ICALP 2012

REPORT ON THE EATCS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

The 2012 General Assembly (GA) of EATCS took place on Tuesday, July 10th, 2012, at the University of Warwick (UK), venue of ICALP 2012. The President, Burkhard Monien, opened the GA at 18:40.

The agenda consisted of the following items:

1. Report of the EATCS President

2. Nominations for the EATCS Council Election 2011

3. Report of the EATCS Treasurer

4. Report of the EATCS Secretary

5. ICALP 2012

6. Best Students Papers 2012

7. ICALP 2013

8. Proposal for ICALP 2014

9. Report on EU research matters

10. Miscellaneous

1   Report of the EATCS President:

Burkhard Monien reports about the activities of EATCS in the period from July 2011 - June 2012 (see also the Annual Activity Report on the EATCS website). In particular, the President reports that the number of members considerably increased during the last year, reaching up to 934 (not counting the ICALP 2012 registrations).

Concerning the sponsoring situation, EATCS is still in good shape. All the known sponsors (The Bertinoro International Center for Informatics (BiCi), the Danish Center for Massive Data Algorithmics (MADALGO), the Greek Technology and Research Institute on Computers and Informatics (CTI), the publishing houses ELSEVIER and Springer, and Microsoft Research) have respected their commitments. Moreover, the German Max Planck Institute for Informatics (MPI)

has agreed to sponsor five scholarships each to support participation of students at ICALP 2012.

The President recalls that in the period from September 9 to October 27, 2011, the EATCS Council Election for ten new members took place. Zoltan Esik, Juhani Karhumäki, David Peleg, Josep Díaz, Fedor Fomin and Gerhard Woeginger were re-elected; Jos Baeten, Elvira Mayordomo, Monika Henzinger and Roger Wattenhofer were elected for the first time. The term of office for all of these members is four years.

Subsequently, the President reports on the results of the various elections during the EATCS Council meeting at July 9th, 2012. Burkhard Monien explains that every odd year, half of the members of the council are elected for a term of four years, and every even year, the officials are elected for a term of two years. The officials are the President (currently Burkhard Monien), the Vice Presidents (currently Giorgio Ausiello, Don Sannella, and Paul Spirakis), the Treasurer (currently Dirk Janssens), and the Bulletin Editor (currently Maria Serna). Moreover, in even years, the council has the right to nominate Appointed Council Members for a term of two years. Currently, Vladimiro Sassone and Jan van Leeuwen are the Appointed EATCS Council Members. Burkhard Monien, Giorgio Ausiello and Don Sannella decided not to stand for re-election; the remaining officials named above agreed to continue.

The EATCS Council has elected Luca Aceto as new EATCS President for the term 2012 until 2014, beginning with the end of this year's ICALP. Moreover, the council has unanimously elected Burkhard Monien, Paul Spirakis, and Antonin Kucera as the new EATCS Vice Presidents, Dirk Janssens as the new Treasurer, and Maria Serna as the new Bulletin Editor for the term 2012 until 2014. Finally, the council has appointed Vladimiro Sassone, Lars Arge, and Moshe Vardi as the Appointed Council Members for the period of two years.

The council has also decided about the composition of the various EATCS committees: The EATCS representatives in the ETAPS steering committee remain unchanged. Don Sannella and Catuscia Palamidessi are elected for these positions. Moreover, the President reports to the audience about the situation of the different chapters of EATCS. Tiziana Calamoneri is still the head of the Italian Chapter of EATCS, Jean-Pierre Jouannaud is still the head of the French Chapter of EATCS and Kazuo Iwama is still the head of the Japanese Chapter of EATCS. Within the Publication Committee Leslie Ann Goldberg replaces Luca Aceto as chair. The remaining members of this committee are Josep Díaz, Juhani Karhumäki, Catuscia Palamidessi, Vladimiro Sassone, and Maria Serna. Moreover, Luca Aceto leaves the ICALP Liaison Committee and the council has given the task of looking for a new candidate for this committee to the new President. The remaining members of the ICALP Liaison Committee are Giuseppe F. Italiano and Juhani Karhumäki.

