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Guest Editor's Foreword

This special issue contains 11 papers whose preliminary versions appeared in the Proceedings of the Thirty-Fourth Annual ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC2002), held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, May 19–21, 2002. These papers were selected from the 92 papers that had been chosen by the program committee, from among 287 abstracts, for presentation at the conference. It was expected that most of these papers would appear in a more polished and complete form in scientific journals. The authors of 11 of these papers were invited by the special issue guest editor to submit complete versions by June 15, 2002. The selected 11 papers are representative of the breadth and the depth of the research presented at the conference. These papers include the paper by Tim Roughgarden who received the best student paper award. Each paper was refereed according to the usual standards of the Journal of Computer and System Sciences. The final drafts of all revised papers were received by January 26, 2003. I would like to thank the program committee for their help in the selection of these papers and the authors and referees for ensuring the high quality of these papers. I would also like to thank the referees and authors for their promptness on submitting referee reports and revised versions, respectively, which ensured a timely publication of the special issue.

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