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Preface

This issue of ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG) contains the 70 papers presented at the SIGGRAPH Asia conference at Yokohama, Japan, December 16 - 19, 2009. These papers were selected from 275 submissions by a Technical Papers Committee of 35 members, giving an acceptance ratio of 25 percent. Each paper was reviewed by two committee members, who knew the identities of the authors, and also by three external reviewers who were not told the authors’ names. Many borderline papers received additional reviews near the end of the review period.

Authors of 13 promising papers that the committee felt could not be revised in the one-month period allowed for this issue were accepted to TOG “with major revisions,” with specific required changes that would guarantee acceptance. You should see some of these in print soon. If finally accepted, these TOG papers may also be presented at a future SIGGRAPH or SIGGRAPH Asia conference, as may any future TOG paper.

A new feature of the review process was that authors were given the opportunity of making their reviews from former SIGGRAPH conference submissions available to the new reviewers, and making the names of the reviewers available to the paper sorters and to the committee members responsible for assigning external reviewers. By reassigning some of the previous reviewers, we hoped to give more continuity to the review process, decreasing the chances of new change requests in opposition to those of the previous reviewers, and also decreasing the burden on the volunteer reviewer community. From now on all authors of papers reviewed but not accepted for a SIGGRAPH conference (not only those accepted to TOG “with major revisions” as described above) will also have the opportunity to carry over their reviews and reviewers if they chose to revise and resubmit their paper to TOG. These changes will bring the conferences and TOG closer together, and make the conference review process closer to that of a journal.

The accepted papers are in areas including physical simulation, animation control, real-time and photo-realistic rendering, geometric and urban modeling, hair capture and styling, texturing, image and video processing and resizing, GPU algorithms, and sound.

Many presentations included videos demonstrating the algorithms and their results. An innovation this year is that all videos and supplementary materials that are on the conference DVD are also accessible at the ACM Digital Library. As you read a paper in this volume, please consult the ACM Digital Library to see if there is associated material there that is of interest to you.

Another innovation at this conference is that the authors of four papers agreed to give a second presentation in Japanese, for the benefit of the local audience from Japan. Some courses at the conference were also presented in Japanese. We hope that the ease of listening in their native language attracts more people to attend SIGGRAPH Asia conferences.

I would like to thank the paper sorters: John Anderson, Tony DeRose, George Drettakis, Sing Bing Kang, and Ravi Ramamoorthi, for their help in assigning papers to the committee members, and Tom Funkhouser for providing the “affinity scores,” correlating paper content with committee members publications, that helped in the sorting process.

I thank Daniel Schmidt and Jerlyn Tan of Koelnmesse, and Angela Anderson of Talley Management Group, for handling the clerical parts of the paper processing, and helping the papers committee meeting go smoothly. I thank my papers advisory board: Kurt Akeley, Thomas Funkhouser, Baining Guo, Sing Bing Kang, Dinesh Manocha, Alyn Rockwood, and Hans-Peter Seidel, for their advice in planning the review process, and in handling crises as they arose, especially Kurt Akeley, the SIGGRAPH Asia 2008 technical papers chair, who tried to keep a geek like me aware of interpersonal and confidentiality issues. I also thank Jason Fondran of the Opal Group, who responded rapidly with changes when problems critically affecting the review process arose in the SIS submission management system, Rahul Narain, et al., for numerous iterations in producing the best possible front cover image for this volume, and Stephen Spencer, chair of the ACM SIGGRAPH Publications Committee, for his support of the publication process. Finally and most importantly, I thank the Technical Papers Committee and the external reviewers (the names of both appear at the back of this volume) for the great effort that they made to ensure that all papers received a fair and constructive set of reviews.

Nelson Max
Technical Papers Chair
SIGGRAPH Asia 2009