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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>xix</i>
Regular Papers	
<hr/>	
<i>Folding Pseudo-Stars that are Cyclicly Hinged</i>	1
Greg N. Frederickson	
<i>The Concept of Elevation applied to Flat Tiling Patterns</i>	9
Rinus Roelofs	
<i>2-Manifold Sculptures</i>	17
Carlo H. Séquin	
<i>The Geometric Studies of Some Mosaic Design Compositions and Puzzles Presented in a Historical Treatise</i>	27
Reza Sarhangi	
<i>Can Human Assistance Improve a Computational Poet?</i>	37
Carolyn E. Lamb, Daniel G. Brown and Charles L.A. Clarke	
<i>Curved Islamic Star Patterns of Medieval Egypt and Syria</i>	45
B. Lynn Bodner	
<i>Three Families of Mitered Borromean Ring Sculptures</i>	53
Tom Verhoeff and Koos Verhoeff	
<i>Modular Origami Halftoning: Theme and Variations</i>	61
Zhifu Xiao, Robert Bosch, Craig S. Kaplan and Robert J. Lang	
<i>Permutations of the Octagon: An Aesthetic-Mathematical Dialectic</i>	69
James Mai	
<i>Laser-Cut Plywood and Cable-Tie Sculptures</i>	77
George Hart	
<i>Double Strip Patterns: Between Strip Patterns and Wallpaper Patterns</i>	85
Darrah Chavey, Monica Menzies Meissen, Todd O'Bryan and Glenn Terry	
<i>A Divine Error</i>	93
Dirk Huylebrouck	

<i>Highly Unlikely Triangles and Other Impossible Figures in Bead Weaving</i>	99
Gwen L. Fisher	
<i>Real-World Tessellations</i>	107
Robert W. Fathauer	
<i>The Platonic Solids: a Three-Dimensional Textbook</i>	113
Martin Levin	
<i>Figurative Tours and Braids</i>	121
Robert Bosch and Tom Wexler	
<i>A Theoretical Framework to Represent Narrative Structures for Visual Storytelling</i>	129
Ergun Akleman, Stefano Franchi, Devkan Kaleci, Laura Mandell, Takashi Yamauchi and Derya Akleman	
<i>Math Bugs</i>	137
Mike Naylor	
<i>Nonplanar expansions of polyhedral edges in Platonic and Archimedean solids</i>	143
David A. Reimann	
<i>Soccer Ball Symmetry</i>	151
David Swart	
<i>The Golden Spiral: The Genesis of a Misunderstanding</i>	159
Paul Gailiunas	
<i>Nested polytopes with non-crystallographic symmetry induced by projection</i>	167
Briony Thomas, Reidun Twarock, Motiejus Valiunas and Emilio Zappa	
<i>Fun with Whirls</i>	175
Kerry Mitchell	
<i>Fractal Wallpaper Patterns</i>	183
Douglas Dunham and John Shier	
<i>“In an Ocean of Ashes”: Order and Chaos in Mathematics and Literature</i>	191
Katharine Ahrens	
<i>A Skeleton Key for the Platonic Solids</i>	199
Karl Schaffer	
<i>3D-Dithered Ortho-Pictures: 3D Models from Independent 2D Images</i>	207
Gershon Elber	

<i>Knotology Baskets and Topological Maps</i>	215
James Mallos	
<i>A Novel Line Fractal Pied de Poule (Houndstooth)</i>	223
Loe M.G. Feijs and Marina Toeters	
<i>Algorithmic Quilting</i>	231
Christopher Carlson, Nina Paley and Theodore Gray	
<i>Integrating Origami Art with Mathematics in a College General Studies Course</i>	239
Norma Boakes	
<i>Self-Avoiding Random Walks Yielding Labyrinths</i>	247
Gary R. Greenfield	
<i>Yvon-Villarceau Circle Equivalents on Dupin Cyclides</i>	253
Francesco De Comit�	
<i>Galaxies Containing Infinite Worlds: Poetry from Finite Projective Planes</i>	259
Daniel May and Courtney Huse Wika	
<i>From Stippling to Scribbling</i>	267
Abdalla G. M. Ahmed	
<i>Magnetic Circle Packing in Creative Outreach and Refreshment</i>	275
Robin Linhope Willson	
<i>Julia Randall's Poetic Finitude: Mapping the Infinite onto a Poem</i>	283
Emily Grosholz	
<i>A View of Music</i>	289
Ellen Gethner, Shannon Steinmetz and Joseph Verbeke	
<i>The Stomachion in Wonderland</i>	295
Stanley Spencer	
<i>Ordinal-Contextual Dissimilarity for Analysis of Heros in Tragedies</i>	301
Bahman Afsari, Katayun Mazdapour and Bruno Jedynek	
<i>Designing 2D Ordinary Differential Equations To Obtain Abstract Paintings, Illustrations and Animations</i>	309
Ergun Akleman and H�seyin Ko�ak	
<i>The Curious Creativity of John Horton Conway</i>	317
Siobhan Roberts	

