

REPORT ON THE EATCS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ICALP 2013, Wednesday, 10 July 2013

The 2013 General Assembly (GA) of the EATCS took place on Wednesday, 10 July 2013, in Riga (Latvia), the venue of ICALP 2013. The President, Luca Aceto, opened the GA at 18:10. The agenda consisted of the following items:

- Reports on ICALP 2013
- Award of the best student papers
- Report on the organization of ICALP 2014 (Philip Bille)
- Proposal for ICALP 2015 for approval by the General Assembly (Kazuo Iwama)
- Orna Kupferman. The Gender Challenge at TCS.
- Report from the president
- Any other business

Before starting the GA, the President asked the attendees to honour the memory of two colleagues who have recently passed away, namely Philippe Darondeau and Kohei Honda. Kohei was one of the invited speakers for ICALP 2012 and Philippe was an old friend of the EATCS and of ICALP.

The slides used by the President at the GA are available at <http://www.ru.is/~luca/EATCS/GA2013.pdf>.

1 Reports on ICALP 2013

On behalf of the ICALP 2013 organizing committee, Agnis Škuskovniks presented a summary of the state of the organization. He reported that 276 people (not counting the locals) have registered to ICALP 2013, but 53 of them only for the three satellite workshops. Agnis also presented interesting statistics on the geographical distribution of the attendees, which culminated in a Eurovision-Song-Festival-style countdown that revealed that Germany provided the largest number of attendees for ICALP 2013. The President thanked the local organizers for making the 40th ICALP such a festive occasion.

The PC chairs for the three tracks of ICALP 2013 were Fedor V. Fomin (Track A), Marta Kwiatkowska (Track B) and David Peleg (Track C).

Marta Kwiatkowska presented the report from the PC chairs on behalf of her colleagues. The 124 contributed papers for ICALP 2013 were divided into the three tracks of ICALP 2013 as follows:

- 71 papers for “Track A: Algorithms, Complexity and Games”, which were selected from 249 submissions;
- 33 papers for “Track B: Logic, Semantics, Automata and Theory of Programming”, which were selected from 114 submissions; and
- 20 papers for “Track C: Foundations of Networked Computation”, which were selected from 60 submissions.

To give you an idea of the amount of work that is involved in the selection of papers for ICALP, the PCs for the three tracks of ICALP 2013 had 71 members in total, 1299 reviews were produced during the PC work, of which 794 reviews were written by 684 external reviewers. It is thus fair to say that a large fraction of the TCS community was actively involved in the PC work for ICALP 2013.

The President takes this opportunity of thanking the PC chairs, their PCs and the sub-reviewers for doing an exceptional job.

2 Best Student Papers 2013

The prize for the Best Student Paper of track A of ICALP 2013 is awarded to Radu Curticapean for his paper *Counting matchings of size k is #W[1]-hard*.

The prize for the Best Student Paper of track B of ICALP 2013 goes to Nicolas Basset for his paper *A maximal entropy stochastic process for a timed automaton*.

There was no eligible accepted paper for Track C this year.

3 ICALP 2014

The annual main conference of the EATCS since 1972 is the ICALP conference. ICALP 2014 will be held from Tuesday, 8 July 2014, to Friday, 11 July 2014, on the premises of the IT University in Copenhagen, Denmark, after SEA 2014 (29 June–1 July 2014) and SWAT 2014 (2–4 July 2013). It will be a four-day ICALP and the general chair for the conference is Thore Husfeldt.

The PC chairs for ICALP 2014 are Elias Koutsoupias (Oxford, UK) for Track A, Javier Esparza (TU Münich, Germany) for Track B and Pierre Fraigniaud (Paris Diderot, FR) for Track C.

The invited speakers are Sanjeev Arora (Princeton University, USA), Maurice Herlihy (Brown University, USA), Viktor Kuncak (EPFL, CH) and Claire Mathieu (ENS Paris, France).

During the GA, Philip Bille reported on the organization of ICALP 2014. The preliminary call for papers for the conference was made available during the GA.

4 Proposal for ICALP 2015

The general assembly decided that ICALP 2015 will be held in Kyoto, Japan, and will be co-located with LICS 2015. Kazuo Iwama is the ICALP 2015 general chair. This will be the first ever ICALP outside Europe.

5 The Gender Challenge in TCS

During the general assembly, Orna Kupferman gave a thought-provoking talk on *The Gender Challenge in TCS*. It really got the audience thinking about this important matter.

After Orna's presentation, the President showed some EATCS-related data on the gender challenge.

- The EATCS Council has 28 members, including six women.
- The Gödel prize has gone to two female authors since 1993 (Shafi Goldwasser (1993 and 2001) and Éva Tardos (2012))
- One of the five Presburger Award recipients is a woman.
- At ICALP 2011 and 2013, 1/3 of the PC chairs and 2/5 of the invited speakers were women.

