Preface

This year's meeting marked the Eighth International Symposium on Graph Drawing. The organizing and program committees worked hard to make this year's symposium possible, and we were delighted that so many people came to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, for three days of the latest results in the field of graph drawing.

As in previous years, the review process was quite competitive. We accepted 30 out of 53 regular-length submissions, and 5 out of 15 short submissions, for a total acceptance ratio of 35 out of 68, or 51%. This year's program featured several new developments in the field. Four different approaches for handling very large graphs were presented in a session on force-directed layout. Two sessions were devoted to the latest advances in orthogonal graph drawing. And alongside the usual mix of theory and practice papers we had several contributions based on empirical studies of users and of systems.

Our invited talks were given by two speakers who were new to most members of the GD community, but who work in areas that are closely related to graph drawing. Professor Colin Ware of the University of New Hampshire told us how knowledge of human visual perception is useful for the design of effective data visualizations. And Professor David Jensen of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst talked about the process of knowledge discovery from graphs, a process that involves more than just graph drawing and visualization.

In addition to the program proper, we also had two additional events associated with the symposium. Uli Brandes organized a workshop on data-exchange formats for graph drawing, and Franz Brandenburg took charge of the annual graph-drawing contest. Reports on both of these events are included in the proceedings.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the organizing and program committees for their hard work and dedication: their names are listed on the following pages. Special thanks goes to Kathy Ryall, the chair of the organizing committee, who chose the site and, with the aid of her able assistants, made sure that everything went smoothly throughout the symposium. I would also like to thank the sponsors of the graph-drawing contest: AT&T Research Laboratories, Daimler-Chrysler, and Tom Sawyer Software. And finally I would like to acknowledge the general and generous symposium sponsorship from MERL–Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories.

November 2000 Joe Marks

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