

37th Annual Symposium on Combinatorial Pattern Matching

CPM 2026, June 15–17, 2026, Copenhagen, Denmark

Edited by

Philip Bille

Nicola Prezza



Editors

Philip Bille 

Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark
phbi@dtu.dk

Nicola Prezza 

DAIS, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy
nicola.prezza@unive.it

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Dedicated to Michael O. Rabin 1931 – 2026.

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■ Preface

The Annual Symposium on Combinatorial Pattern Matching (CPM) now has over 35 years of tradition and is considered the leading conference for the community working on Stringology. The objective of the annual CPM meetings is to provide an international forum for research in combinatorial pattern matching and related applications, such as computational biology, data compression and data mining, coding, information retrieval, natural language processing, and image processing (i.e., 2D strings).

This volume contains the papers presented at the 36th Annual Symposium on Combinatorial Pattern Matching (CPM 2026) held on June 15–17, 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The conference program includes 36 contributed papers and two invited talks, by

- Solon Pissis (Cyprus Institute, Cyprus),
- Oren Weimann (University of Haifa, Israel).

The papers accepted for CPM 2026 were selected from 68 submissions, corresponding to an acceptance ratio of 53%. For the second time, the submissions were selected in two rounds. Both rounds had nearly the same acceptance rate. We thank the members of the program committee and all the additional external subreviewers, who are listed below, for their hard, invaluable, and collaborative effort that resulted in an excellent scientific program. We also thank the CPM steering committee for their support and advice. We thank the CPM 2026 organizing committee members.

The CPM 2026 conference was co-located with the Scandinavian Symposium on Algorithm Theory (SWAT 2026), June 17–19, and the Symposium on Experimental Algorithms (SEA 2026), June 22–24. A summer school on string algorithms was organized at the nearby Technical University of Denmark, June 13–14.

The Annual Symposium on Combinatorial Pattern Matching started in 1990, and has since then taken place every year. Previous CPM meetings were held in Paris, London (UK), Tucson, Padova, Asilomar, Helsinki, Laguna Beach, Aarhus, Piscataway, Warwick, Montreal, Jerusalem, Fukuoka, Morelia, Istanbul, Jeju, Barcelona, London (Ontario, Canada), Pisa, Lille, New York, Palermo, Helsinki, Bad Herrenalb, Moscow, Ischia, Tel Aviv, Warsaw, Qingdao, Pisa, Copenhagen (on-line), Wrocław, Prague, Marne-la-Vallée, and Milano. From 1992 to 2015, all proceedings were published in the LNCS (Lecture Notes in Computer Science) series. Since 2016, the CPM proceedings have appeared in the LIPIcs (Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics) series, as volume 54 (CPM 2016), 78 (CPM 2017), 105 (CPM 2018), 128 (CPM 2019), 161 (CPM 2020), 191 (CPM 2021), 223 (CPM 2022), 259 (CPM 2023), 296 (CPM 2024), and 331 (CPM 2025). The entire submission and review process was carried out using the EasyChair conference system.

Philip Bille and Nicola Prezza
CPM 2026 Program Committee Chairs



■ In Memoriam – Prof. Michael O. Rabin (by Amihood Amir)

On April 14, 2026, one of the founders and pioneers of Computer Science, Michael O. Rabin, passed away at the age of 94.

Michael Oser Rabin was born on Sept. 1 1931 in Breslau, in what was then Germany. His father, who was a Rabbi, and his mother, a children's author, decided to move to Israel in 1935, thus saving the family from the horrors of the holocaust. At a young age, Michael decided to be a bacteriologist, but when he was 11, he discovered Mathematics. His teacher was Prof. Elisha Netanyahu, whom he credited for stoking his enthusiasm for Mathematics. Rabin finished High School at 16 and was about to enroll in the university when the Israeli War of Independence started. He enrolled in the army and served in artillery. At this time, he read Fraenkel's groundbreaking work on axiomatic set theory. In 1950, he was accepted as a master's student by Fraenkel, and his thesis solved an open problem of Emmy Noether in Ring Theory.

At that time, he was enchanted by Alan Turing's work and went to Princeton to do his Ph.D. under Alonzo Church. In his Ph.D., he proved the undecidability of certain problems in group theory. Toward the end of his Ph.D., he attended a summer school at IBM, where Kurt Gödel recruited him to be his assistant at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies. In 1959, Rabin met Dana Scott, and they collaborated on their paper "Finite Automata and Their Decision Problems," which defined nondeterministic automata and established a rigorous theory for finite state machines. Scott and Rabin won the Turing Award in 1976 for that paper.

Subsequently, Rabin pioneered work in Complexity Theory, including the recursive function hierarchy and tree automata, probabilistic computation, distributed computing, cryptography, and zero-knowledge.

Michael Rabin had a profound effect on Stringology as well. The 1987 paper Efficient Randomized Pattern Matching Algorithms, co-authored with Richard Karp, introduced the rolling hash method, which has been used and cited in close to 3000 papers in our field. In addition, Michael Rabin is the academic ancestor of many researchers in the field of Stringology – he was the Ph.D. advisor of Yonatan Aumann, and of D.M. Gabbay (who was the Ph.D. advisor of Amihood Amir).

In addition to the Turing Award, Rabin received the Rothschild prize, the E.M.E.T. prize, the Israel prize, and the Dan David prize. He was a member of the Israel National Academy of Science, the United States National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the French Academy of Sciences, and a foreign member of the Royal Society.

His passing marks the twilight of the era of the founding fathers of Computer Science.

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