

# Editor's Message for Special Issue on Recreational Discrete Mathematics

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Research in the field of recreational mathematics began at least hundreds of years ago. It has been charming many people, both professional researchers and amateurs, has seen rapid progress over the past century, and now plays an indispensable role in mathematics and computer science.

The Guest Editor has been organizing research workshops on the theory of combinatorial games and puzzles every year since 2005 in Japan<sup>\*1</sup>, and he feels there is not small demand for special issues on this type of research.

The first special issue on "Mathematics of Puzzles" appeared in 2012 in this Journal, the Journal of Information Processing (JIP), and it marked a great accomplishment by presenting many visionary papers. That success has led to the next special issue in 2013 and this year's special issue whose title is changed for including more wide range of recreational math.

The editorial board is composed of very capable professionals, who greatly helped the guest editor. This year's special issue consists of 13 (including one Japanese) full papers selected from 17 (including three Japanese) submissions through careful review. The ratio of acceptance is 0.765. The subjects treated in the papers are pencil puzzles, packing puzzles, word games, chess, a variation of tic-tac-toe, cake-cutting problem, polyhedrons, and illustrations (Japanese paper).

The success of this issue makes the guest editor believe stronger the necessity of such kind of special issues. We are planning special issues on mathematical recreations for continuous publication in the future, perhaps biennially. *If many of the readers of this issue start or continue to do research in this area, and a variety of exceptional papers are submitted, we would be most delighted.*

Recreation and amusement are very important for us, since we are "Homo ludens." The pursuit of fun for humans certainly creates useful products. So let's enjoy recreational mathematics and computer science!

In closing my message, as guest editor of this special issue, I would like to thank all of the authors for their contributions. I also appreciate the voluntary work of all reviewers as well as the remarkable efforts of the members of the Editorial Committee listed below.

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