The Award Committee remains unchanged: i.e., the members are Giuseppe Persiano (chair), Volker Diekert, Jean-Pierre Jouannaud, David Peleg, Vladimiro Sassone, Andrzej Tarlecki, and Jiri Wiedermann. Furthermore, the President reports that Mogens Nielsen leaves the Gödel Prize Committee on a regular cycle after his term of three years. The remaining EATCS representatives within the Gödel Prize Committee 2013 are Josep Díaz and Giuseppe F. Italiano. Moreover, Eugenio Moggi leaves the EATCS Award Committee on a regular cycle after his term of three years. The remaining members of this committee are Friedhelm Meyer auf der Heide (chair) and Leslie Ann Goldberg. Finally, Stefano Leonardi leaves the Presburger Award Committee on a regular cycle after his term of three years. The remaining members of this committee are Monika Henzinger (chair) and Antonin Kucera. The EATCS Council has appointed new members for each of the three committees (Gödel Prize, EATCS Award, Presburger Award), but the names still remain anonymous, since first it must be spoken with these candidates.

EATCS has once again contributed to a variety of awards: namely, the Gödel Prize, the EATCS Award, the Presburger Award, the Dijkstra Prize and diverse Best Paper and Best Student Paper Awards. The Gödel Prize 2012 is awarded jointly to Elias Koutsoupias, Christos H. Papadimitriou, Tim Roughgarden, Eva Tardos, Noam Nisan and Amir Ronen. In particular, the prize has been awarded to Elias Koutsoupias and Christos H. Papadimitriou for their paper *Worst-case equilibria*, Computer Science Review, 3(2), 65–69, 2009; to Tim Roughgarden and Eva Tardos for their paper *How Bad Is Selfish Routing?*, Journal of the ACM, 49(2), 236–259, 2002; and to Noam Nisan and Amir Ronen for their paper *Algorithmic Mechanism Design*, Games and Economic Behavior, 35, 166-196, 2001. The EATCS Award 2012 in recognition of a distinguished career in theoretical computer science goes to Moshe Vardi and the Presburger Award 2012 for a young scientist (in exceptional cases to several young scientists) for outstanding contributions in theoretical computer science goes jointly to Venkatesan Guruswami and (post mortem to) Mihai Patrascu. The Dijkstra Prize 2012 is awarded jointly to Maurice Herlihy, J. Eliot B. Moss, Nir Shavit and Dan Touitou. In particular, the prize has been awarded to Maurice Herlihy and J. Eliot B. Moss for their paper *Transactional Memory: Architectural Support for Lock-Free Data Structures*, 20th Annual International Symposium on Computer Architecture, pages 289–300, 1993; and to Nir Shavit and Dan Touitou for their paper *Software Transactional Memory*, Distributed Computing 10(2): 99–116, 1997. The presentation of this award will be made at PODC '12.

There are three categories of conferences in which EATCS is involved. The first category consists only of ICALP as the main conference of EATCS and the most important instrument to recruit new members. In the second category, there are some conferences that have *closer ties* to EATCS and also collect EATCS membership fees, or provide and offer a reduced conference fee to EATCS mem-

bers, respectively. During the period under consideration, the President has won over one more conference in this category and formalized the arrangements by a contract. Thus, in the second category there are ESA (The Annual European Symposium on Algorithms), MFCS (The International Symposium on Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science) and DISC (Distributed Computing). The third category includes conferences that EATCS is supporting mostly by advertising the events in question and sometimes by sponsoring best paper awards. During the period under consideration, EATCS has supported fourteen major scientific events in this category.

