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Tomasz Radzik (Eds.)

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Preface

This volume contains the 70 contributed papers and abstracts of two invited lectures presented at the 12th Annual European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA 2004), held in Bergen, Norway, September 14–17, 2004. The papers in each section of the proceedings are arranged alphabetically. The three distinguished invited speakers were David Eppstein, Michael Fellows and Monika Henzinger.

As in the last two years, ESA had two tracks, with separate program committees, which dealt respectively with:

- the design and mathematical analysis of algorithms (the “Design and Analysis” track);
- real-world applications, engineering and experimental analysis of algorithms (the “Engineering and Applications” track).

Previous ESAs were held at Bad Honnef, Germany (1993); Utrecht, The Netherlands (1994); Corfu, Greece (1995); Barcelona, Spain (1996); Graz, Austria (1997); Venice, Italy (1998); Prague, Czech Republic (1999); Saarbrücken, Germany (2000); Århus, Denmark (2001); Rome, Italy (2002); and Budapest, Hungary (2003). The predecessor to the Engineering and Applications track of ESA was the annual Workshop on Algorithm Engineering (WAE). Previous WAEs were held in Venice, Italy (1997); Saarbrücken, Germany (1998); London, UK (1999); Saarbrücken, Germany (2000); and Århus, Denmark (2001).

The proceedings of the previous ESAs were published as Springer-Verlag’s LNCS volumes 726, 855, 979, 1284, 1461, 1643, 1879, 2161, 2461, and 2832. The proceedings of the WAEs from 1999 onwards were published as Springer-Verlag’s LNCS volumes 1668, 1982, and 2141.

Papers were solicited in all areas of algorithmic research, including but not limited to: computational biology, computational finance, computational geometry, databases and information retrieval, external-memory algorithms, graph and network algorithms, graph drawing, machine learning, network design, on-line algorithms, parallel and distributed computing, pattern matching and data compression, quantum computing, randomized algorithms, and symbolic computation. The algorithms could be sequential, distributed, or parallel. Submissions were strongly encouraged in the areas of mathematical programming and operations research, including: approximation algorithms, branch-and-cut algorithms, combinatorial optimization, integer programming, network optimization, polyhedral combinatorics, and semidefinite programming.

Each extended abstract was submitted to exactly one of the two tracks, and a few abstracts were switched from one track to the other at the discretion of the program chairs during the reviewing process. The extended abstracts were read by at least four referees each, and evaluated on their quality, originality, and relevance to the symposium. The program committees of both tracks met at King’s College London at the end of May. The Design and Analysis track selected for presentation 52 out of 158 submitted abstracts. The Engineering and

Applications track selected for presentation 18 out of 50 submitted abstracts.
 The program committees of the two tracks consisted of:

Design and Analysis Track

Karen Aardal	(CWI, Amsterdam)
Susanne Albers (Chair)	(University of Freiburg)
Timothy Chan	(University of Waterloo)
Camil Demetrescu	(University of Rome "La Sapienza")
Rolf Fagerberg	(BRICS Århus and University of Southern Denmark)
Paolo Ferragina	(University of Pisa)
Fedor Fomin	(University of Bergen)
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Joseph (Seffi) Naor	(Technion, Haifa)
Micha Sharir	(Tel Aviv University)
Peter Widmayer	(ETH Zürich)
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Engineering and Applications Track

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Marie-France Sagot	(INRIA Rhône-Alpes)
Christian Scheideler	(Johns Hopkins University)
Jop F. Sibeyn	(University of Halle)
Michiel Smid	(Carleton University)

ESA 2004 was held along with the 4th Workshop on Algorithms in Bioinformatics (WABI 2004), the 4th Workshop on Algorithmic Methods and Models for Optimization of Railways (ATMOS 2004), the 2nd Workshop on Approximation and Online Algorithms (WAOA 2004), and an International Workshop on Parametrized and Exact Computation (IWPEC 2004) in the context of the combined conference ALGO 2004. The organizing committee of ALGO 2004 consisted of Pinar Heggernes (chair), Fedor Fomin (co-chair), Eivind Coward, Inge Jonassen, Fredrik Manne, and Jan Arne Telle, all from the University of Bergen.