The Musical Canon Inside Differential Equations 323
Donald Spector

Short Papers

Eight-Pointed Star and Precise Construction of 7x7 Square Grid 331
Dmitri Kozlov

Introducing the Möbius-Twisted Turk's Head Knot 335
Carlo H. Séquin and Lorenzo Larrucea

Exploring the Manifold of Image Patches 339
Yevgen Matviychuk and Shannon M. Hughes

Flowing, Organic Forms Using Adaptive Line-Drawing Agents 343
David Chappell

Chains of Antiprisms 347
Tom Verhoeff and Melle Stoel

Programmable Mathe-Musical Boxes 351
Rachel Wells Hall

Two-Frame Animations in Conway's Game of Life 355
Robert Bosch

Gallery Layout in Borges' Library of Babel 359
Jonathan K. Millen

Visualizing Rhyme Patterns in Sonnet Sequences 363
Hartmut F. W. Höft

A Pattern Tracing System for Generating Paper Sliceform Artwork 367
Yongquan Lu and Erik D. Demaine

The "Φ"TOP: A Golden Ellipsoid 371
Kenneth Brecher

*The Geometric Structure of Scribal Variation among Manuscripts of
Langland's Piers Plowman* 375
Roger Bilisoly

Surfaces with Natural Ridges 379
David Brander and Steen Markvorsen

<i>Unexpected Beauty Hidden in Radin-Conway’s Pinwheel Tiling</i>	383
Douglas G. Burkholder	
<i>Hypernom: Mapping VR Headset Orientation to S^3</i>	387
Vi Hart, Andrea Hawksley, Henry Segerman and Marc ten Bosch	
<i>Large, Symmetric, “7-Around” Hyperbolic Disks</i>	391
Sean Jeng Liu, Young Kim, Raymond Shiau and Carlo H. Séquin	
<i>Katzengold: Pyrite, Plato, and a Polynomial</i>	395
Stephan Klaus and Bianca Violet	
<i>Infinite Rhythmic Tiling Canons</i>	399
Clifton Callender	
<i>A Concept Map for Book 1 of Euclid’s Elements</i>	403
Alexander Boxer and Justace Clutter	
<i>A Musical Scale Generated from the Ratio of Consecutive Primes</i>	407
Reginald Bain	
<i>Geometric Visual Instruments Having Pinnate Forms</i>	411
Shunsuke Akimoto and Akihiro Matsuura	
<i>Design Anamorphosis in the Math Class!</i>	415
Kristóf Fenyvesi and Markus Häikiöniemi	
<i>Cayley Cubic and the Visual Arts</i>	419
Jean Constant	
<i>Fractal Tiling Illustrations of Geometric Series</i>	423
Lorelei Koss	
<i>Nature as a Strategy for Pattern Formation in Art</i>	427
Irene Rousseau	
<i>Monte Carlo Art Using Scratch</i>	431
Patrick Honner	
<i>The Paradigm Poem</i>	435
Kazmier Maslanka	
<i>Random Walks on Vertices of Archimedean Tilings</i>	439
Vincent J. Matsko	

