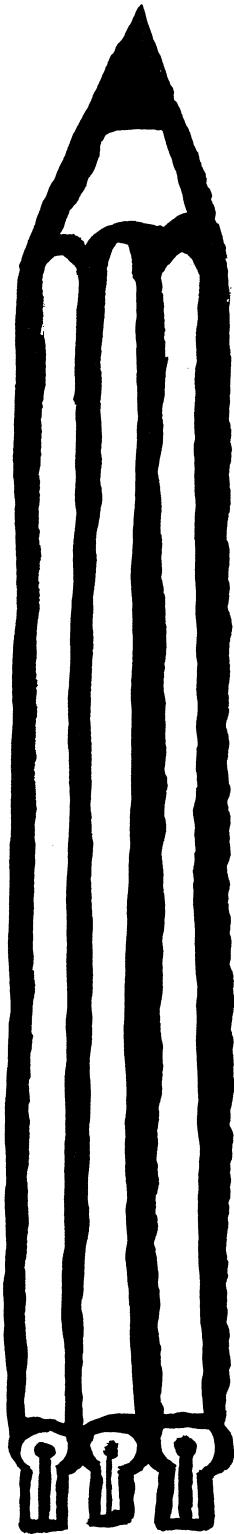




Dear Reader,

I just came back to Kyoto from 6-week stay in Rome, a VERY interesting city! The stay was really great, but I have a couple of questions just for curiosity: When I was walking on the street, I came across churches every 2-3 minutes, many of them are really big and gorgeous. Where does money come from? As you know, the shape of Kyoto (my city) is a clear mesh, while Tokyo, Paris etc. are circular-radial. Rome looks different from either. What kind of layout? There are only two (some people say 2.5) subways. Is that because of underground historical remains? The relation between Kyoto, Tokyo and Japan is simple: The capital of Japan was Kyoto and moved to Tokyo some 200 years ago, nothing else. What is the true relation between Rome, Italy and Vatican? When you say coffee, it is espresso. Why? In Italian restaurants in both Japan and Germany (as far as I know), "Peperoncino" is the name of the most basic dish of spaghetti. When I ordered it in Rome, just a small bowl of the spice came. Probably I should have had a bit more study of the city and the country in advance.

ICALP in Kyoto was a success. Thank you so much for your warm support and cooperation. As you know, ICALP this year was a joint conference with LICS. Our organizing team selected a best (= easiest) option for the team, namely a completely unified meeting style. This turned out to be actually easy for the team, but I would suspect a lot of difficulties instead went to the tops of the organizations and PC chairs. I



especially would like to express my hearty thanks to Luca, Bettina (PC chair of track A), Naoki (track B) and Magnus (track C) for their patience against our organization.

October issues are a bit special compared to the other two, since it includes a lot of reports (including that of ICALP) and announcements. This issue is not an exception, but fortunately it also includes a full set of technical columns. A downside, as you notice, is that we have no essays in the book introduction section or in the new "Reflections on Influential Scientists and Ideas" section. Of course I made an effort but I finally could not make it. Luca and I have some specific plan for the next February issue and I hope I can meet your expectations in the next issue.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto
October 2015*