, and Jeremy P. Spinrad
- 168 Dominating Sets in Planar Graphs: Branch-Width and Exponential Speed-up**
Fedor V. Fomin and Dimitrios M. Thilikos
- 178 Quick and Good Facility Location**
Mikkel Thorup
- 186 Chain Decompositions and Independent Trees in 4-Connected Graphs**
Sean Curran, Orlando Lee, and Xingxing Yu

Session 4A

- 192 Optimizing Misdirection**
Piotr Berman and Piotr Krysta
- 202 Online Learning in Online Auctions**
Avrim Blum, Vijay Kumar, Atri Rudra, and Felix Wu

205 An Approximate Truthful Mechanism for Combinatorial Auctions with Single Parameter Agents

Aaron Archer, Christos Papadimitriou, Kunal Talwar, and Éva Tardos

215 Competitiveness via Consensus

Andrew V. Goldberg and Jason D. Hartline

Session 4B

223 Pass Efficient Algorithms for Approximating Large Matrices

Petros Drineas and Ravi Kannan

233 Rangesum Histograms

S. Muthukrishnan and Martin Strauss

243 Approximation of Functions over Redundant Dictionaries Using Coherence

Anna C. Gilbert, S. Muthukrishnan, and Martin J. Strauss

253 Counting Inversions in Lists

Anupam Gupta and Francis X. Zane

Session 4C

255 Certifying and Repairing Solutions to Large LPs: How Good Are LP-Solvers?

Marcel Dhiiflaoui, Stefan Funke, Carsten Kwappik, Kurt Mehlhorn, Michael Seel, Elmar Schömer, Ralph Schulte, and Dennis Weber

257 An Improved Approximation Algorithm for the 0-Extension Problem

Jittat Fakcharoenphol, Chris Harrelson, Satish Rao, and Kunal Talwar

266 Packing Steiner Trees

Kamal Jain, Mohammad Mahdian, and Mohammad R. Salavatipour

275 Integrality Ratio for Group Steiner Trees and Directed Steiner Trees

Eran Halperin, Guy Kortsarz, Robert Krauthgamer, Aravind Srinivasan, and Nan Wang

Session 5A

285 The Flow Complex: A Data Structure for Geometric Modeling

Joachim Giesen and Matthias John

295 Graded Conforming Delaunay Tetrahedralization with Bounded Radius-Edge Ratio

Siu-Wing Cheng and Sheung-Hung Poon

305 On the Combinatorial Complexity of Euclidean Voronoi Cells and Convex Hulls of d -Dimensional Spheres

Jean-Daniel Boissonnat and Menelaos I. Karavelas

313 Perturbations and Vertex Removal in a 3D Delaunay Triangulation

Olivier Devillers and Monique Teillaud

320 Root Comparison Techniques Applied to Computing the Additively Weighted Voronoi Diagram

Menelaos I. Karavelas and Ioannis Z. Emiris

Session 5B

330 Random Walks on the Vertices of Transportation Polytopes with Constant Number of Sources

Mary Cryan, Martin Dyer, Haiko Müller, and Leen Stougie

340 Smaller Explicit Superconcentrators

N. Alon and M. Capalbo

347 A $(1 + \epsilon)$ -Approximation Algorithm for Partitioning Hypergraphs Using a New Algorithmic Version of the Lovász Local Lemma

Mohammad R. Salavatipour

357 A Spectral Technique for Random Satisfiable 3CNF Formulas

Abraham Flaxman

364 Random MAX SAT, Random MAX CUT, and Their Phase Transitions

Don Coppersmith, David Gamarnik, Mohammad Hajiaghayi, and Gregory B. Sorkin

Session 5C

374 Space-Efficient Finger Search on Degree-Balanced Search Trees

Guy E. Blelloch, Bruce M. Maggs, and Shan Leung Maverick Woo

384 Skip Graphs

James Aspnes and Gauri Shah

394 Maintaining All-Pairs Approximate Shortest Paths under Deletion of Edges

Surender Baswana, Ramesh Hariharan, and Sandeep Sen

404 A Faster and Simpler Fully Dynamic Transitive Closure

Liam Roditty

Session 6: Invited Plenary Abstract

413 Data Streams: Algorithms and Applications

S. Muthukrishnan

Session 7A

414 Sparse Distance Preservers and Additive Spanners

Béla Bollobás, Don Coppersmith, and Michael Elkin

424 Multi-Embedding and Path Approximation of Metric Spaces

Yair Bartal and Manor Mendel

434 Approximation Algorithm for Embedding Metrics into a Two-Dimensional Space

Mihai Bădoiu

- 444 On the Complexity of Distance-Based Evolutionary Tree Reconstruction**
Valerie King, Li Zhang, and Yunhong Zhou