<i>Perspectives on Borges' Library of Babel</i>	443
CJ Fearnley and Jeannie Moberly	
<i>Geometry in the Pocket</i>	447
Mehrdad Garousi	
<i>From Mathematical Curves to Decorative Ornaments</i>	451
Susan McBurney	
<i>Building Polyhedra from Polygons with Colored Edges</i>	455
Ioana Browne and Mircea Draghicescu	
<i>Turing Patterns in Photoshop</i>	459
Andrew Werth	
<i>Inspire Math-Girls-Women (perhaps with poems)</i>	463
Jo Anne Growney	
<i>Emergent Orange</i>	467
Jim Bumgardner	
<i>Expandohedra: Modeling Structural Transitions of a Viral Capsid</i>	471
Adam Arstall, Briony Thomas, Reidun Twarock and Emilio Zappa	
<i>An Exhibition of Exponential Sums: Visualizing Supercharacters</i>	475
Paula Burkhardt, Gabriel Currier, Stephan Ramon Garcia, Mathieu de Langis, Bob Lutz and Hong Suh	
<i>A New Way to See Inside Black Holes</i>	479
Richard Conn Henry, James Overduin and Kielan Wilcomb	
<i>Algorithms for Morphing Escher-Like Tessellations</i>	483
Kevin Lee	
<i>Theory of Intersection</i>	487
Karl Kattchee	
<i>Schematic Drawings of the Polychora</i>	491
Taneli Luotoniemi	
<i>A Successful Belgian Art & Math Exhibition with Workshops</i>	495
Gisèle De Meur and Samuel Verbiese	

<i>Bridges Exhibits as Incentives to Collaborative Artworks</i>	499
Anusch Bayens, Carlo De Pauw, Carmen Geens, Seniz Karaman, Mark Pieters, André Thomas, Alex Van Bogaert, Samuel Verbièse, Rudi Willaert and Nico Willemsens	
<i>Linguistic Oddities: An Artist Explorer at Mathematics Conferences</i>	503
Katie McCallum	
<i>3D Lenticular Imaging for Art</i>	507
Yitzhak Weissman	
<i>The Shapes of Our Souls and Other Student Concerns: Poems about the Course “Mathematics in Literature”</i>	511
Marion Deutsche Cohen	
<i>Into the Shadows: Approximating Images by Orthogonal Projection</i>	515
Kelly Delp and Sam Lloyd	
 Workshop Papers	
<hr/>	
<i>Exploring Ratios and Sequences with Mathematically Layered Beverages</i>	519
Andrea Johanna Hawksley	
<i>Math-Infused Art Lessons, Art-Infused Math Lessons</i>	525
Rachelle Guernsey	
<i>The Aesthetics of Scale: Weaving Mathematical Understandings</i>	533
Eva Knoll, Wendy Landry, Tara Taylor, Paul Carreiro and Susan Gerofsky	
<i>The Shape Snacker: a Bite of Origami and Math</i>	541
Alan Russell	
<i>Lissajus Curves: an Experiment in Creative Coding</i>	549
Lali Barrière	
<i>Square Seeds and Round Paths: Exploring Patterns within the Art of Classical Labyrinths</i> ...	555
David Thompson and Diana Cheng	
<i>Thinking like a Pianist/Mathematician/Potter-Designer: Strategies for Tuning Ocarinas</i>	559
Elizabeth Paley	
<i>Use of RangoLee Art in Elementary Mathematics Education</i>	563
Madhuri Bapat	

A Workshop Using the Log Cabin Quilt For Teaching Math Concepts and Patterns 567
Cristina Padlan Packard

Composing Mathematical Poetry 571
Carol Dorf

*Mathematics Through the Lens of a Kaleidoscope: A Student Centered Approach
to Building Bridges between Mathematics and Art* 573
Gail Kaplan, Rachael Gross and Kim McComas

Hearing Math and Seeing Music: a Workshop on Pitch Perception and Temperament 581
Evelyn Lamb

Unit Origami: Star-Building on Deltahedra 585
Heidi Burgiel

Connecting with the Sierpinski Tetrahedron 589
Alice Petillo

Author Index 593

Preface

This year, we are pleased to bring the Bridges Conference to the city of Baltimore, Maryland for the first time. Also known as “Charm City”, Baltimore is full of treasures and wonderful sightseeing spots: The George Peabody Library, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Walters Art Museum, American Visionary Art Museum, Maryland Science Center, Baltimore Museum of Art, and National Aquarium are all just a short distance from conference venue.

According to the American Institute of Economic Research, Baltimore ranks in the top 10 in a study of large U.S. cities that are the best places to attend college. The city provides an inspiring academic environment, good quality of life, and many professional opportunities for college students of all types. The University of Baltimore (UB), comprising the public undergraduate, graduate, and professional universities, is also located in the heart of Baltimore. UB’s schools and colleges provide real-world education in business, law, public affairs and the applied arts and sciences.

