

FOREWORD

This Special Issue of *RAIRO, Theoretical Informatics and Applications* is devoted to full versions of selected papers from the workshop Fixed Points in Computer Science 2003 (FICS'03), which was the fifth workshop in the FICS series.

Fixed points play a fundamental role in several areas of computer science and logic by justifying induction and recursive definitions. The construction and properties of fixed points have been investigated in many different frameworks such as: design and implementation of programming languages, program logics, databases. The aim of the workshop was to provide a forum for researchers to present their results to those members of the computer science and logic communities who study or apply the theory of fixed points.

The workshop FICS'03, a satellite event of ETAPS'03, was held in Warsaw on April 12 and 13, 2003. Previous workshops were held in Brno (1998, MFCS'98 workshop), Paris (2000, LC'2000 workshop), Florence (2001, PLI'01 workshop) and Copenhagen (2002, LICS'02 workshop). The meeting was sponsored by Warsaw University, European Commission, High-Level Scientific Conferences, European Commission, Information Society Technologies, European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, United States Air Force, US Navy Office of Naval Research International Field Office, Microsoft Research, LOT Polish Airlines, Stoleczne Biuro Informacji i Promocji Turystycznej, IBM Polska.

The topic of each talk was related to fixed points, including the construction and reasoning about properties of fixed points, categorical and ordered fixed point models, inductive types, infinite trees, the μ -calculus and other fixed point logics, structural complexity, and databases.

The scientific program of the workshop consisted of three invited lectures

Inflationary and deflationary fixed points, by Erich Graedel (Aachen),

Monadic Datalog on Trees, by Martin Grohe (Edinburgh),

Automata conditions and Borel hierarchy, by Damian Niwinski (Warsaw),

as well as presentations of eight contributed papers selected by the Program Committee which consisted of

J. Adamek (Braunschweig)

R. Backhouse (Nottingham)

J. Bradfield (Edinburgh)

R. De Nicola (Florence)

I. Guessarian (Paris)

I. Walukiewicz (cochair, Bordeaux)

R. Amadio (Marseille)

S. Bloom (Hoboken NJ)

A. Dawar (Cambridge)

Z. Ésik (cochair, Szeged)

M. Mislove (Tulane)

This special issue contains the full versions of four of the papers presented at the workshop. We would like to thank everybody who contributed to the success of the meeting including invited speakers, members of the Program Committee, the authors of the contributed papers and all referees who assisted the Program Committee and the editors of this special issue.

ZOLTÁN ÉSIK (Szeged, Hungary)
IGOR WALUKIEWICZ (Bordeaux, France)
Special Issue Editors