22nd International Symposium on Experimental Algorithms

SEA 2024, July 23-26, 2024, Vienna, Austria

Edited by
Leo Liberti
LIPIcs – Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics

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ISSN 1868-8969

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Dedicated to the memory of Nick Higham.
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This volume contains the papers accepted for presentation at the 22nd edition of the International Symposium on Experimental Algorithms (SEA 2024), held in Vienna from 23rd to 26th July 2024.

SEA, previously known as the Workshop of Experimental Algorithms (WEA), is an international forum for researchers in the area of design, analysis, engineering, and experimental evaluation algorithms, as well as in various aspects of computational optimization and applications. The symposium aims at attracting papers from both the Computer Science and the Operations Research & Mathematical Programming communities. Submissions to SEA are required to present significant contributions supported by experimental evaluation, methodological advances in the design and interpretation of experiments, scientifically grounded use cases of heuristics and meta-heuristics, application-driven case studies that deepen the understanding of a given problem. The main goal of SEA is the creation of a friendly environment leading to the establishment or strengthening of scientific collaborations and exchanges among participants.

Starting this year, the SEA Steering Committee (SC) updated the list of “topics of interest” of the symposium to include cryptography and security, databases, and natural language processing. No-one in the SC expected this change to immediately yield results, obviously: and, indeed, this year’s scientific program hardly reflects the update, aside from a couple of submissions that could not be accepted for presentation. But I think it is important to emphasize this change as something forward-looking. Another change was proposed by SC members as the organization of SEA24 was already underway: a double-blind reviewing process. Although I am favorable to this change, I proposed that it should be made effective in a next edition of SEA, since I had already started the PC activities with the classic model. It is likely that this change will be carried out already with SEA25.

Each submission to SEA 2024 was reviewed by at least three Program Committee (PC) members or their chosen reviewers. After a careful peer review and evaluation process, 28 papers out of 60 submissions were accepted for presentation at the symposium and inclusion in this LIPIcs proceedings volume. The selection rate was 46.7%. The scientific program of the symposium originally contained three plenary lectures: Nick Higham, Pascal Schweitzer, and Yllka Velaj. Alas, one of these speakers was lost to a fatal illness: this volume is therefore dedicated to Nick’s memory. The selection of the best paper was carried out by calling all PC members to vote on the five accepted papers with highest ranking from the selection process (any PC member who was a co-author of these five highest-ranking paper was barred from voting). The outcome of this vote will be announced at the conference.

The local organizing committee of this twenty-second edition of SEA was chaired by Kathrin Hanauer of the Theory and Application of Algorithms research group at Vienna University. Special thanks go to the members of the organizing committee: Sophia Heck, Lara Ost, and Maximilian Vötsch. Thanks are also due to Universität Wien and the Fakultät für Informatik for their support with organizing and hosting the conference. All of the SEA committees are extremely grateful to our sponsors, the Vienna Convention Bureau and Google Research, who helped SEA cover part of the expenses and keep student registration fees affordable.

In the last several years, SEA symposia have always invited the authors of a selection of the accepted papers to submit an extended version of their work to a special issue of the ACM Journal of Experimental Algorithmics dedicated to SEA. This journal has now ceased
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publication, so the SC strategy for this edition of SEA is tentative. On the one hand, the authors of a few selected papers accepted at SEA 2024 shall receive an invitation to submit an extended version of their contribution to the journal *Algorithmica*. On the other hand, if there is sufficient interest, I will look for a dedicated post-proceedings special issue in another journal.

I wish to express my gratitude to a number of people who have helped me considerably in my PC Chair role: first and foremost, all of the members of the PC, and their chosen sub-reviewers. Secondly, the chair of the local organizing committee Kathrin Hanauer for a seamless integration of the two main committees for SEA 2024 (PC and local). Third, some SC members who had previously organized some editions of SEA, and who gave me extremely valuable advice. Lastly, I am grateful to the SC Chair, Ulrich Meyer, for answering numerous questions timely, precisely, helpfully, and with an extremely supporting and trusting attitude.