Session 7B

- 454 Improved Results for Directed Multicut**
Anupam Gupta
- 456 Algorithms for k -Colouring and Finding Maximal Independent Sets**
Jesper Makholm Byskov
- 458 Equitable Colorings with Constant Number of Colors**
S. V. Pemmaraju, K. Nakprasit, and A. V. Kostochka
- 460 Better Performance Bounds for Finding the Smallest k -Edge Connected Spanning Subgraph of a Multigraph**
Harold N. Gabow

Session 7C

- 470 A Note on the Set Systems Used for Broadcast Encryption**
Ravi Kumar and Alexander Russell
- 472 Lower Bounds for Collusion-Secure Fingerprinting**
Chris Peikert, Abhi Shelat, and Adam Smith
- 480 Quantum Property Testing**
Harry Burhman, Lance Fortnow, Ilan Newman, and Hein Röhrig
- 489 Quantum Algorithms for Some Hidden Shift Problems**
Wim van Dam, Sean Hallgren, and Lawrence Ip

Session 8A

- 499 Simultaneous Optimization for Concave Costs: Single Sink Aggregation or Single Source Buy-at-Bulk**
Ashish Goel and Deborah Estrin
- 506 Non-independent Randomized Rounding**
Benjamin Doerr
- 508 Minimizing Weighted Flow Time**
N. Bansal and K. Dhamdhere
- 517 A Combinatorial Algorithm for Computing a Maximum Independent Set in a t -Perfect Graph**
Friedrich Eisenbrand, Stefan Funke, Naveen Garg, and Jochen Könemann

Session 8B

- 523 Lower Bounds for Embedding Edit Distance into Normed Spaces**
A. Andoni, M. Deza, A. Gupta, P. Indyk, and S. Raskhodnikova

- 527 Embedding k -Outerplanar Graphs into ℓ_1**
Chandra Chekuri, Anupam Gupta, Ilan Newman, Yuri Rabinovich, and Alistair Sinclair
- 537 Embeddings and Non-approximability of Geometric Problems**
Venkatesan Guruswami and Piotr Indyk

Session 8C

- 539 Better Algorithms for High-Dimensional Proximity Problems via Asymmetric Embeddings**
Piotr Indyk
- 546 Lower Bounds for External Memory Dictionaries**
Gerth Stølting Brodal and Rolf Fagerberg
- 555 Online Paging with Arbitrary Associativity**
Enoch Peserico
- 565 The Set-Associative Cache Performance of Search Trees**
James D. Fix
- 573 Computing Strongly Connected Components in a Linear Number of Symbolic Steps**
Raffaella Gentilini, Carla Piazza, and Alberto Policriti

Session 9A

- 583 On the Rectilinear Crossing Number of Complete Graphs**
Uli Wagner
- 589 Matching Planar Maps**
Helmut Alt, Alon Efrat, Günter Rote, and Carola Wenk
- 599 Dynamic Generators of Topologically Embedded Graphs**
David Eppstein
- 609 Computing Homotopic Shortest Paths in the Plane**
Sergei Bespamyatnikh
- 618 Fully-Dynamic Two Dimensional Orthogonal Range and Line Segment Intersection Reporting in Logarithmic Time**
Christian Worm Mortensen

Session 9B

- 628 Edge Disjoint Paths Revisited**
Chandra Chekuri and Sanjeev Khanna
- 638 A New Approximation Algorithm for the Asymmetric TSP with Triangle Inequality**
Markus Bläser

- 646 Approximating Asymmetric Maximum TSP**
Moshe Lewenstein and Maxim Sviridenko
- 655 The k -Traveling Repairman Problem**
Jittat Fakcharoenphol, Chris Harrelson, and Satish Rao
- 665 Directed Graphs Requiring Large Numbers of Shortcuts**
William Hesse

