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The natural mission of Computational Science is to tackle all sorts of human problems and to work out intelligent automata aimed at alleviating the burden of working out suitable tools for solving complex problems. For this reason Computational Science, though originating from the need to solve the most challenging problems in science and engineering (computational science is the key player in the effort to gain fundamental advances in astronomy, biology, chemistry, environmental science, physics and several other scientific and engineering disciplines) is increasingly turning its attention to all fields of human activity. In all activities, in fact, intensive computation, information handling, knowledge synthesis, the use of ad-hoc devices, etc. increasingly need to be exploited and coordinated regardless of the location of both the users and the (various and heterogeneous) computing platforms. As a result the key to understanding the explosive growth of this discipline lies in two adjectives that more and more appropriately refer to Computational Science and its applications: interoperable and ubiquitous. Numerous examples of ubiquitous and interoperable tools and applications are given in the present four LNCS volumes containing the contributions delivered at the 2004 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA 2004) held in Assisi, Italy, May 14–17, 2004.

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