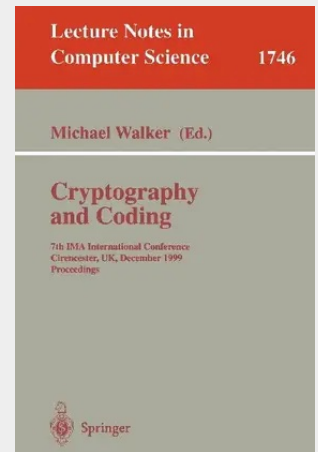


Cryptography and Coding

7th IMA International Conference, Cirencester, UK, December 20-22, 1999 Proceedings

The IMA conferences on Cryptography and Coding are not only a blend of these two aspects of information theory, but a blend of mathematics and engineering and of theoretical results and applications. The papers in this book show that the 1999 conference was no exception. Indeed, we again saw the mathematics underlying cryptography and error correcting coding being applied to other aspects of communications, and we also saw classical mathematical concepts finding new applications in communications theory. As usual the conference was held at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, shortly before Christmas - this time 20-22 December 1999. The papers appear in this book in the order in which they were presented, grouped into sessions, each session beginning with an invited paper. These invited papers were intended to reflect the invitees' views on the future of their subject - or more accurately where they intended to take it. Indeed the focus of the conference was the future of cryptography and coding as seen through the eyes of young researchers. The first group of papers is concerned with mathematical bounds, concepts, and constructions that form a common thread running through error correcting coding theory, cryptography, and codes for multiple access schemes. This is followed by a group of papers from a conference session concerned with applications. The papers range over various topics from arithmetic coding for data compression and encryption, through image coding, biometrics for authentication, and access to broadcast channels, to photographic signatures for secure identification. The third set of papers deals with theoretical aspects of error correcting coding, including graph and trellis decoding, turbo codes, convolution codes and low complexity soft decision decoding of Reed Solomon codes.

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