The annual main conference of EATCS since 1972 is the ICALP conference. In 2011, ICALP took place in Zurich, and in 2012, the ICALP conference was organized by Artur Czumaj here in Warwick. The organization of the 40th ICALP conference will be done by Rusins Freivalds and his team at the University of Latvia in Riga. The PC chairs for 2013 will be Fedor Fomin (track A), Marta Kwiatkowska (track B), and David Peleg (track C). As invited speakers we will have Susanne Albers (Humboldt University), Orna Kupferman (Hebrew University), Paul Spirakis (University of Patras), Daniel Marx (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) and Peter Widmayer (ETH Zurich). The decision about the venue for 2014 has to be made during this General Assembly (GA). EATCS received a proposal from the IT University of Copenhagen to organize ICALP 2014 and the prospective conference chair, Thore Husfeldt, will present the proposal in a few moments.

The President recalls that based on the outcome of the Springer/LIPIcs ballot, the ICALP 2012 Proceedings have again been published in the LNCS subline ARCoSS (Advanced Research in Computing and Software Science). The key facts on the Springer/LIPIcs ballot are: (a) Out of 1094 valid members only 260 voted. (b) The quorum of 25% was not reached. (c) The decision of the EATCS council was not overruled. Burkhard Monien reminds the participants that buying printed Proceedings is no longer compulsory for ICALP participants since ICALP 2011.

Concerning the EATCS Bulletin, the President reports that this is the primary medium for rapid publication and wide distribution of thematic issues within the EATCS community. It appears three times a year and, since issue 101, is fully electronically published by using the Open Journal System. Currently, the bulletin editor, Maria Serna, is having some problems to find new column editors, and Manfred Kudlek is missing as a bulletin reporter, contributor, picture editor and statistician. Nevertheless, the bulletin is a *pearl* of high standard and the council is positive that Maria will be able to solve the problems in the near future.

There are two series of books where EATCS is involved and which are published by Springer: Monographs in Theoretical Computer Science, and Texts in Theoretical Computer Science. Three new titles have been published in the last

12 months by Springer in these two series. During the reporting period, the editorial board of these book series was extended by two new EATCS representatives: Monika Henzinger and Mogens Nielsen. The full list of series editors now consists of: Juraj Hromkovic, Grzegorz Rozenberg, Arto Salomaa, Monika Henzinger and Mogens Nielsen. Moreover, there was a renewal of the advisory board of the book series mentioned above. The advisory board was extended by the following 23 new members: Susanne Albers, Hagit Attiya, Artur Czumaj, Pierpaolo Degano, Josep Diaz, Georg Gottlob, Reiko Heckel, Lane A. Hemaspaandra, Bengt Jonsson, Juhani Karhumäki, Lila Kari, Maciej Koutny, Dexter Kozen, Huimin Lin, Giancarlo Mauri, Damian Niwinski, David Peleg, Don Sannella, Uwe Schöning, Paul G. Spirakis, Dorothea Wagner, Emo Welzl, and Martin Wirsing.

Next, the President reports about the foundation of *The European Forum for Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (ICST)* which was established on November 7, 2011, in Milan by a joint action of seven leading organizations and societies in ICT in Europe (ACM Europe, CEPIS, EAPLS, EASST, EATCS, ERCIM, and Informatics Europe). The Forum is intended to be an open platform for cooperation among the scientific ICT societies in Europe, and the mission statement is formulated as follows: "The development of common viewpoints and strategies for ICST in Europe and, whenever appropriate or needed, a common representation of these viewpoints and strategies on an international level." Within the last year, three more meetings of the ICST panel took place with the aim to further strengthen the role of the Forum: on November 7, 2011, in Milan; on February 2, 2012, in Paris; and from May 9-10, 2012, in Pisa. The executive board of the Forum consists of the President Jan van Leeuwen (ACM Europe, EATCS, Informatics Europe) and the two Vice Presidents Keith Jeffery (ERCIM) and Paul Spirakis (EATCS).

Finally, in memory of Mihai Patrascu, who passed away on June 5, 2012, and Manfred Kudlek, who died on June 18, 2012, Burkhard Monien reminds the GA on the moving obituary for Mihai presented by Mikkel Thorup some hours before, and presents an obituary for Manfred Kudlek written by Peter van Emde Boas. The EATCS President concludes his report with the request to the attendees to rise for one minute silence.

