

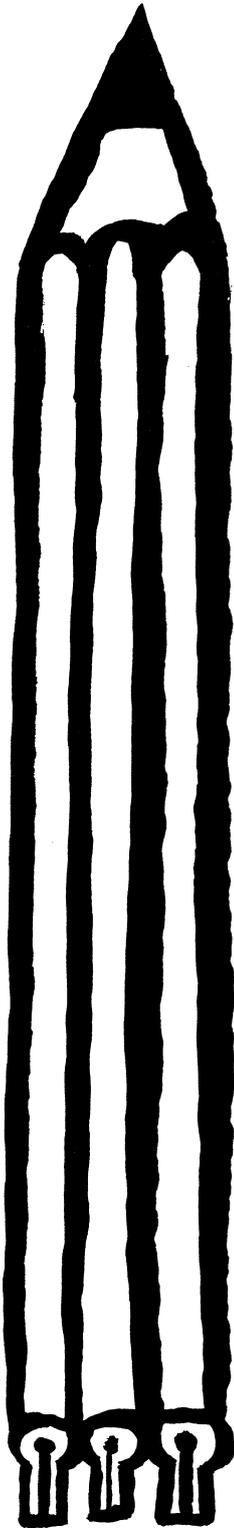
*Dear Reader,*

*October issues are generally thick because they come right after annual ICALP meetings and thus include several announcements, reports, and call for nominations. This particular issue is no exception (but I would say it is mainly because of its excellent technical part). I am happy to be able to give you a nice pastime again for the coming (dark and cold for most of you) holiday season.*

*The obituary of Robert McNaughton reminded me Hisao Yamada who was one of his PhD students. When I studied automata theory more than 40 years back, McNaughton-Yamada is the first "algorithm," which is deep and includes a Japanese name! Shortly after that, I met Yamada after he came back to Tokyo. although I do not remember well, it was something like we asked him possible contribution to Japanese TCS community. Unfortunately, he was rather cold against theory at that time and told us his enthusiasms about Japanese typing systems.*

*I love reading conference reports and chapter news, especially if they include pictures... I am happy to see reports from all three chapters for the first time since I came to the editorial board. I am also pleased to see the book introduction section, which is coming exactly on the right track, as an introduction that can only be done by the authors themselves.*

*Technical columns in this issue are rich. As you know, electronic and semiconductor industry in some countries (especially Japan, like SONY) has had a hard time in*



the last decade and one of their new targets has been embedded systems. It is very interesting to know, from the logic column with many cute examples and figures, that there are "mysterious" theoretical backgrounds in such systems. The algorithm column also reminded me that parameterized complexity will give us a plenty of new research problems since many problems have important parameter values other than their input and solution sizes. By the way, I spent five weeks in Berlin, hosted by Rolf Niedermeier, one of the authors of that article, this summer. Berlin is a great city. We have been to classical concerts three time in two weeks! Also a perfect city for bikers, hikers, and of course for researchers... At the same time the city still has a lot of smells of the World War II, a unique experience to me.

Once again you are welcome to ICALP/LICS 2015 in Kyoto. Probably you have already received the calls for papers and workshop proposals through the mail lists. Otherwise please visit <http://www.kurims.kyoto-u.ac.jp/icalp-lics2015/>.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto  
October 2014*