Foreword

Mathematical Foundations of Programming Semantics: Papers from MFPS 14 and MFPS 16

This issue of Theoretical Computer Science is composed of papers presented at two meetings of the series Mathematical Foundations of Programming Semantics. The first of these was MFPS 14, which took place on the campus of Queen Mary and Westfield College of the University of London in May, 1998. The meeting featured invited talks by Samson Abramsky, Chantal Berline, Martin Hyland, John McLean and David Pym. There also were two special sessions, one devoted to security and the other to honoring the work of Peter Landin.

The second meeting from which these papers have been drawn was MFPS 16, which took place on the campus of Stevens Institute, Hoboken, NJ, USA in April, 2000. The meeting included invited talks by Samson Abramsky, Rance Cleaveland, Andy Gordon, Robin Milner, Peter O’Hearn and Dana Scott. There also were three special sessions at the meeting: one was devoted to model checking, the second to security and the last honored Robin Milner on his contributions to semantics.

Neither of these meetings would have been possible without the hard work of the local organizers. The Local Arrangements for MFPS 14 at Queen Mary and Westfield were overseen by Edmund Robinson and Peter O’Hearn. The local arrangements for MFPS 16 at Stevens Institute were overseen by Stephen Bloom and Adriana Compagnoni. In addition, the financial support of the US Office of Naval Research was crucial for both meetings. Special thanks go to Dr. Ralph Wachter, who has consistently supported the MFPS series over the years. We also gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Stevens Institute for MFPS 16; the institution provided substantial funds that helped make the meeting a success. In addition, both institutions—Queen Mary and Westfield College and Stevens Institute—provided very hospitable environments that allowed us to hold productive meetings during which we could focus on the research results presented at the meetings.

This special issue of TCS is comprised of papers submitted by researchers who attended these two MFPS meetings. The submissions were refereed to the usual TCS standards. A number of referees helped in this effort, including Richard Blute (Ottawa), Luca Cardelli (Microsoft), Olivier Danvy (BRICS), Robert Harper (CMU), Reinhold Heckmann (Absint), Martin Hyland (Cambridge), Radha Jagadeesan (DePaul), Lawrence Moss (Indiana), Jean-Yves Marion (Loria), John Reynolds (CMU), Giuseppe
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