

PREFACE

AIMS' 4th International Conference on Dynamical Systems and Differential Equations was held on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC, USA, May 24–27, 2002. The meeting was hosted by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

The present volume is the Proceedings of the conference, consisting of **114** papers which are selected and revised from the submissions through a rigorous refereeing process. We would like to express our special thanks to all the anonymous referees for their professionalism.

The Fourth Conference was attended by more than **400** active mathematicians and scientists in this popular but focused fields from all over the world. Apparently, the AIMS' biennial Conference Series is fulfilling the imperative need of having a focused international forum for the community of scientists working in the fields of differential equations, dynamical systems and their applications in sciences and engineering. By any measure, the conference was a great success and the Conference Series has become a major event. Updated information can be found at <http://AIMSciences.org>.

It is with great pleasure that we acknowledge the financial support received from the National Science Foundation, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the QualComm Inc., and Drs. Fuyun Lin and Xiaoyun Ma. The local Organizing Committee has done a very professional job by allocating all the proceeds and contributed funds, exclusively, for the Conference's needs. In particular, each paid participant receives a copy of this Proceedings.

We would like to thank the members of the local Organizing Committee: Professors Y. Chang, M. Freeze, K. Gurganus, M. TenHuisen, Daniel X. Guo and Jack Tompkins, chaired by Dr. Xin Lu. Their tireless effort and extremely hard work have contributed to the Conference's smooth organization and operation. Needless to say, the Conference could not have taken place without the leadership and vision provided by the Chair of Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Dr. Wei Feng, and many other administrators at the hosting university. To all of them, we owe a debt of gratitude.

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