The Bridges Organization is grateful that the University of Baltimore has opened its doors to the Bridges Conference for this year. The mission of the Bridges Organization and of this conference is to expose, discuss, and popularize the many connections between mathematics and other elements of art and culture, including fine arts, architecture, music, dance, poetry, origami, puzzles, and the sciences. It attracts a diverse audience of mathematicians, artists, educators, musicians, writers, dancers, weavers, model builders, architects, and computer scientists. This inspiring mix is reflected again in this year’s proceedings and in the various special activities integrated into the conference, such as the art exhibition, the public lectures, the short movie festival, the music, theater, and poetry sessions, and Family Day. Our thanks go to Robert Bosch, Andrea Hawksley, Mike Naylor and Sujana Shrestha, who served as the jury for the movie festival, and to Kristof Fenyevesi for organizing Family Day.

This year’s Bridges Program Chair is Kelly Delp. She coordinated an international Program Committee of over 50 experts who provided extensive reviews and editorial comments on submissions. Kelly also served as chair of the regular paper track. Douglas M. McKenna acted as chair of the short papers track with strong support from Carlo Séquin. For the first time this year, we also formed a full committee of reviewers to examine Workshop submissions. Craig S. Kaplan served as chair, and recruited 13 members from the program committee. Many thanks go to the members of the Program Committee who reviewed the large number of papers received.

The 2015 edition of the Bridges Proceedings includes 43 regular papers, 47 short papers, and 14 workshop papers. A wide range of topics are explored in this publication; you will find new work on fractals, patterns, poetry, polyhedra, weaving, origami, sculpture, visualization, image processing, outreach and education, and more. Also, you will find papers in which authors describe the novel ways they are exploring the connections between culture and mathematics: we have a virtual reality game where a player explores 4-dimensional polytopes by changing the orientation of their head in 3-space, a workshop that gives participants a gustatory experience of ratios and sequences, and perhaps the first ever collaboration between a computer scientist and a cowboy. We thank all of the authors and reviewers for their generous contributions to this year’s proceedings. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Mara Alagic, Paul Gailunas, George Hart, Craig Kaplan, Douglas M. McKenna, Reza Sarhangi, and Carlo Séquin who provided extra support.

An exhibition of mathematical art has been an annual feature of Bridges since 2001. This year’s exhibition could well be the largest exhibition of mathematical art ever assembled, with over 150 artists taking part.

More than twenty countries and more than half the states in the U.S. are represented. A wide variety of artistic media are included in the exhibition, including 2D and 3D digital prints, painting, beadwork, ceramics, wood, metal, quilting, and folded paper. Artists drew inspiration from the mathematics of fractals, polyhedra, non-Euclidean and four-dimensional geometry, tiling, knot theory, number theory, and more. This year Katie McCallum and Robert Fathauer served as co-curators of the exhibition, and were joined by Chris Bartlett, Nat Friedman, and Sujan Shrestha to make up the jury. The print catalog was prepared by Conan Chadbourne, and the art submission website was created and administered by Nathan Selikoff. Leading up to the Bridges Conference, Chris Bartlett is taking primary responsibility for a month-long gallery exhibition that will be held at the College of Fine Arts Gallery at Towson University. That exhibition, and a subsequent exhibition at the Centennial MAA MathFest in Washington, D.C., will showcase a subset of the artworks shown at Bridges.

We would also like to thank faculty from the University of Baltimore who have provided substantial contributions to Bridges Baltimore 2015. In particular, we thank Sujan Shrestha for his leadership in this regard. Design faculty member Thomas James O'Donnell played a key role in designing the Bridges poster and banner, as well as the covers of the proceedings and art catalog. In addition, Joseph Achille Fioramonti, Jonathan L. Shorr, Jeffery Hoover and Sujan Shrestha worked on the Bridges Baltimore 2015 announcement movie. Our sincere thanks to all faculty from the Division of Science, Information Arts and Technology and to the Klein Family School of Communication Design for their collaboration and participation in this conference. We would also like to acknowledge Monica Queen, Michael Zemarel, Peter Toran, Chris Hart, Terry Stumpf and all other staff members at the University of Baltimore who have put a considerable amount of time and effort into organizing this conference. Our sincere thanks to Provost Joseph S. Wood and Dean Laura Bryan for agreeing to host and support the conference. And finally, Kathryn Summers and Division Chair Deborah Kohl have been key in providing logistical support to Sujan Shrestha, who is also the main conference organizer and faculty coordinator at the University of Baltimore.

Once again, welcome to Bridges 2015. We hope you enjoy the conference and find inspiration in this wonderful collection of new ideas.

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