As a final comment, I can now confess to having read Ulrich’s initial email very fast (this email bore the invitation to chair the PC of SEA 2024). I read it so fast, in fact, that I had understood it as an invitation to *join* rather than *chair* the PC. I therefore quickly answered “count me in” and got back to work. Ulrich’s subsequent answer exuded an amount of relief and enthusiasm that sounded suspiciously excessive. Only then did I go back to his invitation, and realized what I had gotten myself into. At the end of the process, I must say that this was a serendipitous misunderstanding: I was very happy to chair this committee, and to help SEA 2024 achieve an interesting scientific program.

Leo Liberti
Palaiseau, France
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External Reviewers

List of Authors

Omar Ahmed (10)  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

Nico Bertram (1)  
Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany

Mathieu Besançon (16)  
Université Grenoble Alpes, Inria, LIG, Grenoble, France; Zuse Institute Berlin, Germany

Mark Blacher (27)  
Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

Jocelyn Bliven (21)  
Williams College Computer Science, Williamstown, MA, USA

Paolo Boldi (2)  
Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Jonas Charfreitag (4)  
Institute of Computer Science, University of Bonn, Germany

Adil Chhabra (5)  
Heidelberg University, Germany

Kit Conklin (21)  
Williams College Computer Science, Williamstown, MA, USA

Giovanna Kobus Conrado (6)  
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Clear Water Bay, New Territories, Hong Kong

Theo Conrads (7)  
Department of Computer Science, University of Cologne, Germany

Padraig Corcoran (15)  
School of Computer Science and Informatics, Cardiff University, Wales, UK

David Coudert (8)  
Université Côte d’Azur, Inria, I3S, CNRS, France

Andrea Cracco (14)  
University of Verona, Italy

Mónika Csikós (8)  
IRIF, CNRS and Université Paris Cité, Paris, France

Manuel Cáceres (3)  
Department of Computer Science, University of Helsinki, Finland; Department of Computer Science, Aalto University, Finland

Christine Dahn (4)  
Institute of Computer Science, University of Bonn, Germany

Fernando H. C. Dias (14)  
Aalto University, Espoo, Finland

Patrick Dinklage (9)  
TU Dortmund University, Germany

Vinicius dos Santos (28)  
Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Dominika Draesselerová (10)  
Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic

Lukas Drexler (7)  
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department of Computer Science, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany

Guillaume Ducoffe (8)  
University of Bucharest, Romania; National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics, Bucharest, Romania

Marcia Fampa (25)  
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Marcelo Fonseca Faraj (11)  
Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany

Simone Faro (24)  
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Catania, Italy

S M Ferdous (12)  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA, USA

Johannes Fischer (1, 9)  
Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany

Marcelo Fonseca Faraj (5)  
Heidelberg University, Germany

Stefan Funke (19)  
University of Stuttgart, Germany

Travis Gagie (10)  
CeBiB & Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada
Authors

Bernhard Sebastian Germann (13)
Kiel University, Germany

Joachim Giesen (27)
Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

Amir Kafshdar Goharshady (6)
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Clear Water Bay, New Territories, Hong Kong

Andreas Grigorjew (14)
University of Helsinki, Finland

Ernestine Großmann (11)
Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany

Mahantesh Halappanavar (12)
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA, USA

Daniel Hambly (15)
School of Mathematics, Cardiff University, Wales, UK

Deborah Hendrych (16)
Zuse Institute Berlin, Germany; Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Demian Hespe (20)
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institute for Theoretical Informatics, Germany

Jan Holub (10)
Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic

Pavel Hudec (6)
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Clear Water Bay, New Territories, Hong Kong

Takehiro Ito (26)
Graduate School of Information Sciences, Tohoku University, Japan

