Foreword

Welcome to PACT '96, the 1996 Conference on Parallel Architectures and Compilation Techniques. After three successful meetings in Orlando (1993), Montreal (1994), and Limassol, Cyprus (1995), the 1996 conference convenes in Boston, one of the most popular visitor destinations in the world, especially during the month of October when the Fall foliage is at its peak.

The PACT series of conferences has become an established forum for the parallel architectures and compilers research communities to discuss key issues of common interest with a special focus on fine and medium grain parallelism.

In keeping pace with emerging technologies, this year’s technical program was assembled almost entirely on the Web. Papers were submitted as PostScript files and then circulated (to program committee members and reviewers) via pointers and passwords, bypassing hard copy mailings. The system allowed tapping many reviewers for their expertise, and we were able to obtain three to six reviews for each paper. All these reviewers, as well as the Program Committee members, are acknowledged elsewhere in these proceedings.

This year, the program consists of 21 full-length papers and 13 short (poster) papers. Paper quality has improved every year, and this year is certainly no exception. We look forward to an exciting technical program, complemented by invited talks from Richard Wirt (Intel), Eric Kronstadt (IBM), and Josh Fisher (HP), as well as a panel session on the relative merits of predication and speculation, moderated by Alex Nicolau.

The extensive tutorial program, preceding and following the conference, includes leading researchers and practitioners, speaking on currently relevant topics.

We are grateful to all those who contributed their time and effort in making PACT '96 a reality. The long list of contributors includes C. Mani Krishna (publications and finance), Charles Weems (publicity and local arrangements), Arnold Rosenberg (finance and local arrangements), Ilan Spillinger (tutorials), and all members of the program committee who did an outstanding job under difficult time constraints.

Finally, we acknowledge the support of our sponsors, the International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP) Working Group 10.3 (Concurrent Systems), the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Computer Architecture, and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Special Interest Group on Computer Architecture (SIGARCH).

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PACT '96

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