ICFCA 2014: THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FORMAL CONCEPT ANALYSIS

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Formal Concept Analysis (FCA) is a multi-disciplinary field built on the solid foundation of lattice and order theory. Besides this, FCA is strongly rooted in philosophical aspects of the mathematical formalization of concept and concept hierarchy. Since its emergence in the 1980s the field has developed into a constantly growing research area in its own right, with a thriving theoretical community further applying and developing this powerful framework of qualitative analysis of data. One of the initial goals of FCA was to promote better communication between lattice theorists and potential users of lattice theory. The increasing number of applications in diverse areas such as data visualization, information retrieval, data mining and knowledge discovery demonstrates how that goal is being met.

In order to offer researchers the opportunity to meet and discuss developments and applications of FCA annually, the International Conference on Formal Concept Analysis (ICFCA) was established and held for the first time in Darmstadt, Germany in 2003. Since then, the ICFCA has been held in different countries from Europe, America, Africa and in Australia.

The 12th ICFCA took place from the 10th to the 13th of June, 2014 at the Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. There were 39 submissions by authors from 14 different countries. Each paper was reviewed by 3 members of the Program Committee (exceptionally four). Sixteen high-quality papers were chosen for publication in the conference proceedings volume, amounting to an acceptance rate of 41%. Six other works in progress were considered valuable for presentation during the conference, five of them being included in this special issue of the journal *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai, Series Informatica*.

We were also delighted that three prestigious researchers accepted to give an invited talk:

- *Learning Spaces, and How to Build them* by Prof. Jean-Paul Doignon, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium;
- *On the Succinctness of Closure Operator Representations* by Prof. Sebastian Rudolph, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany;

- *MDL for Pattern Mining: A Brief Introduction to Krimp* by Prof. Arno Siebes, Universiteit Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Our deepest gratitude goes to all the authors of submitted papers. Choosing ICFCA 2014 as a forum to publish their research was key to the success of the conference. Besides the submitted papers, the high quality of the published volumes would not have been possible without the strong commitment of the authors, the Program Committee and Editorial Board members, and the external reviewers. Working with the efficient and capable team of local organizers was a constant pleasure. We are deeply indebted to all of them for making this conference a successful forum on FCA.

Last, but not least, we are most grateful to the editorial board of *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai, Series Informatica* for accepting to publish the *Contributions to ICFCA 2014* as a special issue of this journal, as well to the organizations that sponsored this event: the Bitdefender company, the iQuest company, the Babeş-Bolyai University, and the City of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Finally, we would like to emphasize the great help of EasyChair for making the technical duties easier.

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