ESA 2004 was sponsored by EATCS (the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science), the University of Bergen, the Research Council of

Norway, IBM, HP and SGI. The EATCS sponsorship included an award of EUR 500 for the authors of the best student paper at ESA 2004. The winners of the prize were Marcin Muca and Piotr Sadowski for their paper *Maximum Matching in Planar Graphs via Gaussian Elimination*.

Finally, we would like to thank the members of the program committees for their time and work devoted to the paper selection process.

July 2004

Susanne Albers and Tomasz Radzik
Program Chairs, ESA 2004

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Table of Contents

Invited Lectures

A Survey of FPT Algorithm Design Techniques with an Emphasis on Recent Advances and Connections to Practical Computing	1
<i>Michael R. Fellows</i>	
Algorithmic Aspects of Web Search Engines	3
<i>Monika Henzinger</i>	

Design and Analysis Track

Efficient Tradeoff Schemes in Data Structures for Querying Moving Objects	4
<i>Pankaj K. Agarwal, Lars Arge, Jeff Erickson, Hai Yu</i>	
Swap and Mismatch Edit Distance	16
<i>Amihood Amir, Estrella Eisenberg, Ely Porat</i>	
Path Decomposition Under a New Cost Measure with Applications to Optical Network Design	28
<i>Elliot Anshelevich, Lisa Zhang</i>	
Optimal External Memory Planar Point Enclosure	40
<i>Lars Arge, Vasilis Samoladas, Ke Yi</i>	
Maximizing Throughput in Multi-queue Switches	53
<i>Yossi Azar, Arik Litichevsky</i>	
An Improved Algorithm for CIOQ Switches	65
<i>Yossi Azar, Yossi Richter</i>	
Labeling Smart Dust	77
<i>Vikas Bansal, Friedhelm Meyer auf der Heide, Christian Sohler</i>	
Graph Decomposition Lemmas and Their Role in Metric Embedding Methods	89
<i>Yair Bartal</i>	
Modeling Locality: A Probabilistic Analysis of LRU and FWF	98
<i>Luca Becchetti</i>	
An Algorithm for Computing DNA Walks	110
<i>Ankur Bhargava, S. Rao Kosaraju</i>	

Algorithms for Generating Minimal Blockers of Perfect Matchings in Bipartite Graphs and Related Problems	122
<i>Endre Boros, Khaled Elbassioni, Vladimir Gurvich</i>	
Direct Routing: Algorithms and Complexity	134
<i>Costas Busch, Malik Magdon-Ismail, Marios Mavronicolas, Paul Spirakis</i>	
Lower Bounds for Embedding into Distributions over Excluded Minor Graph Families	146
<i>Douglas E. Carroll, Ashish Goel</i>	
A Parameterized Algorithm for Upward Planarity Testing	157
<i>Hubert Chan</i>	
Fisher Equilibrium Price with a Class of Concave Utility Functions	169
<i>Ning Chen, Xiaotie Deng, Xiaoming Sun, Andrew Chi-Chih Yao</i>	
Hardness and Approximation Results for Packing Steiner Trees	180
<i>Joseph Cheriyan, Mohammad R. Salavatipour</i>	
Approximation Hardness of Dominating Set Problems	192
<i>Miroslav Chlebík, Janka Chlebíková</i>	
Improved Online Algorithms for Buffer Management in QoS Switches	204
<i>Marek Chrobak, Wojciech Jawor, Jiří Sgall, Tomáš Tichý</i>	
Time Dependent Multi Scheduling of Multicast	216
<i>Rami Cohen, Dror Rawitz, Danny Raz</i>	
Convergence Properties of the Gravitational Algorithm in Asynchronous Robot Systems	228
<i>Reuven Cohen, David Peleg</i>	
The Average Case Analysis of Partition Sorts	240
<i>Richard Cole, David C. Kandathil</i>	
A Fast Distributed Algorithm for Approximating the Maximum Matching	252
<i>Andrzej Czygrinow, Michał Hańćkowiak, Edyta Szymańska</i>	
Extreme Points Under Random Noise	264
<i>Valentina Damerow, Christian Sohler</i>	
Fixed Parameter Algorithms for Counting and Deciding Bounded Restrictive List H -Colorings	275
<i>Josep Díaz, Maria Serna, Dimitrios M. Thilikos</i>	
On Variable-Sized Multidimensional Packing	287
<i>Leah Epstein, Rob van Stee</i>	

