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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 15th Annual International Symposium on Algorithms and Computation (ISAAC 2004), held in Hong Kong, 20–22 December, 2004. In the past, it has been held in Tokyo (1990), Taipei (1991), Nagoya (1992), Hong Kong (1993), Beijing (1994), Cairns (1995), Osaka (1996), Singapore (1997), Taejon (1998), Chennai (1999), Taipei (2000), Christchurch (2001), Vancouver (2002), and Kyoto (2003).

ISAAC is an annual international symposium that covers a wide range of topics, namely algorithms and computation. The main purpose of the symposium is to provide a forum for researchers working in the active research community of algorithms and the theory of computation to present and exchange new ideas.

In response to our call for papers we received 226 submissions. The task of selecting the papers in this volume was done by our program committee and other referees. After a thorough review process the committee selected 76 papers, the decisions being based on originality and relevance to the field of algorithms and computation. We hope all accepted papers will eventually appear in scientific journals in a more polished form. Two special issues, one of *Algorithmica* and one of the *International Journal of Computational Geometry and Applications*, with selected papers from ISAAC 2004 are in preparation.

The best student paper award will be given for “Geometric optimization problems over sliding windows” by Bashir S. Sadjad and Timothy M. Chan from the University of Waterloo. Two eminent invited speakers, Prof. Erik D. Demaine, MIT, and Prof. David M. Mount, University of Maryland, also contributed to this volume.

It is impossible to organize such a conference without the help of many individuals. We would like to express our appreciation to the authors of the submitted papers, and to the program committee members and external referees for their excellent work. We also would like to thank the organizing committee, most notably Gerhard Trippen, for their tremendous work in making ISAAC 2004 a successful conference. Finally, we thank our sponsors, the Croucher Foundation and the K.C. Wong Education Foundation, for their assistance and support.

October 2004

Rudolf Fleischer
Gerhard Trippen

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