

Preface

The XXXVIII Semester on *Algebraic Methods in Logic and their Computer Science Applications*, organized by the Stefan Banach International Mathematical Center was held in Warsaw between September 15 and December 15, 1991.

It had been divided into four main sections covering the following areas: *Universal Algebra* (November 1 - December 15), *Algebraic Logic* (September 15 - October 30), *Algebra and Logic in Computer Science* (September 15 - December 15) and *Applications in Physics and in the Theory of Cellular Automata* (November 1 - December 15). The organizing committee consisted of H. Andr eka and I. N emeti - responsible for Sec.II, C. Rauszer (Sec.III) and M. M aczyński (Sec.I and IV)- the chairman of the Semester.

During three months 118 invited speakers from 25 countries gave about 200 hours of talks. It resulted in a large number of papers submitted to the Proceedings of the Semester, traditionally published in the series of the Banach Center Publications. After careful evaluation of the papers their number was still too large to be published in one volume. Hence, taking into account the great variety of topics represented at the Semester we have decided to compile two complementary Proceedings.

The majority of papers from section III *Algebra and Logic in Computer Science* have been accepted for this special issue of *Fundamenta Informaticae*. It contains papers related to different areas of Computer Science; in this it reflects the character of the Semester.

The Proceedings of the Semester containing papers from the remaining sections as well as some more articles from section III will be published in the series of the Banach Center Publications.

Let me use this opportunity to express my gratitude to all participants of the Semester for their interest, to the authors of all the submitted papers for their valuable contribution, and to all the referees who reviewed the submissions to both the Proceedings and this Special Issue for their patience and dedication. Very special thanks are due to Hajnal Andr eka and Istv an N emeti for their invaluable work during the semester.

Warsaw, December 1992

Cecylia Rauszer
Special Issue Editor

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Wydz. Matematyki, Informatyki i Mechaniki UW
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