Klaus Jansen (13)
Kiel University, Germany

Frederik L. Jatzkowski (17)
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Felix Joos (11)
Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany

Michael Kaibel (4)
Institute of Computer Science, University of Bonn, Germany

Jun Kawahara (26)
Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University, Japan

Julien Klaus (27)
Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

Jakub Komárek (18)
Computer Science Institute, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Martin Koutecký (18)
Computer Science Institute, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Nick Krumplholz (19)
University of Konstanz, Germany

Joshua Könen (7)
Institute of Computer Science, University of Bonn, Germany

Elyes Laalai (21)
Williams College Computer Science, Williamstown, MA, USA

Kenneth Langedal (20)
University of Bergen, Department of Informatics, Norway

Ben Langmead (10)
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

Matthew D. Laws (21)
Williams College Computer Science, Williamstown, MA, USA

Vadim Lebovici (22)
Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Jon Lee (25)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Rhyd Lewis (15)
School of Mathematics, Cardiff University, Wales, UK

Pingjiang Li (6)
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Clear Water Bay, New Territories, Hong Kong

Farin Lippmann (27)
Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

Robert Manuk (17)
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Giovanni Manzini (10)
University of Pisa, Italy
Stefano Marchini (2)
Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Philip Mayer (4, 23)
Institute of Computer Science, University of Bonn, Germany

Samuel McCauley (21)
Williams College Computer Science, Williamstown, MA, USA

Harshit Jitendra Motwani (6)
Department of Computer Science and Engineering & Department of Mathematics, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Clear Water Bay, New Territories, Hong Kong

Brendan Mumey (3)
School of Computer Science, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, USA

Petra Mutzel (4, 23)
Institute of Computer Science, University of Bonn, Germany

Thomas Möller (11)
Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany

Matthias Müller-Hannemann (17)
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Lukas Nalbach (1)
Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany

Gonzalo Navarro (10)
CeBiB & DCC, University of Chile, Chile

Felix Ohnesorge (13)
Kiel University, Germany

Steve Oudot (22)
Inria Saclay, Palaiseau, France

Matthew N. Palmer (24)
The British Computer Society, Swindon, United Kingdom

Hugo Passe (22)
Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France

Sebastian Pokutta (16)
Technische Universität Berlin, Germany; Zuse Institute Berlin, Germany

Gabriel Ponte (25)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Alex Pothen (12)
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA

Nicola Prezza (9)
Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Romeo Rizzi (14)
University of Verona, Italy

Peter Sanders (20)
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institute for Theoretical Informatics, Germany

Stefano Scafeti (24)
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Catania, Italy

Antonia Schmidt (17)
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Daniel R. Schmidt (7)
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department of Computer Science, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany

Melanie Schmidt (7)
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department of Computer Science, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany

Christian Schulz (5, 11)
Heidelberg University, Germany

Peter Schäfer (19)
University of Konstanz, Germany

Steffen Schüler (17)
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Lukas Schürmann (4)
Institute of Computer Science, University of Bonn, Germany

Daniel Seemaier (5)
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

Takehide Soh (26)
Information Infrastructure and Digital Transformation Initiatives Headquarters, Kobe University, Japan

Christoph Staudt (27)
Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

Sabine Storandt (19)
University of Konstanz, Germany

Zach S. Sturdevant (21)
Williams College Computer Science, Williamstown, MA, USA
Akira Suzuki (26)
Graduate School of Information Sciences,
Tohoku University, Japan

Santeri Toivonen (3)
Department of Computer Science, University of Helsinki, Finland

Alexandru I. Tomescu (3, 14)
Department of Computer Science, University of Helsinki, Finland

Malte Tutas (13)
Kiel University, Germany

Sebastián Urrutia (28)
Molde University College, Norway

Laurent Viennot (8)
Inria, DI ENS, Paris, France

Sebastiano Vigna (2)
Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Takumu Watanabe (26)
Graduate School of Information Sciences,
Tohoku University, Japan