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14th Annual International Conference, COCOON 2008
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Proceedings

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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 *Algorithmica* and a special issue of the *Journal of Combinatorial Optimization* 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

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Table of Contents

Algorithms and Data Structures

Efficient Compression of Web Graphs	1
<i>Yasuhito Asano, Yuya Miyawaki, and Takao Nishizeki</i>	
Damaged BZip Files Are Difficult to Repair	12
<i>Christian Hundt and Ulf Ochsenfahrt</i>	
Isoperimetric Problem and Meta-fibonacci Sequences	22
<i>B.V.S. Bharadwaj, L.S. Chandran, and Anita Das</i>	

Algorithmic Game Theory and Online Algorithms

On the Complexity of Equilibria Problems in Angel-Daemon Games	31
<i>Joaquim Gabarro, Alina García, and Maria Serna</i>	
Average-Case Competitive Analyses for One-Way Trading	41
<i>Hiroshi Fujiwara, Kazuo Iwama, and Yoshiyuki Sekiguchi</i>	
On the Monotonicity of Weak Searching	52
<i>Boting Yang and Yi Cao</i>	

Automata, Languages, Logic, and Computability

VC Dimension Bounds for Analytic Algebraic Computations	62
<i>José Luis Montaña, Luis Miguel Pardo, and Mar Callau</i>	
Resource Bounded Frequency Computations with Three Errors	72
<i>Ulrich Hertrampf and Christoph Minnameier</i>	
A Sublinear Time Randomized Algorithm for Coset Enumeration in the Black Box Model	82
<i>Bin Fu and Zhixiang Chen</i>	
Smallest Formulas for Parity of 2^k Variables Are Essentially Unique	92
<i>Jun Tarui</i>	

Combinatorics Related to Algorithms and Complexity

Counting Polycubes without the Dimensionality Curse	100
<i>Gadi Aleksandrowicz and Gill Barequet</i>	
Polychromatic Colorings of n -Dimensional Guillotine-Partitions	110
<i>Balázs Keszegh</i>	

The Computational Complexity of Link Building 119
Martin Olsen

Improved Parameterized Algorithms for Weighted 3-Set Packing 130
Jianxin Wang and Qilong Feng

Structural Identifiability in Low-Rank Matrix Factorization 140
Epameinondas Fritzilas, Yasmin A. Rios-Solis, and Sven Rahmann

Complexity of Counting the Optimal Solutions 149
Miki Hermann and Reinhard Pichler

Complexity Theory

The Orbit Problem Is in the GapL Hierarchy 160
V. Arvind and T.C. Vijayaraghavan

Quantum Separation of Local Search and Fixed Point Computation 170
Xi Chen, Xiaoming Sun, and Shang-Hua Teng

Multi-party Quantum Communication Complexity with Routed Messages 180
Seiichiro Tani, Masaki Nakanishi, and Shigeru Yamashita

Monotone DNF Formula That Has a Minimal or Maximal Number of Satisfying Assignments 191
Takayuki Sato, Kazuyuki Amano, Eiji Takimoto, and Akira Maruoka

Approximating Alternative Solutions 204
Michael Krüger and Harald Hempel

Dimensions of Points in Self-similar Fractals 215
Jack H. Lutz and Elvira Mayordomo

Cryptography, Reliability and Security, and Database Theory

Visual Cryptography on Graphs 225
Steve Lu, Daniel Manchala, and Rafail Ostrovsky

Algebraic Cryptanalysis of CTRU Cryptosystem 235
Nitin Vats

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics – Model

Detecting Community Structure by Network Vectorization 245
Wei Ren, Guijing Yan, Guohui Lin, Caifeng Du, and Xiaofeng Han

Quasi-bicliques: Complexity and Binding Pairs	255
<i>Xiaowen Liu, Jinyan Li, and Lusheng Wang</i>	
Complexity of a Collision-Aware String Partition Problem and Its Relation to Oligo Design for Gene Synthesis	265
<i>Anne Condon, Ján Maňuch, and Chris Thachuk</i>	
Genome Halving under DCJ Revisited	276
<i>Julia Mixtacki</i>	
Haplotype Inferring Via Galled-Tree Networks Is NP-Complete	287
<i>Arvind Gupta, Ján Maňuch, Ladislav Stacho, and Xiaohong Zhao</i>	
Computational Biology and Bioinformatics – Algorithms	
Adjacent Swaps on Strings	299
<i>Bhadrachalam Chitturi, Hal Sudborough, Walter Voit, and Xuerong Feng</i>	
Efficient Algorithms for SNP Haplotype Block Selection Problems	309
<i>Yaw-Ling Lin</i>	
Sequence Alignment Algorithms for Run-Length-Encoded Strings	319
<i>Guan Shieng Huang, Jia Jie Liu, and Yue Li Wang</i>	
A 2.25-Approximation Algorithm for Cut-and-Paste Sorting of Unsigned Circular Permutations	331
<i>Xiaowen Lou and Daming Zhu</i>	
A Practical Exact Algorithm for the Individual Haplotyping Problem MEC/GI	342
<i>Minzhu Xie, Jianxin Wang, and Jianer Chen</i>	
Computational Algebra, Geometry, and Number Theory	
Voronoi Diagram of Polygonal Chains under the Discrete Fréchet Distance	352
<i>Sergey Bereg, Kevin Buchin, Maike Buchin, Marina Gavrilova, and Binhai Zhu</i>	
On Center Regions and Balls Containing Many Points	363
<i>Shakhar Smorodinsky, Marek Sulovský, and Uli Wagner</i>	
On Unfolding 3D Lattice Polygons and 2D Orthogonal Trees	374
<i>Sheung-Hung Poon</i>	