6 Report of the EATCS President:

Luca Aceto reports about the main activities of EATCS in the period from July 2012 till June 2013. (See also the Annual Activity Report on the EATCS website.) In particular, the President reports that the number of members slightly decreased during the last year down to 832 (not counting the ICALP 2013 registrations). Concerning the sponsoring situation, the President reports that the EATCS is still in good shape. All the sponsors (the Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), the Danish Center for Massive Data Algorithmics (MADALGO), the Greek Technology and Research Institute on Computers and Informatics (CTI), the publishing

house Springer, and Microsoft Research) have promised to extend their commitments.

One of the major activities of the EATCS is to promote research in theoretical computer science. The EATCS attempts to stimulate scientific excellence by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative scientists. In this context, the EATCS has contributed again to a variety of awards, namely, the Gödel Prize, the EATCS Award, the Presburger Award, and the Dijkstra Prize. The Gödel Prize 2013 was awarded to Antoine Joux for his paper "One Round Protocol for Tripartite Diffie-Hellman", and Dan Boneh, Matthew K. Franklin for their paper "Identity-Based Encryption from the Weil Pairing". The presentation took place this year at STOC. The EATCS Award 2013, which is sponsored by Springer, goes to Martin Dyer and the Presburger Award 2013, which is sponsored by CWI, is presented to Erik Demaine. The President reminded the attendees that on Tuesday afternoon of the ICALP week there was a special Award Ceremony where those two scientists were honoured. During that session, in addition to the presentation of the EATCS and the Presburger awards, honorary doctorates were bestowed on Jozef Gruska and Juris Hartmanis.

The decision on the Dijkstra Prize 2013 has not been specified at the time of the GA and will be announced at this year's PODC conference. Moreover, the EATCS was involved in various Best Paper Awards and Best Student Paper Awards at major conferences in theoretical computer science (ICALP, ETAPS, ESA, MFCS).

The President reported on the following recent developments:

- The EATCS Young Researcher School Series will kick off in 2014. The first installment will be a school on *Automata, Logic and Games* organized by Tony Kucera.
- The EATCS Fellows Programme will be launched soon. The deadline for nominations is 31 December 2013 and the first fellows will be announced at ICALP 2014.
- The EATCS participates in the new EATCS-IPEC Nerode Prize for outstanding papers in the area of multivariate algorithmics.
- From this year, there is a five euro discount on the EATCS registration fee for those who register to both the EATCS and one of its chapters.
- Kazuo Iwama will be the new editor in chief of the Bulletin of the EATCS from the October 2013 issue.

7 EATCS Council Election 2013

The President reports 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. Consequently, this year the term of office of the following ten council members that were elected in 2009 expires: Susanne Albers (DE), Leslie Ann Goldberg, (UK), Giuseppe F. Italiano (IT), Christos Kaklamanis (GR), Catuscia Palamidessi (FR), Giuseppe Persiano (IT), Jean-Eric Pin (FR), Thomas Wilke (DE). In September EATCS members will be asked to elect up to ten Council members through an electronic vote. The President reported the list of nominations received before the GA. According to the decision taken at the Council in 2012 all nominees (who are willing to accept to be candidates) will be invited to post a brief statement of their views on EATCS in their web sites. The electronic ballot will be held in the period September 19th–October 19th. After brief discussion the GA approved the following list of nominees: Mikolaj Bojanczyk (PL), Pierre Fraigniaud (FR), Leszek Gasieniec (UK), Leslie-Ann Goldberg (UK), Christos Kaklamanis (GR), Alberto Marchetti Spaccamela (IT), Uwe Nestmann (DE), Catuscia Palamidessi (FR), Giuseppe Persiano (IT), Andrew Pitts (UK), Alberto Policriti (IT), Dimitrios M. Thilikos (FR and GR), Pascal Weil (FR), Thomas Wilke (DE), Peter Widmayer (CH).

8 Report of the EATCS Treasurer

There was no report from the treasurer during the GA. The President thanked Dirk Janssens for his wonderful work and summarized the financial status by saying that the EATCS is in good shape.

The financial situation of the EATCS is still solid, and indeed, the balance for the period June 15, 2012 to June 15, 2013 is slightly positive. The surplus amounted to roughly 13 thousand Euros. Overall, the EATCS has approximately 178 thousand Euros at its disposal. The financial data may be found in the EATCS Annual Report.

9 Report of the EATCS Secretary

There was no report from the EATCS Secretary at the GA. All the information can be found in the EATCS Annual Report. Luca Aceto thanked the EATCS Secretary office, which is doing a truly outstanding job for the association.

10 Miscellaneous

In conclusion, the President also expressed his most sincere thanks to all those present for their contributions and interest, and closed the 2013 General Assembly of the EATCS at 20:10, Wednesday, 10 July 2013.