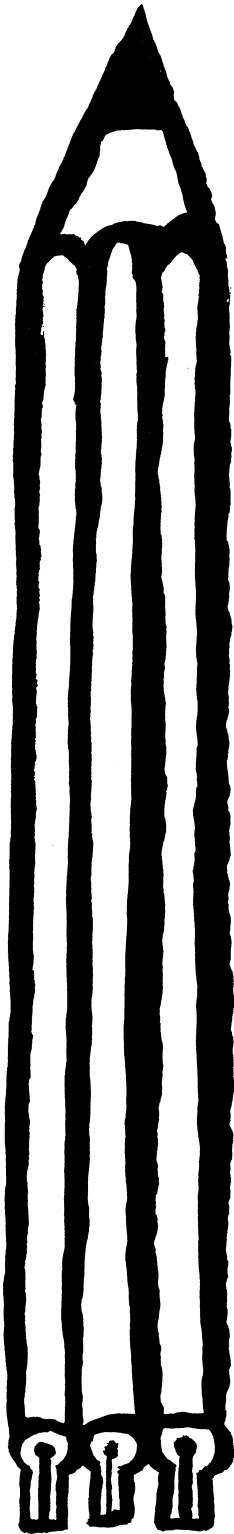




*Dear Reader,*

*I just came back from a 6-week stay at the University of Sydney (USYD). I was invited to the SACT (Sydney Algorithms and Computing Theory) group comprising seven staff and postdoc members and seven PhD students. The group is very well organized with a one-hour seminar every Tuesday, frequent (almost everyday) lunch of 5 to 10 members together and efficient office space (a big room for some 30 PhD students, which is surrounded by cozy offices for staff members). Its location is also perfect; in a spacious campus including nice parks that is reasonably convenient, a large shopping center within a 5-minute walk and the downtown is well within a walking distance. Due to my experience, university campuses are often located very close to the downtown and small, or pretty large but obviously need a bus or train ride from the main part of the city. Neither is USYD!*

*Australia's geographic position is unique. We need more than 10-hour flight from either of Europe, North America and East Asia. East Asia is only one major region direct flights are available. In other words, it is a big merit in business for East Asia to have direct flights to all of Europe, US and Australia. In fact almost all cars in Sydney are made in Japan or Korea. Its nature is amazing. My wife and I had an ultimate goal of meeting wild kangaroos and wild koalas, which were both successful. How many (different) birds there are! They are sometimes too noisy in the early morning. By the way, it turned out at one day's lunch that only one person*



was born in Australia among more than ten there. The majority has a European origin. ICALP XX in Sydney might not be a hopeless dream.

I don't remember this many (and nice, of course) technical columns are in a single issue under my editorship. Thank you very much for the great job of column editors and authors. This means however that I will need more efforts and strategic plans for inviting submissions from the general public. Especially, I need more publicity for the abstract section. My typical image of abstract submissions is for solving (not necessarily big) open problems and/or for somewhat surprising results that may be a bit far from the main stream of the community. If you learn something interesting, please encourage a submission to BEATCS or let me know.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto  
October 2019*