Announcing the Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics (LIPIcs) series

2 April 2009

1. Summary

Schloss Dagstuhl Leibniz Center for Informatics (LCI) establishes a new series of conference proceedings called *Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics* (LIPIcs). The objective of this series is to publish the proceedings of high-quality conferences in all fields of computer science, and LCI institutes an Editorial Board to oversee the selection of the conferences to be included in this series.

The proceedings in the LIPIcs series will be published electronically and will be accessible freely and universally on the internet, keeping the copyrights of the authors, and under an open access license guaranteeing free dissemination. To face the cost of electronic publication, a one-time fee will be required from the conference organizers. This fee will be kept to a minimum, thought to cover the costs of LCI, thanks in particular to a sharing of the workload between LCI and the conference organizers.

Applications for publication in the LIPIcs series are already welcome, and are to be addressed to the Scientific Director of LCI. A temporary reduced Editorial Board[1] is operational immediately, the full Board will be announced by the end of May 2009.

2. Editorial policy

The LIPIcs series will publish only high-quality conference proceedings, and the selection of these conferences is entrusted to the Editorial Board. The LIPIcs series is meant for recurring conferences, but isolated conferences of exceptional value (e.g. Festschriften) may also be considered. In making its selection decisions, the Board will pay particular attention to the following criteria:

- the international character of the conference (program committee, speakers, etc);
- the attractivity and selectivity of the conference (number of submissions, rejection rate);
- whether the conference is a reference in its domain;
- whether the conference will justify indexation by all major relevant agencies (e.g., Thomson, Elsevier, DBLP).

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[1] The temporary Editorial Board consists of Madhavan Mukund (from IARCS, the organiser of FSTTCS), Pascal Weil (from the STACS Steering Committee) and Reinhard Wilhelm (Scientific Director of LCI).

In addition, the Editorial Board will take a look at the steering committee of the conference (is it representative of a community or a professional association? is it international? how are its members named and for how long? etc). The Editorial Board may also, at its discretion, make use of existing classifications (e.g. CORE, Libra), of documents describing good practices (e.g. ACM SIGPLAN) and of any other relevant source of information.

3. Editorial Board

The Scientific Advisory Board of LCI serves as a monitoring board for the Editorial Board.

In its initial configuration, the Editorial Board has 7 members, reflecting the make of the two conferences which inaugurate the LIPIcs series[2]: 6 belong to the main communities associated with these conferences, namely algorithms, automata, languages, combinatorics, logic and complexity. The 7-th member is the Scientific Director of LCI or his/her representative.

The Editorial Board elects its chairperson for a 2-year mandate, renewable twice. It is the chairperson's responsibility to organize the Board's deliberations in a timely fashion, and to record its decisions. An archive of the Editorial Board's decisions is maintained by LCI.

Apart from the Scientific Director of LCI, the Editorial Board members have a 4-year mandate, renewable once. As an exception, three of the initial six members of the Editorial Board have a 6-year mandate, in order to ensure that the renewal of the Editorial Board is gradual. Former members may be nominated again, after a gap of at least 4 years.

New Editorial Board members must be selected when the mandate of current members terminates or when the Editorial Board needs to be expanded to include experts of branches of computer science not yet covered. In either case, new members are nominated and chosen by the current members of the Editorial Board, who will consult in the process LCI's Scientific Advisory Board and relevant scientific associations. In the deliberation on the co-optation of new members of the Board, such considerations as nationality (or rather in which country one is professionally based) and gender shall also be taken into account, in order to avoid uniformity of any kind.

The Editorial Board functions as a whole and it is not its members' mission to represent or defend a particular community. The Board's deliberations are confidential and its decisions are reached by votes. The votes on selecting a new Board member or accepting a new conference in the LIPIcs series must be obtained with a 2/3 majority.

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[2] FST&TCS (Foundations of Software Technology & Theoretical Computer Science) and STACS (Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science)

4. Application procedure for conference organizers

To have proceedings published as LIPIcs, the organizers of a conference must apply to LCI, which serves as a Series Management Bureau. The application must give sufficient background on the conference: information on the steering committee, the program committee, the expected number of submissions and of accepted papers, the expected attendance, etc; if the conference is part of a series, then the application should include those same elements of information on at least the three preceding editions of the conference, as well as links to the relevant websites and access to the proceedings of these past conferences. As much as possible, this information should be given in electronic form.

The information concerning the application is passed on to the Editorial Board chair. If the conference is in a broad field already represented in the series (initially: theory), the Editorial Board chair consults the other Editorial Board members to see if an immediate and unanimous negative decision is to be made. If that is not the case, a discussion must ensue, possibly with the help of outside experts. A written report is produced and archived, to justify the decision, positive or negative. In case of a negative decision, excerpts of this report are communicated to the applicants.

Decisions, immediate or after discussion, are reached by a vote organized by the Editorial Board chair, following the procedure that is standard in many conference program committees – where at most the chair may have full information, and secrecy is otherwise guaranteed. Positive decisions must be strongly supported by the Editorial Board and to this end, they must meet a 2/3 majority. These decisions must also be met reasonably rapidly, and will be communicated to the conference organizers within 5 weeks of receiving the application and the relevant information.

