

Preface

This special issue of Pure Mathematics and Applications (Algebra and Theoretical Computer Science) is dedicated to the sixth edition of Gascom that was held at Bibbiena (Italy), June 16-19, 2008.

This conference was dedicated on the occasion of the 65th birthday of the Professor Jean-Guy Penaud who initiated Gascom. The conference was born in Bordeaux in 1994, with the aim of gathering together people working on random and exhaustive generation of combinatorial objects and bijective combinatorics with special emphasis on the theoretical point of view. The relevance of Prof. Penaud's achievements in the field of random generation and bijective combinatorics is of course well known by the Gascom community. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Jean-Guy.

The following topics were covered during Gascom 2008: random and exhaustive generation, combinatoric on words, automata, statistics on permutations, probabilistic analysis, graphs.

We take pleasure in thanking all the participants to this edition, with a special mention for the invited speakers which have provided us with a series of four deep lectures, thus contributing to improving the relevance of Gascom 2008.

The editors have made a selection of 14 articles, guided by referees' reports, from paper produced. We wish to thank the reviewers for their much-appreciated work for this special issue.

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