

Preface

The present book is the outcome of a seminar organized by the editors, sponsored by the *Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V.* (GI) and held in Dagstuhl, 13–16 April 2004.

GI-Dagstuhl-Seminars are organized on current topics in computer science that are not yet well covered in textbooks. Most importantly, this gives young researchers an opportunity to become actively involved in such topics, and to produce a book that can provide an introduction for others as well.

The participants of this seminar were assigned subtopics on which they did half a year of research prior to the meeting. After a week of presentations and discussion at Schloss Dagstuhl, slightly more than another half-year was spent on writing the chapters. These were cross-reviewed internally and blind-reviewed by external experts. Since we anticipate that readers will come from various disciplines, we would like to emphasize that it is customary in our field to order authors alphabetically.

The intended audience consists of everyone interested in formal aspects of network analysis, though a background in computer science on, roughly, the undergraduate level is assumed. No prior knowledge about network analysis is required. Ideally, this book will be used as an introduction to the field, a reference and a basis for graduate-level courses in applied graph theory.

First and foremost, we would like to thank all participants of the seminar and thus the authors of this book. We were blessed with a focused and determined group of people that worked professionally throughout. We are grateful to the GI and Schloss Dagstuhl for granting us the opportunity to organize the seminar, and we are happy to acknowledge that we were actually talked into doing so by Dorothea Wagner who was then chairing the *GI-Beirat der Universitätsprofessor(inn)en*. We received much appreciated chapter reviews from Vladimir Batagelj, Stephen P. Borgatti, Carter Butts, Petros Drineas, Robert Elsässer, Martin G. Everett, Ove Frank, Seokhee Hong, David Hunter, Sven O. Krumke, Ulrich Meyer, Haiko Müller, Philippa Pattison and Dieter Rautenbach. We thank Barny Martin for proof-reading several chapters and Daniel Fleischer, Martin Hoefler and Christian Pich for preparing the index.

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*Ulrik Brandes
Thomas Erlebach*

List of Contributors

Andreas Baltz

Mathematisches Seminar
Christian-Albrechts-Platz 4
University of Kiel
24118 Kiel, Germany

Nadine Baumann

Department of Mathematics
University of Dortmund
44221 Dortmund, Germany

Michael Baur

Faculty of Informatics
University of Karlsruhe
Box D 6980
76128 Karlsruhe, Germany

Marc Benkert

Faculty of Informatics
University of Karlsruhe
Box D 6980
76128 Karlsruhe, Germany

Ulrik Brandes

Computer & Information Science
University of Konstanz
Box D 67
78457 Konstanz, Germany

Michael Brinkmeier

Automation & Computer Science
Technical University of Ilmenau
98684 Ilmenau, Germany

Thomas Erlebach

Department of Computer Science
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH, U.K.

Marco Gaertler

Faculty of Informatics
University of Karlsruhe
Box D 6980
76128 Karlsruhe, Germany

Riko Jacob

Theoretical Computer Science
Swiss Federal Institute
of Technology Zürich
8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Frank Kammer

Theoretical Computer Science
Faculty of Informatics
University of Augsburg
86135 Augsburg, Germany

Gunnar W. Klau

Computer Graphics & Algorithms
Vienna University of Technology
1040 Vienna, Austria

Lasse Kliemann

Mathematisches Seminar
Christian-Albrechts-Platz 4
University of Kiel
24118 Kiel, Germany

Dirk Koschützki

IPK Gatersleben
Corrennsstraße 3
06466 Gatersleben, Germany

Sven Kosub

Department of Computer Science
Technische Universität München
Boltzmannstraße 3
D-85748 Garching, Germany

Katharina A. Lehmann

Wilhelm-Schickard-Institut
für Informatik
Universität Tübingen
Sand 14, C108
72076 Tübingen, Germany

Jürgen Lerner

Computer & Information Science
University of Konstanz
Box D 67
78457 Konstanz, Germany

Marc Nunkesser

Theoretical Computer Science
Swiss Federal Institute
of Technology Zürich
8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Leon Peeters

Theoretical Computer Science
Swiss Federal Institute
of Technology Zürich
8092 Zürich, Switzerland

Stefan Richter

Theoretical Computer Science
RWTH Aachen
Ahornstraße 55
52056 aachen, Germany

Daniel Sawitzki

Computer Science 2
University of Dortmund
44221 Dortmund, Germany

Thomas Schank

Faculty of Informatics
University of Karlsruhe
Box D 6980
76128 Karlsruhe, Germany

Sebastian Stiller

Institute of Mathematics
Technische Universität Berlin
10623 Berlin, Germany

Hanjo Täubig

Department of Computer Science
Technische Universität München
Boltzmannstraße 3
85748 Garching, Germany

Dagmar Tenfelde-Podehl

Department of Mathematics
Technische Universität
Kaiserslautern
67653 Kaiserslautern, Germany

René Weiskircher

Computer Graphics & Algorithms
Vienna University of Technology
1040 Vienna, Austria

Oliver Zlotowski

Algorithms and Data Structures
Univeristät Trier
54296 Trier, Germany



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