Session 9C

- 670 Implicit Dictionaries Supporting Searches and Amortized Updates in $O(\log n \log \log n)$ Time**
Gianni Franceschini and Roberto Grossi
- 679 Compact Representations of Separable Graphs**
Daniel K. Blandford, Guy E. Blelloch, and Ian A. Kash
- 689 Labeling Schemes for Small Distances in Trees**
Stephen Alstrup, Philip Bille, and Theis Rauhe
- 699 On AC^0 Implementations of Fusion Trees and Atomic Heaps**
Mikkel Thorup

Session 10: Invited Plenary Abstract

- 708 Who Cares about Permanents?**
Persi Diaconis

Session 11A

- 709 Between $O(nm)$ and $O(n^\alpha)$**
Dieter Kratsch and Jeremy Spinrad
- 717 Fast Distributed Algorithms for (Weakly) Connected Dominating Sets and Linear-Size Skeletons**
Devdatt Dubhashi, Alessandro Mei, Alessandro Panconesi, Jaikumar Radhakrishnan, and Aravind Srinivasan
- 725 A $5/4$ -Approximation Algorithm for Minimum 2-Edge-Connectivity**
Raja Jothi, Balaji Raghavachari, and Subramanian Varadarajan
- 735 Fault-Tolerant Facility Location**
Chaitanya Swamy and David B. Shmoys

Session 11B

- 737 Efficient Sequences of Trials**
Edith Cohen, Amos Fiat, and Haim Kaplan
- 747 Pursuit-Evasion with Imprecise Target Location**
Günther Rote

754 Unconditional Proof of Tightness of Johnson Bound

Vendatesan Guruswami and Igor Shparlinski

756 Deterministic Identity Testing for Multivariate Polynomials

Richard Lipton and Nisheeth Vishnoi

Session 11C**761 Competitive Queueing Policies for QoS Switches**

Nir Andelman, Yishay Mansour, and An Zhu

771 Dynamic Routing on Networks with Fixed-Size Buffers

William Aiello, Rafail Ostrovsky, Eyal Kushilevitz, and Adi Rosén

781 Dynamic Construction of Bluetooth Scatternets of Fixed Degree and Low Diameter

Lali Barrière, Pierre Fraigniaud, Lata Narayanan, and Jaroslav Opatrny

791 Scheduling Techniques for Media-on-Demand

Amotz Bar-Noy, Richard E. Ladner, and Tami Tamir

Session 12A**801 Smaller Core-Sets for Balls**

Mihai Bădoiu and Kenneth L. Clarkson

803 Zonotopes as Bounding Volumes

Leonidas J. Guibas, An Nguyen, and Li Zhang

813 Sublinear-Time Approximation of Euclidean Minimum Spanning Tree

Artur Czumaj, Funda Ergün, Lance Fortnow, Avner Magen, Ilan Newman, Ronitt Rubinfeld, and Christian Sohler

823 An Approximation Algorithm for Cutting Out Convex Polygons

Adrian Dumitrescu

Session 12B**828 Inferring Tree Topologies Using Flow Tests**

S. Muthukrishnan, Torsten Suel, and Radek Vingralek

830 Wavelength Assignment and Generalized Interval Graph Coloring

Peter Winkler and Lisa Zhang

832 An Improved Approximation Algorithm for the Partial Latin Square Extension Problem

Carla P. Gomes, Rommel G. Regis, and David B. Shmoys

834 Multirate Rearrangeable Clos Networks and a Generalized Edge Coloring Problem on Bipartite Graphs

Hung Q. Ngo and Van H. Vu

Session 12C

- 841 High-Order Entropy-Compressed Text Indexes**
Roberto Grossi, Ankur Gupta, and Jeffrey Scott Vitter
- 851 Multidimensional Matching and Fast Search in Suffix Trees**
Richard Cole and Moshe Lewenstein
- 853 Inplace 2D Matching in Compressed Images**
Amihoud Amir, Gad M. Landau, and Dina Sokol
- 863 The Similarity Metric**
Ming Li, Xin Chen, Xin Li, Bin Ma, and Paul Vitányi
- 873 Author Index**