2 Report of the EATCS Treasurer

Dirk Janssens gives an overview on financial matters. The financial situation of EATCS is still solid, and indeed, the balance for the period June 15, 2011 to June 15, 2012 is positive. The surplus amounted to roughly 5 thousand Euros. Overall, EATCS has disposal of approximately 165 thousand Euros.

3   Report of the EATCS Secretary

The Secretary, Ioannis Chatzigiannakis, reports about some new services with respect to the EATCS website. The team around Ioannis has developed a directory service for the internal section of the system. EATCS members are now able to look up contact details of other members and keep in touch with their colleagues. Moreover, the team has developed an account history service for the internal section of the system. EATCS members are now able to look up past membership renewal and retrieve past invoices. In cooperation with Springer, the web team has implemented a system so that the members of EATCS are able to access the ICALP proceedings and many more proceedings via a reading room within the internal member area of the EATCS website.

Ioannis reports that his team has prepared a poster advertising the EATCS Award, the Gödel Prize and the Presburger Award. The poster was printed in the standard A2 size and sent to 275 Computer Sciences and Mathematics Departments of major universities across Europe.

A total of 451 announcements were made on the young researchers internal area related to postdoc positions and job announcements. These announcements were also distributed via twitter and LinkedIn. Currently, there are 210 young researchers registered in this category of members.

Finally, Ioannis presents some website statistics.

4   ICALP 2012

At this point, the President invites ICALP 2012 organizer Artur Czumaj to present a summary of the state of the organization. Artur reports that 276 people (not counting the locals) have registered to ICALP 2012, but 53 of them only for the three satellite workshops. Compared to the last ICALP in Zurich the numbers have increased slightly. Artur argues that this is due to the large number of high-quality prize winners and invited speakers that make the conference more attractive. The paper figures are as follows: Track A, submitted 249, accepted 71; Track B, submitted 105, accepted 30; Track C, submitted 79, accepted 22. The conference budget will be nearly balanced. Artur Czumaj gives some hints how to attract additional funding. Especially, he argues that more industrial PC members (from Google, Microsoft, etc.) could help bring more sponsors. Critical points are the low number of workshops (three) and the low number of workshop participants (roughly 60).

After his presentation, Artur Czumaj gives the floor to Kurt Mehlhorn who reports on the work of the PC chairs. Kurt resumes the paper statistics of the three tracks and complements that the acceptance rate is 28,5% for all tracks. For

detailed statistics, he refers to the PDF-file produced by Manfred Kudlek as one of his last official actions and which will be published in the next issue of the EATCS Bulletin.

The work in the PC was done by using the EasyChair tool and each paper was assigned to at least 3 PC members. Overall, the work in the PC was extremely smooth and Kurt thanks all PC members for their very constructive work. Kurt Mehlhorn finishes his talk with some critical comments. The first comment is addressed to the fact that many submissions are resubmissions where partially the PC will be misused. Kurt suggests asking the authors to reveal previous reviews and to include a statement of changes made. Ultimately, Kurt recommends that the papers carry their history with them. The second comment covers the length of the talks. This time, the PC chairs together with the EATCS President decided to go to 20 minute talks plus 5 minutes for room change. Kurt's personal opinion is that this is much better than 25 minute talks plus 5 minute breaks, but 18 minute talks plus 2 minutes for room change would also work. He argues that this would allow ICALP to change to a four day conference. A spontaneous survey among the participants of the GA yields to a clear approval for the plan to limit the conference to four days. The third comment addresses the question whether full or short papers should be published in the proceedings. The work of the PC requires submissions of full papers (= short paper plus appendix with full proofs), but ICALP has a 12 page limit for the papers in the proceedings. Thus, ICALP should require making full papers available as technical reports (in arXiv.org or via the author's homepage or something similar). The advantage is that the full paper is accessible and can still be submitted to a journal.

