

EDITORIAL

We present here the first two issues of the first volume of the *Journal of Automata, Languages and Combinatorics* (JALC) published by the Institut für Informatik of the Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Germany. Previously, this journal has been published under the direction of Professor Dr. Jürgen Dassow as Editor-in-chief by the Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg, Germany, in the years from 1996 until 2015. It is the successor of the renowned *Journal of Information Processing and Cybernetics / Elektronische Informationsverarbeitung und Kybernetik* (EIK) which had been published since the year 1965 by Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, and was the most important journal on theoretical computer science in the German Democratic Republic.

After the retirement of Jürgen Dassow, we took the opportunity to proceed with the publication of JALC. We thank him for his continuous support when moving JALC from Magdeburg to Giessen. We are eager to continue the successful story of the journal in the years to come. The journal layout in its orange cover and format of all papers, up to small details, is identical to the previous volumes. However, for authors, the preparation of contributions has now been improved. We created an own \LaTeX -class, namely `jalc.cls`, which offers different options for the single stages of publishing (preparation, submission, revision, and finalisation).

Further changes concern the Editorial Board and the web presence of the journal. The homepage, reachable under

www.jalc.de,

was completely redesigned and structured. Beside guidelines for authors, one can find information on the aims and scope of JALC. The journal is a forum for research in all areas on formal languages and their generating and accepting devices, from theory to applications and relations to other subjects. Particular attention is given to

- automata as acceptors or transducers of languages of words, graphs, etc.;
- weighted automata;
- efficient algorithms for solving problems concerning languages, grammars and automata;
- decision problems;
- algebraic properties of automata and languages; combinatorial properties of words, sequences of words, sets of words, etc.;
- grammatical methods for the generation of sets of words, graphs, arrays, pictures, higher dimensional and infinite objects, etc. (including the classical grammars of the Chomsky hierarchy, Lindenmayer systems and their variations, graph grammars, etc.);

- descriptonal complexity of grammars, automata, etc.;
- codes as languages and estimations of parameters of codes;
- relations of languages and automata to complexity theory, logics, etc.;
- trace languages; Petri net languages;
- formal models for concurrent processes;
- applications of formal languages and automata to programming languages, natural languages, biology, etc.;
- non-classical models and computations;
- combinatorics, graph theory, discrete mathematics in relation with problems of theoretical computer science.

This list is not exhaustive and not limited to the topics mentioned. In the journal, only original and peer-reviewed articles will be published. Occasionally, special issues will be appear dedicated to a particular topic or with selected and extended papers of conferences.

By establishing the current Editorial Board, we tried to cover all areas fairly evenly, in both the scientific and geographic sense. On the first page, you can find the names and places of all members and, on the second last page, the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses are listed. We are very happy and grateful that our invitation to join the Editorial Board was accepted by so many leading scientists in the area. In particular, we would like to mention the nice, fruitful, and stimulating discussions on the future of JALC with the late Professor Dr. Zoltán Ésik (1951–2016) from the University of Szeged, Hungary, who joined the new Editorial Board, but unexpectedly passed away on May 25, 2016. We are deeply sad that Zoltán is not able to see the first volume published in Giessen anymore. Zoltán, we will miss you as a good friend and colleague!

These first two issues are dedicated to Professor Dr. Rudolf Freund on the occasion of his 60th birthday on January 15, 2016, which is addressed in the Preface on the next pages. We thank all the authors who followed our invitation and contributed a paper in a field where also Rudi is very active as well as all the reviewers for their valuable reports and timely cooperation. We hope you enjoy reading these special issues.

If you have questions, comments, suggestions, and – last but not least – contributions to further issues, please write us to `office@jalc.de`. For other possibilities to contact us, please see the second page. You may also submit an original article to one of the members of the Editorial Board. Every submission will be acknowledged and reviewed. Instructions for the preparation of your article are to be found on the last page and on the homepage. The journal is indexed by *MathSciNet* (*Mathematical Reviews* of the *American Mathematical Society*), *zbMath* (*Zentralblatt für Mathematik*), and *DBLP* (computer science bibliography). Further indexing is in preparation.

Thank you very much for your support!

Giessen, August 2016

Markus Holzer, Martin Kutrib (Editors-in-Chief)
Bianca Truthe (Technical Editor)