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### Preface

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## Preface

The papers in this volume represent a set of invited papers from the LATIN 04 conference, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in April 2004. This conference represented the fruition of a long development by the LATIN conference. The conference was first held in 1992 and was subsequently held sporadically, but it was decided during LATIN 02 that it was time for it to become biennial. Thus, LATIN 04 was the first attempt to hold the conference regularly. The results were gratifying. The number of submissions jumped to 178, up from the previous record of 104, and the quality of the submissions took a similar jump. And the trend continues, with LATIN 06 showing a similar increase over LATIN 04. The conference is now an established part of the international scene in Theoretical Computer Science.

Here we present some invited submissions which are full versions of LATIN 04 papers. In inviting these papers, we sought to maximize both quality and diversity, since Theoretical Computer Science is a broad field. We were not able to invite all the superb papers that appeared in the Proceedings, which is available in Springer's LNCS Vol 2976.

We thank our colleagues who helped us to carefully referee the papers appearing in this Special Issue, as well as the original Program Committee for LATIN 04.

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