

Preface

The present special issue of *RAIRO - Theoretical Informatics and Applications*, is based on the talks given at the workshop on *Fibonacci words* which was held in September 2006 in Turku, Finland, as part of the thematic year on Algorithmic and Discrete Mathematics arranged in the Department of Mathematics by FUNDIM center (Center for Fundamentals for Computing and Discrete Mathematics).

The workshop was highly successful with regard to its scientific contribution, and it was pleasant gathering of people with a common interest in combinatorics on words. During three days twelve invited and six contributed talks were presented and afterwards the editors invited seven participants to submit a full paper to *RAIRO-Theor. Inf. Appl.*

The contributions of this issue cover a wide range of topics in combinatorics on words, but still the subjects of the papers are closely related to the theme of the workshop, i.e., Fibonacci words which occur frequently in mathematics and theoretical computer science together with their number theoretic counterpart. We hope this issue will further motivate research on Fibonacci words. We are convinced that these words are equally important in the future as the Fibonacci numbers have been in the past. The present contributions study generalizations of Fibonacci words (Sturmian words, balanced pairs), special properties of words that are motivated by Fibonacci words (palindrome closure operators, look-and-say operation, iterated substitutions), and analysis of the Fibonacci words as a witness of many extremal properties.

The papers went through normal refereeing process. The editors are grateful to the referees for their excellent work.

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