

Preface

When we started planning the edition of the Proceedings of the International Congress of Mathematicians 2006 (ICM2006), we considered the possibility of publishing only an electronic version. However, it is pretty difficult to break traditions, particularly for an activity like the ICM with an existence of more than a hundred years. Thus, we finally decided to mimic the model that started in Berlin 98: to publish both, a printed and an electronic version of the Proceedings. However, you may notice the influence of living the Internet Era, where length of files is not really a big issue, by the number of pages, altogether almost 4400, probably a record for the history of ICMs.

These Proceedings consist of three volumes. Volume I is divided into four parts. The first one gathers the speeches at the opening ceremony including the presentation of the Fields Medals, the Rolf Nevanlinna Prize and the newly awarded Gauss Prize for Applications of Mathematics as well as the speeches at the closing ceremony. It also contains information about the organization of the Congress, the committees, sponsors and other collaborators. The second part contains the traditional laudations for the prizes, that is, an extensive presentation of the work of the awardees. The third part is the main body of the volume and consists of the articles written by the plenary lecturers of the Congress. One of the characteristics of this ICM has been the large number of diverse activities accompanying day by day the program fixed by the IMU Scientific Program Committee. In the fourth part of the volume, you can find articles corresponding to some of them.

Volumes II and III were printed before the Congress and distributed to the participants in Madrid. They gather the articles written by the invited speakers in the different scientific sections of the Congress.

The on-line version of these volumes is accessible at the address <http://www.icm2006.org/proceedings>

We take this opportunity to express our thanks to the authors of the articles for their effort in the preparation of excellent contributions. We also would like to express our gratitude to the EMS Publishing House for the superb job in the edition of these Proceedings and all the printed material of the ICM2006.

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