New Algorithms for Online Rectangle Filling with k -Lookahead 385
Haitao Wang, Amitabh Chaudhary, and Danny Z. Chen

Geometric Spanner of Objects under L_1 Distance 395
Yongding Zhu, Jinhui Xu, Yang Yang, Naoki Katoh, and Shin-ichi Tanigawa

Graph Drawing and Information Visualization

Star-Shaped Drawings of Graphs with Fixed Embedding and Concave Corner Constraints 405
Seok-Hee Hong and Hiroshi Nagamochi

Graph Theory and Algorithms

A New Characterization of P_6 -Free Graphs 415
Pim van 't Hof and Daniël Paulusma

Maximum Connected Domatic Partition of Directed Path Graphs with Single Junction 425
Masaya Mito and Satoshi Fujita

Efficient Algorithms for the k Smallest Cuts Enumeration 434
Li-Pu Yeh and Bing-Feng Wang

Covering Directed Graphs by In-Trees 444
Naoyuki Kamiyama and Naoki Katoh

On Listing, Sampling, and Counting the Chordal Graphs with Edge Constraints 458
Shuji Kijima, Masashi Kiyomi, Yoshio Okamoto, and Takeaki Uno

Probe Ptolemaic Graphs 468
David B. Chandler, Maw-Shang Chang, Ton Kloks, Van Bang Le, and Sheng-Lung Peng

Communication Networks and Optimization

Diagnosability of Two-Matching Composition Networks 478
Sun-Yuan Hsieh and Chia-Wei Lee

The Iterated Restricted Immediate Snapshot Model 487
Sergio Rajsbaum, Michel Raynal, and Corentin Travers

Finding Frequent Items in a Turnstile Data Stream 498
Regant Y.S. Hung, Kwok Fai Lai, and Hing Fung Ting

A Linear Programming Duality Approach to Analyzing Strictly Nonblocking d -ary Multilog Networks under General Crosstalk Constraints	510
<i>Hung Q. Ngo, Yang Wang, and Anh Le</i>	
Optimal Tree Structures for Group Key Tree Management Considering Insertion and Deletion Cost	521
<i>Weiwei Wu, Minming Li, and Enhong Chen</i>	

Wireless Network

Throughput Maximization with Traffic Profile in Wireless Mesh Network	531
<i>Hejiao Huang and Yun Peng</i>	
Joint Topology Control and Power Conservation for Wireless Sensor Networks Using Transmit Power Adjustment	541
<i>Deying Li, Hongwei Du, Lin Liu, and Scott C.-H. Huang</i>	
$(6 + \varepsilon)$ -Approximation for Minimum Weight Dominating Set in Unit Disk Graphs	551
<i>Xiaofeng Gao, Yaochun Huang, Zhao Zhang, and Weili Wu</i>	
Spectrum Bidding in Wireless Networks and Related	558
<i>Xiang-Yang Li, Ping Xu, ShaoJie Tang, and XiaoWen Chu</i>	

Network Optimization

$(1 + \rho)$ -Approximation for Selected-Internal Steiner Minimum Tree	568
<i>Xianyue Li, Yaochun Huang, Feng Zou, Donghyun Kim, and Weili Wu</i>	
Computing Maximum Flows in Undirected Planar Networks with Both Edge and Vertex Capacities	577
<i>Xianchao Zhang, Weifa Liang, and Guoliang Chen</i>	
Spreading Messages	587
<i>Ching-Lueh Chang and Yuh-Dauh Lyuu</i>	
On Some City Guarding Problems	600
<i>Lichen Bao, Sergey Bereg, Ovidiu Daescu, Simeon Ntafos, and Junqiang Zhou</i>	
Optimal Insertion of a Segment Highway in a City Metric	611
<i>Matias Korman and Takeshi Tokuyama</i>	
Approximating the Generalized Capacitated Tree-Routing Problem	621
<i>Ehab Morsy and Hiroshi Nagamochi</i>	

Column Generation Algorithms for the Capacitated m -Ring-Star Problem 631
Edna A. Hoshino and Cid C. de Souza

Scheduling Problem

Two-Agent Scheduling with Linear Deteriorating Jobs on a Single Machine 642
Peng Liu and Lixin Tang

A Two-Stage Flexible Flowshop Problem with Deterioration 651
Hua Gong and Lixin Tang

A Lower Bound for the On-Line Preemptive Machine Scheduling with ℓ_p Norm 661
Tianping Shuai and Donglei Du

The Coordination of Two Parallel Machines Scheduling and Batch Deliveries 670
Hua Gong and Lixin Tang

Author Index 679