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Preface

Organizing the 4th International Workshop on Computational Topology in Image Context (CTIC 2012) has been an interesting experience indeed, going far beyond mathematics and computer science.

As mathematicians, we expected to focus only on theoretical problems and algorithms. On the contrary, the heaviest snowfall in Italy in the last 20 years reminded us that science is only part of reality, and forced the Organizing Committee to postpone the workshop for three months, until the end of May 2012. In one sense, this unpleasant occurrence was a reminder that unexpected phenomena are an important issue not only in scientific discovery but also in practical life.

This collection documents the presentations accepted at CTIC 2012. The research conducted by the authors of these papers was the core of the workshop, and we thank all the contributors for their commitment and dedication. Their effort allowed us to continue the tradition of CTIC in providing a forum for scientific exchange in topology and computation in image context at a high-quality level.

Special thanks go to our invited speakers, Frédéric Chazal (INRIA Saclay, Orsay) and Walter Kropatsch (PRIP, Vienna University of Technology), for their key contribution to the success of this workshop.

We also thank all the Scientific Committee members for their valuable feedback, which enabled the authors to further improve the quality of their work.

CTIC 2012 could not have been organized without our sponsors (Università degli Studi di Bologna, European Science Foundation, Rotary Club Bologna, GNSAGA—Istituto Nazionale di Alta Matematica "Francesco Severi") and supporters (Advanced Research Center on Electronic Systems for Information and Communication Technologies "E. De Castro"—University of Bologna, GIRPR—Gruppo Italiano Ricercatori in Pattern Recognition, SIMAI—Società Italiana di Matematica Applicata e Industriale, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia). We are very grateful to all of them.

We also thank the team working at the Centro Congressi in Bertinoro for their valuable help.

Finally, we are grateful to the participants attending this workshop, and to their snow-proof patience.

May 2012

Massimo Ferri
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