An Inductive Construction for Plane Laman Graphs via Vertex Splitting	299
<i>Zsolt Fekete, Tibor Jordán, Walter Whiteley</i>	
Faster Fixed-Parameter Tractable Algorithms for Matching and Packing Problems	311
<i>Michael R. Fellows, C. Knauer, N. Nishimura, P. Ragde, F. Rosamond, U. Stege, Dimitrios M. Thilikos, S. Whitesides</i>	
On the Evolution of Selfish Routing	323
<i>Simon Fischer, Berthold Vöcking</i>	
Competitive Online Approximation of the Optimal Search Ratio	335
<i>Rudolf Fleischer, Tom Kamphans, Rolf Klein, Elmar Langetepe, Gerhard Trippen</i>	
Incremental Algorithms for Facility Location and k -Median	347
<i>Dimitris Fotakis</i>	
Dynamic Shannon Coding	359
<i>Travis Gagie</i>	
Fractional Covering with Upper Bounds on the Variables: Solving LPs with Negative Entries	371
<i>Naveen Garg, Rohit Khandekar</i>	
Negotiation-Range Mechanisms: Coalition-Resistant Markets	383
<i>Rica Gonen</i>	
Approximation Algorithms for Quickest Spanning Tree Problems	395
<i>Refael Hassin, Asaf Levin</i>	
An Approximation Algorithm for Maximum Triangle Packing	403
<i>Refael Hassin, Shlomi Rubinstein</i>	
Approximate Parameterized Matching	414
<i>Carmit Hazay, Moshe Lewenstein, Dina Sokol</i>	
Approximation of Rectangle Stabbing and Interval Stabbing Problems ..	426
<i>Sofia Kovaleva, Frits C.R. Spieksma</i>	
Fast 3-Coloring Triangle-Free Planar Graphs	436
<i>Lukasz Kowalik</i>	
Approximate Unions of Lines and Minkowski Sums	448
<i>Marc van Kreveld, A. Frank van der Stappen</i>	
Radio Network Clustering from Scratch	460
<i>Fabian Kuhn, Thomas Moscibroda, Roger Wattenhofer</i>	

Seeking a Vertex of the Planar Matching Polytope in NC	472
<i>Raghav Kulkarni, Meena Mahajan</i>	
Equivalence of Search Capability Among Mobile Guards with Various Visibilities	484
<i>Jae-Ha Lee, Sang-Min Park, Kyung-Yong Chwa</i>	
Load Balancing in Hypercubic Distributed Hash Tables with Heterogeneous Processors	496
<i>Junning Liu, Micah Adler</i>	
On the Stability of Multiple Partner Stable Marriages with Ties	508
<i>Varun S. Malhotra</i>	
Flows on Few Paths: Algorithms and Lower Bounds	520
<i>Maren Martens, Martin Skutella</i>	
Maximum Matchings in Planar Graphs via Gaussian Elimination	532
<i>Marcin Mucha, Piotr Sankowski</i>	
Fast Multipoint Evaluation of Bivariate Polynomials	544
<i>Michael Nüsken, Martin Ziegler</i>	
On Adaptive Integer Sorting	556
<i>Anna Pagh, Rasmus Pagh, Mikkel Thorup</i>	
Tiling a Polygon with Two Kinds of Rectangles	568
<i>Eric Rémila</i>	
On Dynamic Shortest Paths Problems	580
<i>Liam Roditty, Uri Zwick</i>	
Uniform Algorithms for Deterministic Construction of Efficient Dictionaries	592
<i>Milan Ruzić</i>	
Fast Sparse Matrix Multiplication	604
<i>Raphael Yuster, Uri Zwick</i>	
Engineering and Applications Track	
An Experimental Study of Random Knapsack Problems	616
<i>Rene Beier, Berthold Vöcking</i>	
Contraction and Treewidth Lower Bounds	628
<i>Hans L. Bodlaender, Arie M.C.A. Koster, Thomas Wolle</i>	
Load Balancing of Indivisible Unit Size Tokens in Dynamic and Heterogeneous Networks	640
<i>Robert Elsässer, Burkhard Monien, Stefan Schamberger</i>	