

Preface

The ninth annual conference on permutation patterns, PP2011, was held at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo during the week of June 20–24th, 2011. This special volume dedicated to the conference contains a selection of papers presented at the conference, as well as additional papers from this area of research. Though permutation patterns have proven useful in several subject areas of mathematics and theoretical computer science, the articles published in this issue mostly explore enumerative and algebraic properties of patterns, with notable applications to problems of a genuinely computational nature.

The conference attracted 46 attendees and from these participants 32 research presentations were given. Igor Pak provided one of two plenary talks on the future of bijections in combinatorics. The second was given by Jeff Remmel and outlined a general method utilizing symmetric functions identities to obtain results about consecutive patterns in both words and permutations. As usual, the conference also hosted an open problem session as well as ample opportunities for informal collaborations. Permutation patterns continues to be an attractive and sustainable area of research. In particular, 44% of attendees were undergraduate or graduate students versus only 33% of conference attendees were tenured professors of mathematics.

We would like to thank all of the participants from PP2011, the contributors to this volume, as well as the members of the scientific and organizing committee, especially those from the local organizing committee in San Luis Obispo. The conference was a great success thanks to the hard work of many people dedicated to this beautiful area of research.

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