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VOLUME 1

Benjamin W. Wah
Editor

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WILEY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

VOLUME 1

PREFACE

This encyclopedia was developed with two goals in mind: first, to provide a thorough treatment of the core knowledge in this important discipline and, second, to offer a broad coverage on the latest advances in the area. A decade in the making, this comprehensive reference of 333 articles encompasses essentially every aspect of the fast-growing field of computer science and engineering. As a reference and an educational tool, it is meant to reinforce current knowledge and to provide a foundation for further understanding. It is our hope that it will serve as a useful source on the current state-of-the-art and guide readers in understanding classic concepts.

This compendium of information will serve readers from diverse backgrounds and training—from practicing engineers to researchers, from designers to managers, and from government officials to university students—all who wish to keep abreast of knowledge and techniques in this broad field. Each article was written without assuming an advanced background on computing, although a certain degree of sophistication and experience may be necessary when reading the articles. Casual readers will also be able to browse the high-level descriptions and illustrations to gain a more general understanding of subjects covered. In addition, each article not only highlights the most salient and important aspects of a topic, but it also provides a starting point for additional study through a comprehensive bibliography.

The articles were authored by experts in their respective areas, who provide both historical perspectives as well as a comprehensive treatment of up-to-date knowledge and evolving ideas. Each is intended to provide an overview of the individual topic, from conceptual as well as practical points of view, summarizing the crucial developments and standard practices of the past, along with new techniques and evolving ideas. The articles collectively cover broad concepts as well as fundamental theory, both generously illustrated with examples and diagrams. Although the articles eschew extensive development of theory and proofs, they provide pointers and references to specialized concepts and models.

An online version, complete with hyperlinks and color illustrations, complements the print edition, and with the inclusion of a powerful search engine, users can readily

locate pertinent articles sorted by relevance. Because computing is a rapidly evolving area, the online version will be a growing project with new articles to be added and existing articles to be revised on a frequent basis.

The topics in computer science and engineering are grouped into the following ten areas:

Subject Area	Area Editor
Hardware and Architecture	Joseph R. Cavallaro
Parallel and Distributed Systems	Ten-Hwang (Steve) Lai
Intelligent Systems	Ning Zhong
Software	Farokh B. Bastani
Data	Jeffrey J. P. Tsai
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Visualization	Rynson W. H. Lau
Applications	Michael W. Berry
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Drawing from various sources, including Webster's *Wiley Encyclopedia of Electrical and Electronics Engineering*, an initial list of topics was identified. The list was then enhanced by the area editors, who suggested authors and reviewers for the articles. We also solicited potential invitees from authors and reviewers themselves. Cassie Craig, Associate Editor at John Wiley & Sons, coordinated the actual invitations and reviews of the articles. Each article was read by two to three reviewers, and authors were generally asked to revise their articles to address reviewers' comments. In many cases, the articles were re-reviewed and revised a second time before they were formally accepted.

I am deeply indebted to the many people who have contributed to bringing this encyclopedia to fruition. The project was started almost ten years ago with the encouragement of Prof. C. V. Ramamoorthy, Professor Emeritus of the University of California, Berkeley, and George Telecki, Associate Publisher, John Wiley & Sons. I owe the encyclopedia's outstanding content to the hundreds of authors who contributed their works and to the numerous reviewers who helped refine the articles. I am

grateful to the ten area editors, who were instrumental in focusing the coverage of the encyclopedia and in identifying experts to invite. Cassie Craig and all the support staff at Wiley helped me tremendously in managing the logistics and the details of running the project. Cassie, in particular, communicated with the authors and reviewers to ensure a smooth submission process for their articles and reviews. My assistant, Meng-Fei Cheng, coordinated with students at my university to identify potential invitees. Lastly, I would like to thank Christine, my wife, and our twin

daughters, Catherine and Elaine, for their never-ending support and encouragement. I am very fortunate to have had the support of my friends and family in realizing my goal of a comprehensive and authoritative resource on computer science and engineering.

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