Research Group in Mathematical Linguistics
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Brainstorming Week on Membrane Computing
Tarragona, February 5–11, 2003

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Foreword

The present volume contains most of the papers started/written during the "Brainstorming Week on Membrane Computing", held in Rovira i Virgili University (URV), Tarragona, from 5 to 11 of February 2003, under the organization of the Research Group on Mathematical Linguistics from URV. The meeting, of a form not very often met (actually, it was rather experimental in form), was conceived as a working period, as a "one week fellowship in Tarragona", when several active researchers in membrane computing can interact, exchanging ideas, problems, draft papers, producing new ideas, formulating new problems, starting new papers. The cooperation was enhanced by a preliminary circulation of problems, through internet (several of these problems are presented in the volume), by a direct email interaction among participants.

The present volume is a proof that this endeavour was a definite success.

The papers which follow were either started before the meeting and continued in Tarragona or they were only started during the meeting. Many of them are rather preliminary in form, mainly formulating problems and research topics. They are included in the present volume in the state available shortly after the brainstorming; it is highly expected that they will be further continued/enlarged/improved, so that the reader is advised to contact the authors before citing or using details from these papers, or to look for the final versions of the papers, which will be published elsewhere. Information in this respect will be found, as usual, in the P page from Milano, at `http://psystems.disco.unimib.it`.

Besides the papers of direct participants to the meeting, the present volume also contains a provocative text by Sungchul Ji (Rutgers, USA, `sji@eoshi.rutgers.edu`), as well a few other papers (e.g., by the very efficient Sevilla group), which were circulated during the meeting.

In order to enhance also the post-brainstorming cooperation, it is worth mentioning the list of participants:

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The Editors
Tarragona, March 10, 2003

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