

# 2nd Symposium on Simplicity in Algorithms

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Edited by

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## ■ Preface

The first Symposium on Simplicity in Algorithms proved a remarkable success. Our goal in the second year was to see if this excitement was limited or lasting, and if it was lasting, to keep the momentum going.

We received 68 submissions, and accepted 20 papers. There was widespread feeling we could have easily accepted at least five more papers without compromising the quality; in the end, as is generally the case, we made some hard decisions. The high quality of the submissions reflects that there needs to be a home for papers that other conferences may dismiss for being “simple”. As described in last year’s preface, this workshop was established with the idea of making simplicity and elegance in the design and analysis of algorithms its main objectives. We believe this perspective continues to make this workshop a worthwhile endeavor.

We do continue to struggle with determining what constitutes simplicity and elegance, which leads to interesting discussions in the program committee! But generally with this focus we seek to advance understanding of an algorithmic problem in a way that will make it more accessible to a larger audience. In some cases, that may mean providing an argument you could teach in an undergraduate course. In some cases, that may mean taking something complex and of narrow interest, and making it less complex and of wider interest. We therefore have papers that cover quite a range of topics and difficulty, but all are remarkably interesting.

We would like to thank members of the program committee for putting in the hard work, made somewhat harder by the process of this workshop continuing to find its identity. We also thank the members of the steering committee for establishing this workshop; it has provided something the community needed, but had somehow not managed to create.

We hope SOSA will continue for many years to come.

Michael Mitzenmacher  
Jeremy T. Fineman  
*Program Committee Chairs*







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