



*Dear EATCS member!*

*The Autumn issue of the EATCS Bulletin comes with plenty of reading material. In our Know the Person behind the Papers interviews, we have the pleasure of featuring two fascinating personalities from the theoretical computer science community. Peter Winkler reflects on his journey from mathematical logic to theoretical computer science and his passion for mathematical puzzles. And if you are curious what he used to keep in the blue and brown notebooks he carried in his pocket, you will find the answer in the interview as well!*

*Tom Leighton looks back on a remarkable career connecting theory and practice, from graph embeddings and parallel computing to the founding of Akamai and the development of Internet infrastructure at global scale. He also shares his thoughts on entrepreneurship and on opportunities for theory in areas such as AI and quantum computing.*

*In the Viewpoint Column, Michel Raynal takes us much further back in time. Arguing that informatics is fundamentally the science of algorithms and their applications, he illustrates how algorithmic thinking long predates modern computers and invites us to view informatics as a much older science than its technological manifestations might suggest.*

*In the TCS on the Web Column, Stefan Neumann speaks with Tomáš Sláma and Richard Hladík from Polylog, the successful YouTube*



channel devoted to accessible and visually engaging explanations of theoretical computer science. They discuss how they choose topics, combine technical depth with accessibility, produce their videos, and see human intuition play an important role in an age of increasingly capable AI.

The Machine Learning Column features an interview with Anthony Widjaja Lin on the computational power of transformers. The discussion explores how classical tools from logic, automata theory, and circuit complexity can help us understand what transformers can and cannot compute, while also highlighting the still substantial gap between our theoretical understanding and the remarkable capabilities of modern AI systems.

The Computational Complexity Column features a survey by Halley Goldberg, Mikito Nanashima, and Igor C. Oliveira on the connections between learning, compression, and meta-complexity. It explores how compression can serve as a bridge between learning and complexity theory, and how ideas from complexity theory can both inform the design of learning algorithms and, conversely, how learning algorithms can yield new insights into computational hardness and lower bounds.

In the Logic in Computer Science Column, Harry Lewis revisits Linear Sampling, the combinatorial problem he introduced with Stål Aanderaa more than fifty years ago in connection with decision problems for fragments of first-order logic. Dedicated to the memory of Aanderaa, the article gives a new and fuller exposition of the problem and its undecidability proof.



The Education Column turns to the role of informatics in schools in the age of AI. Andreas Bollin and Roderick Bloem discuss Austria's new upper-secondary subject "Informatics and AI" and the broader debate over whether informatics should remain a distinct part of general education. Their central message is particularly timely: the rise of AI does not diminish the importance of understanding informatics-it makes this need even more visible.

The Concurrency Column features Luca Aceto's interviews with the recipients of the 2026 CONCUR Test-of-Time Award. Naoki Kobayashi looks back on his influential work on type systems for deadlock-free processes, while Krishnendu Chatterjee, Thomas Henzinger, and Nir Piterman discuss the origins and subsequent impact of Strategy Logic. Along the way, the interviews offer insights into how research ideas evolve over time and how formal methods may themselves change in the era of AI-assisted software development.

The Conference Reports Column takes us to two major gatherings of our community. Matthias Bentert reports from STOC 2026 in Salt Lake City, including the newly established fifth Busy Beaver value, Charles Bennett's Turing Award lecture, and the lively workshop "Can AI Do Theory?". Dominick Banasik and Nithin Salevemula report from PODC 2026 at Royal Holloway, co-located with SPAA and ICALP, highlighting the new Student Spotlight, discussions around AI policies, and several memorable contributions in distributed computing.

The Bulletin also takes us to Kingston, Canada, for a report by Markus Holzer on



the 30th International Conference on Implementation and Application of Automata (CIAA 2026). The report covers the scientific programme and invited talks, celebrates the conference's 30th edition, and highlights a special session honouring Kai Salomaa and his contributions to automata and formal language theory.

Finally, the Bulletin includes a report from the Italian Chapter of the EATCS on ICTCS 2026 in Udine. This year's conference introduced special tracks on Cyber-Physical Systems, Quantum Computing, and Bioinformatics, and the report also celebrates the recipients of the Italian Chapter's Young Researcher awards.

Please enjoy the new issue of the Bulletin!

*Stefan Schmid, Berlin*

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