Xiaodong Hu
Jie Wang (Eds.)

LNCS 5092

# Computing and Combinatorics

14th Annual International Conference, COCOON 2008
Dalian, China, June 2008
Proceedings

Springer

Lecture Notes in Computer Science 5092

*Commenced Publication in 1973*
Founding and Former Series Editors:
Gerhard Goos, Juris Hartmanis, and Jan van Leeuwen

Xiaodong Hu Jie Wang (Eds.)

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2008929349

CR Subject Classification (1998): F.2, G.2, I.3.5, C.2.3-4, E.1, E.5, E.4

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 1 – Theoretical Computer Science and General Issues

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN-10 3-540-69732-2 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York
ISBN-13 978-3-540-69732-9 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York



Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 12279302 06/3180 5 4 3 2 1 0

# Preface

The 14th Annual International Computing and Combinatorics Conference, COCOON 2008, took place in Dalian, China, June 27–29, 2008. Past COCOON conferences were held in Xi'an (1995), Hong Kong (1996), Shanghai (1997), Taipei (1998), Tokyo (1999), Sydney (2000), Guilin (2001), Singapore (2002), Montana (2003), Jeju Island (2004), Kunming (2005), Taipei (2006), and Alberta (2007).

COCOON 2008 provided a forum for researchers working in the areas of algorithms, theory of computation, computational complexity, and combinatorics related to computing. The Program Committee received 172 submissions from 26 countries and regions: Canada, Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine, the UK, and USA.

With the help of 116 external referees, each submission was reviewed by at least two Program Committee members or external referees. Of the 172 submissions, 66 papers were selected for presentation in the conference and are included in this volume. Some of these will be selected for publication in a special issue of [illegible] and a special issue of the [illegible] under the standard refereeing procedure. In addition to the selected papers, the conference also included two invited presentations by Der-Tsai Lee (Academia Sinica, Taiwan) and Takao Nishizeki (Tohoku University, Japan).

The best paper awards were given for "Visual Cryptography on Graphs" to Lu, Manchala and Ostrovsky, and for "A Linear Programming Duality Approach to Analyzing Strictly Nonblocking $d$-ary Multilog Networks under General Crosstalk Constraints" to Ngo, Wang and Le.

We thank the authors for submitting their papers to the conference. We are grateful to the members of the Program Committee and the external referees for their work within demanding time constraints. We thank the Organizing Committee for their contribution to making the conference a success. We also thank Jinrong Wu for helping us create conference Web pages, Andrei Voronkov for letting us use the Easychair conference system, and Dingzhu Du for offering guidance.

Finally, we thank the conference sponsors and supporting organizations for their support and assistance. COCOON 2008 was supported in part by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant No. 70221001, 10531070, 10771209, 10721101, and was held at Mercure Teda Dalian Hotel, Dalian, China.

June 2008

Xiaodong Hu
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