5   Best Student Papers 2012

The prize for the Best Student Paper of track A of ICALP 2012 is awarded jointly to Shelby Kimmel for her paper *Quantum Adversary (Upper) Bound* and to Anastasios Zousias for his paper *A Matrix Hyperbolic Cosine Algorithm and Applications*. The prize for the Best Student Paper of track B of ICALP 2012 is awarded to Yaron Velner for his paper *The Complexity of Mean-Payoff Automaton Expression*, and the prize for the Best Student Paper of track C of ICALP 2012 is awarded to Leonid Barenboim for his paper *On the Locality of Some NP-Complete Problems*.

6   ICALP 2013

Rusins Freivalds, the conference chair of ICALP 2013, gives an entertaining report on the location Riga and the venue at the University of Latvia. The organiza-

tion is progressing well and the whole team in Riga is looking forward to being a good host for ICALP 2013.

7   Proposal for ICALP 2014

Thore Husfeldt presents the proposal from the IT University of Copenhagen as the possible host for ICALP 2014. He reports that he will be supported by 8 full time group members and that the costs that participants will have to expect will be 460 Euros for a full registration and 300 Euros for students (including lunches). Thore Husfeldt imposes certain conditions for organizing ICALP 2014. (1) He is not able to organize workshops back-to-back to the regular ICALP conference, because he is not in the position to organize a venue on a weekend. (2) He wants to have full control over the details of the conference, especially on a thematic motto and the corresponding advertising of the conference. This should also include the decision on the invited speakers. A discussion follows, because some of these conditions are violating the ICALP guidelines.

At the end, the GA agrees with the following plan: The workshops could be included in the conference schedule (for example on Wednesday), maybe by cancelling the social event. Thore Husfeldt is welcome to participate in the decision on the invited speakers, but this decision is finally made jointly by the EATCS President, the EATCS Vice Presidents, the PC Chairs and the Conference Chair. The GA welcomes the idea of a thematic motto for ICALP 2014 and asks Thore Husfeldt for concrete suggestions on this.

8   Report on EU research matters

The President invites Paul Spirakis to provide a brief account of recent developments regarding EU research. The same report will be posted on the EATCS website. In particular, Paul Spirakis reports about the EU Commission's *Horizon 2020* proposal. This proposal covers a budget of 80 billion Euros for a research and innovation framework program for the period 2014-2020. Indeed, with this proposal the EU Commission is responding to the economic crisis to invest in future jobs and growth, is addressing people's concerns about their livelihoods, safety and environment, and is strengthening the EU's global position in research, innovation and technology.

The proposal has three priorities: Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership, and Societal Challenges.

The most important message here is that in all three priorities there are several funding possibilities for the area of ICT (Information and Communication Tech-

nology). Maybe the most promising possibility for ICT in priority 1 (*Excellent Science*) is the FET (Future and Emerging Technologies) category. FET alone covers a budget of 3.1 billion Euros. For ICT in priority 2 (*Industrial Leadership*) there will be 8 billion Euros where the Commission have identified several topics for an industrial leadership of the EU. Moreover, for ICT in priority 3 (*Societal Challenges*) there are also several opportunities for funding. Again, the EU Commission has identified several challenges where one can try to define a concrete research proposal.

9 Miscellaneous

The outgoing President, Burkhard Monien, expresses his most sincere thanks to the Vice Presidents, to all council members and to all Committees' members for their contributions to the life of the association and for the support and pleasant collaboration that they have provided to the President. A special thank-you is addressed to the Treasurer Dirk Janssens, to the Bulletin Editor Maria Serna and to the Secretary Ioannis Chatzigiannakis and his team that supports the activity of EATCS. In conclusion, the President also expressed his most sincere thanks to all those present for their contributions and interest and closed the 2012 General Assembly of EATCS at 20:45, Tuesday, July 10th.

Burkhard Monien