
NEWS FROM LATIN AMERICA

BY

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In this issue I present the report of LATIN 2012 by Igor Shparlinski, and the announcement of SPIRE 2012. At the end I present a list of events in Theoretical Computer Science to be held in Latin America in the following months.

This is my last column. I thank very much to all the collaborators who have given me most of the information needed to write this column. I also thank very much to all the researchers who have written reports of several important scientific events held in our region. The next editor is Edgar Chávez.

Report of LATIN 2012 (by Igor Shparlinski)

LATIN 2012 was held during 16-20 March in Arequipa, a very nice and friendly town about 1000 km South-East of Lima. The conference location, Universidad Católica San Pablo, was a 10 minutes walk from the town center which allowed to interleave conference attendance with occasional escapes to town with all it could offer in historical, cultural and gastronomical aspects.

The program was very smoothly run by the PC Chair David Fernández-Baca and local organizers. Certainly regular lubrication with Pisco Sour was a contributing factor as well.

LATIN 2012 received 153 submissions from authors from 42 different countries. Out of these, 55 papers (i.e. 36%) were accepted after very carefully reviewing (by at least 3, typically by 4, and in one case by 7, referees). The accepted

papers were published by Springer in LNCS, vol. 7256. Overall, the program was well balanced, although I personally would like to see more papers addressing algebraic and number theoretic problems and algorithms.

An underlying motif behind many talks of this conference was dedication to the memory of Philippe Flajolet, who passed away 13 months before the conference, but continues to influence and motivate many different generations of researchers in discrete mathematics and theoretical computer science.

This LATIN 2012 also established a new award, namely, the Imre Simon Test-of-Time award (to be given to the most influential LATIN paper published at least ten years prior to the current conference). The selection committee (Ian Munro (chair), Sergio Rajsbaum, and Yoshiharu Kohayakawa). gave this award to a LATIN 2000 paper by Michael A. Bender and Martin Farach-Colton: "The LCA Problem Revisited".

LATIN 2012 also took part in the world-wide commemoration of the Alan Turing Year. The core of the celebration were the invited talks by Scott Aaronson and Martin Davis. Besides these talks, there were four more invited talks by Luc Devroye, Marcos Kiwi, Kirk Pruhs and Dana Randall, all of exceptionally high quality.

SPIRE 2012

SPIRE 2012 is the 19th edition of the International Symposium on String Processing and Information Retrieval. It will be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 21-25 October 2012. The conference will be organized by the Information Technology Research Group of the Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga.

The scope of the SPIRE series of symposia includes not only fundamental algorithms in string processing and information retrieval, but also SP and IR techniques as applied to areas such as computational biology, DNA sequencing, and Web mining. Given its interdisciplinary nature, SPIRE offers a unique opportunity for researchers from these different areas to meet and network.

For more information you can visit <http://catic.unab.edu.co/spire/>.

Regional Events

- October 7 - 10, 2012, Santiago, Chile: Second International Conference on Cryptology and Information Security in Latin America (LATINCRYPT 2012). <http://2012.laticrypt.org/>.
- October 21 - 25, 2012, Cartagena, Colombia: International Symposium on String Processing and Information Retrieval (SPIRE 2012).
<http://catic.unab.edu.co/spire/>.