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Preface

Combinatorial image analysis is one of the rapidly emerging fields of discrete mathematics. Its topics include digital topology, tilings, discrete planes and lines, discrete tomography, and many other combinatorial problems connected with images. Among its applications we find imaging procedures such as tomography, pattern recognition, image description, and image representation.

It was natural therefore that the Ninth International Workshop on Combinatorial Image Analysis (IWCIA), held between 14 and 16 May 2003, in Palermo (Italy) generated great interest. There were more than 50 lectures on various aspects of combinatorial image analysis. In this Special Issue, we have the honor to introduce the best papers presented during the workshop.

It was a beautiful sunny day in Palermo when we and the third organizer of the workshop, Alberto Del Lungo, said farewell to the participants and discussed the steps to be taken in editing this Special Issue. This was the last time we saw Alberto, our colleague, who did so much for the success of the workshop. It is tragic that we have to report that he died a few days later—a young researcher in the prime of his career in the field of discrete mathematics, a leading contributor to combinatorial image analysis and discrete tomography.

We did our best to complete the editorial work according to the discussion we had on that sunny day and now, with great sadness, we dedicate this Special Issue to the memory of Alberto Del Lungo.

Vito Di Gesù,
Attila Kuba
Guest Editors