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## Preface

It is a pleasure for us to introduce a special issue of *Linear Algebra and its Applications* devoted to a selection of papers prepared on the occasion of the first IPM Conference on Algebraic Graph Theory. The meeting was held in Tehran at the Institute for Theoretical Physics and Mathematics (IPM) from 21 to 26 April 2007. It attracted 138 researchers from 10 countries, and the large contingent of postgraduate students from Iran is a testament to the broadening appeal of Algebraic Graph Theory as an area of research. The subject was effectively defined in Norman Biggs' monograph [2], and more recent books [1,3] have charted subsequent progress.

The conference was dedicated to Professor Samad Hedayat (University of Illinois at Chicago), in recognition of his use of linear algebra in the theory of  $t$ -designs. The topics represented in this special issue include association schemes, the energy of a graph,  $(0, 1)$ -matrices, Cayley graphs, and several aspects of spectral graph theory (integral graphs, the Laplacian, the signless Laplacian, spectral properties and characterizations).

Financial support was forthcoming from several sources, acknowledged below. Here we record the thanks of the plenary speakers and visitors to IPM for the efficient work of the IPM staff and the exceptional hospitality of the Iranian hosts. We thank also the referees of the submitted papers, and all the contributors to this volume. A detailed report on the conference may be found at <http://www.ipm.ac.ir/IPM/homepage/report-combinII.pdf>.

### Acknowledgements

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### References

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Richard Brualdi

Reza Khosrovshahi

Bojan Mohar

Peter Rowlinson

*Department of Mathematics*

*University of Stirling*

*Stirling FK9 4LA, Scotland*

*United Kingdom*

*E-mail address:* p.rowlinson@cs.stir.ac.uk

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