If the conference is not in a field already represented in the series, the process is similar, including the possibility of a quick and unanimous negative answer, and the writing of a report in all other cases. However, this decision may take more than 5 weeks, as the Editorial Board will need to get outside opinion. External opinion may be asked from any experts. If the decision is positive, the Editorial Board will set to the task of selecting one or two new members, with expertise in the branch of computer science represented by the new conference. If two members are selected, one will have a 3-year mandate and the other will have a 5-year mandate.

In all cases, a positive decision concerning a recurring conference is valid for a duration set by the Editorial Board, not to exceed 5 years. After that delay, the conference must seek a renewal of its acceptance by the same process as a first application.

5. Copyright, citation and indexing

The volumes in the LIPIcs series will be published electronically under an open access license. No copyright transfer to LIPIcs will be required. LIPIcs will provide a choice of possible licenses to conference organizers (initially: the Creative Common licenses that were used by STACS and FST&TCS). A minimum requirement for a license to be eligible is that it allows for identical reproduction of the papers as long as credit is given to their authors. In particular, printing these papers must be allowed, as well as non commercial distribution and posting on websites.

The format of citation will be uniform, as in

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booktitle = {Name of the conference},
editors = {Name of the editors},
series    = {Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics},
publisher = {Schloss Dagstuhl - Leibniz Center for Informatics}
year = {2010}
volume = {volumenumber}
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LCI will provide an ISSN for the series, and an ISBN for each volume. In case the conference organizers choose to print a proceedings volume alongside the electronic proceedings in the LIPIcs series, LCI does not offer to oversee the printing or distribution of that volume.

It is important that the conference proceedings published as LIPIcs should be considered as deserving indexation by the main indexing agencies. This will be an essential consideration for the Editorial Board. LCI will do its best to ensure that the corresponding indexing agencies index all the volumes of the LIPIcs series.

6. Services offered, workflow and cost

The guiding principle is to share the workload between the conference organizers and LCI, in order to minimize the cost in workmanship for LCI, and therefore minimize the fee to be paid by the conference organizers.

Authors will have to use a common LIPIcs LaTeX style[3] to produce the final version of their papers. This LaTeX style will offer the possibility of including a small logo (e.g. the

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[3] similar to those used for STACS and FSTTCS since 2008.

conference logo), and an option between different variants of the Creative Commons license, to be selected by the authors. A provision will be made to produce overall pagination for a whole volume.

Each conference will designate a correspondent, who will get in contact with LCI for the purpose of the publication of the proceedings. Only PDF files will be eventually uploaded onto the LIPIcs series server. Along with these files, a document confirming the authorization to publish will have to be uploaded, as well as sufficient metadata: title of the document, list of all authors, abstract, keywords. These metadata should be given in plain text format and they may include LaTeX formulas. As soon as possible, an automated engine for the uploading of all these documents will be set up.

LCI offers the LIPIcs series the following services:

- attribution of an ISSN to the LIPIcs series;
- generation of an *Abstracts Collection* for each volume in the series;
- addition of footers to each document with citation information;
- design of a web-portal for the volume, in agreement with the conference organizers (e.g. including a logo);
- assignment of persistent identifiers to each document;
- assignment of an ISBN to each electronic volume;
- timely publication, freely accessible on the internet;
- management of the indexation issue (relationship with the main indexation agencies, e.g. DBLP, Thomson Reuters, Elsevier);
- care for long-term availability via *Deutsche Nationalbibliothek*;
- some future maintenance: essentially, pointers to a list of errata, or to a full-length or follow-up publication (not the list or publication itself).

Here are services which LCI or the LIPIcs series will not be providing:

- to participate in the logistics of the organization of the conference;
- to support the process of collecting and reviewing the papers: the conference organizers may use any tool of their choice;
- to compile or otherwise produce the final version of the papers: it is the responsibility of the authors and conference organizers to produce the PDF and metadata files to be uploaded to the LIPIcs server;

- to produce, print or distribute printed volumes of proceedings or collections of abstracts, which the conference organizers may wish to make available to the conference participants;
- to pass on the papers to repositories such as HAL or arXiv/CoRR. Conference organizers may decide to do that independently of LCI, or they may leave it to the individual authors.

The fee for each conference aims at covering the cost of processing the corresponding volume of proceedings. In the initial period, this fee is set at 250 euros. The experience gained with the first few conferences will allow a more precise estimate of the cost of this series for LCI, and the fee will be revised accordingly. Until better insight is available, the fee will remain at most equal to 750 euros.

7. Evaluation of this process and modification after 10 years

Every 10 years, LCI will conduct a review of the functioning of the Editorial Board under the aegis of LCI's Scientific Advisory Board, to adjust the rules set in this text. In particular, it may become useful to cut down the size of the Editorial Board if it has grown too large, due to the interest of a growing number of fields in this publishing initiative.