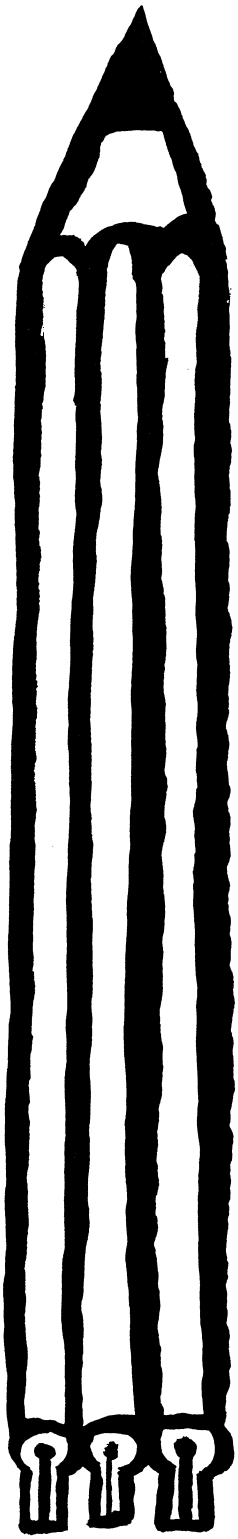
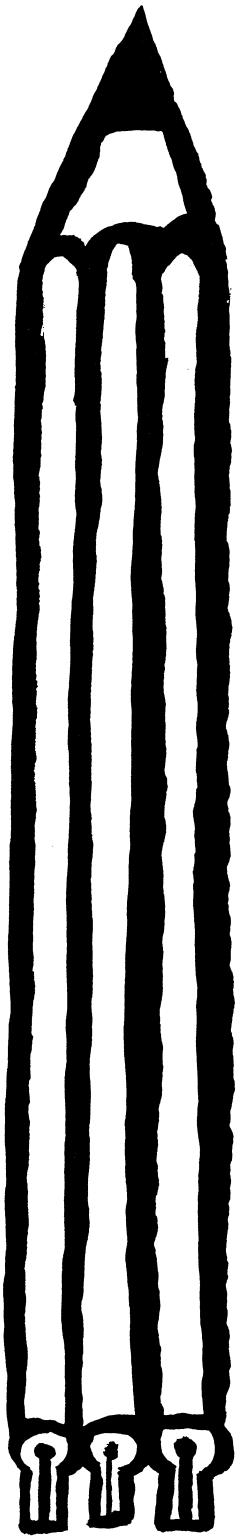


Dear Reader,

Recent top news of the major media has always been related to the new coronavirus. Many events and meetings in Asia have been canceled or changed to other places including our ICALP 2020 and at least one theory conference scheduled in May in Japan. Even the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 is not very safe now. Fortunately my wife and I already fled Japan (of course this trip was planed before the outbreak), we are now in Prague and will be here until the end of June. I hope the situation will be better off by then. I am not kidding; people around me in Kyoto have serious concerns about, for instance, teaching a class for 1.5 hours in a closed room.

As you know, there are several different models for epidemic information dissemination in distributed computing. For instance, in the so-called infect-and-die model where processes are infective for only a single round before dying, there is a phase transition phenomena based on basic parameter values for the proportion of processes eventually contaminated. The famous Erdős and Rényi random graph model also has this phenomena based on the average degree for the connectedness of the graph. What we are now looking at, in the current outbreak, seems exactly this phase transition effect. Once we have gone over the threshold, it's just too late. In other words, we need to stop it before the threshold.

I always appreciate their great contributions of our column editors and the authors of the articles; our BEATCS fully



depends on them. In other words it is our continuous issue to promote general technical contributions. We definitely know there are more than enough technical journals for presentation, but I believe BEATCS has its own position for publishing, for instance, a timely result. As I noted above, we have a lot of technical bases for studying the current outbreak of the coronavirus. In distributed computing, people tend to discuss how efficiently dissemination goes, but in our current situation it is more important how to stop dissemination. Our review process is quick, if one sends his/her submission, say in the middle of September, it can appear as early as in our Oct issue. I need your help for the promotion.

Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto
February 2020