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Hung Q. Ngo (Ed.)

Computing and Combinatorics

15th Annual International Conference, COCOON 2009
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Volume Editor

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Preface

The papers in this volume were selected for presentation at the 15th Annual International Computing and Combinatorics Conference (COCOON 2009), held during July 13–15, 2009 in Niagara Falls, New York, USA. Previous meetings of this conference were held in Xian (1995), Hong Kong (1996), Shanghai (1997), Taipei (1998), Tokyo (1999), Sydney (2000), Guilin (2001), Singapore (2002), Big Sky (2003), Jeju Island (2004), Kunming (2005), Taipei (2006), Alberta (2007), and Dalian (2008).

In response to the Call for Papers, 125 extended abstracts (not counting withdrawn papers) were submitted from 28 countries and regions, of which 51 were accepted. Authors of the submitted papers were from Cyprus (1), The Netherlands (1), Bulgaria (1), Israel (1), Vietnam (2), Finland (1), Puerto Rico (2), Australia (4), Norway (4), Portugal (1), Spain (2), France (16), Republic of Korea (3), Singapore (2), Italy (6), Iran, (4), Greece (7), Poland (4), Switzerland (8), Hong Kong (10), UK (12), India (7), Taiwan (18), Canada (23), China (19), Japan (39), Germany (44), and the USA (77).

The submitted papers were evaluated by an international Technical Program Committee (TPC) consisting of Srinivas Aluru (Iowa State University, USA), Lars Arge (University of Aarhus, Denmark), Vikraman Arvind (Institute of Mathematical Sciences, India), James Aspnes (Yale University, USA), Mikhail Atallah (Purdue University, USA), Gill Barequet (Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel), Michael Brudno (University of Toronto, Canada), Jianer Chen (Texas A&M, USA), Bhaskar DasGupta (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA), Anupam Gupta (Carnegie Mellon University, USA), Lane A. Hemaspaandra (University of Rochester, USA), Kazuo Iwama (Kyoto University, Japan), Avner Magen (University of Toronto, Canada), Peter Bro Miltersen (University of Aarhus, Denmark), Hung Q. Ngo (SUNY Buffalo, USA), Mohammad Salavatipour (University of Alberta, Canada), Alan Selman (SUNY Buffalo, USA), Maria Serna (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain), Hans Ulrich Simon (Ruhr University Bochum, Germany), Daniel Stefankovic (University of Rochester, USA), Chaitanya Swamy (University of Waterloo, Canada), My T. Thai (University of Florida, USA), and Philipp Woelfel (University of Calgary, Canada).

Each paper was evaluated by at least three TPC members, with possible assistance of the external referees, as indicated by the referee list found in these proceedings. In addition to the selected papers, the conference also included three invited presentations by Venkat Guruswami (Washington), Muthu Muthukrishnan (Google Research), and Éva Tardos (Cornell). Muthukrishnan also provided an accompanying article included in these proceedings.

I am extremely thankful to all the TPC members, each of whom reviewed about 17 papers despite a very tight schedule. The time and effort spent per

TPC member were tremendous. By the same token, I profusely thank all the external referees who helped review the submissions. The TPC and external referees not only helped select a strong program for the conference, but also gave very informative feedback to the authors of all submitted papers. Many thanks are due to the three invited speakers and all the authors who submitted papers for consideration, all of whom contributed to the quality of COCOON 2009. I would like to extend my deep gratitude to my colleagues Atri Rudra and Sheng Zhong of SUNY Buffalo, who did a great job in logistically arranging the meeting.

I am deeply grateful for the financial and moral support from the department of Computer Science and Engineering of the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Last but not least, thank you all COCOON 2009 attendees and authors. It was you who made the meeting a success. I sincerely hope that you enjoyed the technical presentations and discussions with your colleagues, and that you will continue to support future COCOONs.

July 2009

Hung Q. Ngo

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