

Preface

This volume contains 40 contributed papers accepted for presentation at the 6th Annual European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA'98), Venice, Italy, August 24–26, 1998, and the invited lectures by Eli Upfal (Brown) and Jeffrey Vitter (Duke). ESA is an annual meeting, with previous meetings held in Bad Honnef, Utrecht, Corfu, Barcelona, and Graz, and covers research in the *use, design, and analysis of efficient algorithms and data structures* as it is carried out in computer science, discrete applied mathematics and mathematical programming. Proceedings of ESA have been traditionally part of the LNCS series of Springer-Verlag. The symposium is promoted and coordinated by a steering committee, whose current composition is:

Gianfranco Bilardi, <i>Padua & UIC</i>	Kurt Mehlhorn, <i>Saarbrücken</i>
Josep Diaz, <i>Barcelona</i>	Ralf H. Möhring, <i>Berlin</i>
Giuseppe F. Italiano, <i>Venice</i>	Gerhard Woeginger, <i>Graz</i>

The Program Committee of ESA'98 consisted of:

Gianfranco Bilardi, Co-chair, <i>Padua & UIC</i>	Kurt Mehlhorn, <i>Saarbrücken</i>
Jean Daniel Boissonnat, <i>Sophia Antipolis</i>	Friedhelm Meyer auf der Heide, <i>Paderborn</i>
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Giuseppe F. Italiano, Co-Chair, <i>Venice</i>	José Rolim, <i>Geneva</i>
Luděk Kučera, <i>Prague</i>	Erik M. Schmidt, <i>Aarhus</i>
Richard J. Lipton, <i>Princeton</i>	Maria Serna, <i>Barcelona</i>
Yishay Mansour, <i>Tel-Aviv</i>	Paul Vitanyi, <i>Amsterdam</i>
	Gerhard Woeginger, <i>Graz</i>

There were 131 extended abstracts submitted in response to a call for papers. Papers were solicited describing original results in *all areas of algorithmic research*, including but not limited to: approximation algorithms; combinatorial optimization; computational biology; computational geometry; databases and information retrieval; graph and network algorithms; machine learning; number theory and computer algebra; on-line algorithms; pattern matching and data compression; symbolic computation. Submissions that reported on experimental and applied research were especially encouraged.

The contributed papers were selected by the program committee, which met in Padova, Italy, on April 24 and 25, 1998. The selection of contributed papers was based on originality, quality, and relevance to the symposium. Considerable effort was devoted to the evaluation of the submissions. Extensive feedback was provided to authors as a result, which we hope has proven helpful. However, submissions were not refereed in the thorough and detailed way that is customary

for journal papers. Many submissions represent reports of continuing research. It is expected that most of the papers in these proceedings will eventually appear in finished form in scientific journals. We believe that the final program of ESA'98, organized into ten sessions, represents an interesting cross section of research efforts in the area of algorithms.

We wish to thank the program committee, and all of those who submitted abstracts for consideration. We thank all of our many colleagues who helped the program committee in evaluating the submissions. Their names appear in a separate list, and we apologize to anyone whose name is omitted. ESA'98 could not have happened without the dedicated work of the organizing committee, consisting of:

Francesco Bombi, Chair, <i>Padua</i>	Andrea Pietracaprina, <i>Padua</i>
Dora Giammarresi, <i>Venice</i>	Fabio Pittarello, <i>Venice</i>
Salvatore Orlando, <i>Venice</i>	Geppino Pucci, <i>Padua</i>
Marcello Pelillo, <i>Venice</i>	Alessandro Roncato, <i>Venice</i>

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Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	UNESCO
InfoCamere	Università di Padova
IRT	Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia
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Finally, Andrea Pietracaprina and Geppino Pucci have been invaluable co-editors of these proceedings.

Padua, June 1998

Gianfranco Bilardi

Venice, June 1998

Giuseppe F. Italiano

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