Codes, Graphs, Coverings, and Identification: Special Issue Honoring the 60-th Birthday of Professor Iiro Honkala

Preface

With this special issue, we celebrate the 60th birthday of professor Iiro Honkala. He is a leading figure in the field of combinatorial coding theory. In particular, Iiro has co-authored the landmark monograph "Covering Codes" and also the chapter "Codes and Number Theory" in the prestigious Handbook of Coding Theory. He has worked on wide range of topics in the field of coding theory including questions of covering radius of codes and constant weight codes. Moreover, he is a well-known pioneer of identifying codes. His vast experience in these topics enabled him to make significant contributions also in the field of graph theory, especially, regarding the problems of locating-dominating sets in graphs. He has solved several conjectures related to these topics in coding and graph theory introducing clever new techniques.

Besides his very impressive scientific work, Iiro has also devoted his energy to administrative duties over the years. He has served as a Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Turku since 2015 and he has also been a long-time member of Board of Faculty of Science. Iiro is also a member of Finnish Academy of Sciences.

The contributions in this special issue consider a wide range of topics in the area of discrete mathematics and theoretical computer science. They are written by Iiro's friends, colleagues and former students. Those of us who have had the privilege to work with him, know his friendliness and passion for scientific work as well as his ability to come up with brilliant ideas to address hard problems.

We would like to thank all who contributed to the production of this special issue: the authors, the reviewers, the editor-in-chief Damian Niwiński of Fundamenta Informaticae. We are grateful of having the opportunity to edit this issue as a tribute to Iiro.

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