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8th International IPCO Conference
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Preface

This volume contains the papers selected for presentation at IPCO VIII, the Eighth Conference on Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 2001. This meeting is a forum for researchers and practitioners working on various aspects of integer programming and combinatorial optimization. The aim is to present recent developments in theory, computation, and application of integer programming and combinatorial optimization. Topics include, but are not limited to: approximation algorithms, branch and bound algorithms, computational biology, computational complexity, computational geometry, cutting plane algorithms, diophantine equations, geometry of numbers, graph and network algorithms, integer programming, matroids and submodular functions, on-line algorithms, polyhedral combinatorics, scheduling theory and algorithms, and semidefinite programs.

IPCO was established in 1988 when the first IPCO program committee was formed. The locations and years of the seven first IPCO conferences were: IPCO I, Waterloo (Canada) 1990, IPCO II, Pittsburgh (USA) 1992, IPCO III, Erice (Italy) 1993, IPCO IV, Copenhagen (Denmark) 1995, IPCO V, Vancouver (Canada) 1996, IPCO VI, Houston (USA) 1998, IPCO VII, Graz (Austria) 1999. IPCO is held every year in which no MPS (Mathematical Programming Society) International Symposium takes place. Since the MPS meeting is triennial, IPCO conferences are held twice in every three-year period. As a rule, IPCO is held somewhere in Northern America in even years, and somewhere in Europe in odd years.

In response to the call for papers for IPCO 2001, the program committee received 108 submissions, indicating a strong and growing interest in the conference. The program committee met on January 13 and 14, 2001, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and selected 32 contributed papers for inclusion in the scientific program of IPCO 2001. The selection was based on originality and quality, and reflects many of the current directions in integer programming and optimization research. The overall quality of the submissions was extremely high. As a result, many excellent papers could unfortunately not be chosen.

The organizing committee for IPCO 2001 consisted of Karen Aardal, Bert Gerards, Cor Hurkens, Jan Karel Lenstra, and Leen Stougie. IPCO 2001 was organized in cooperation with the Mathematical Programming Society, and was sponsored by BETA, CQM, CWI, DONET, The Netherlands Society for OR (NGB), EIDMA, ILOG, IPA, Philips Research Labs, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, the Technology Foundation STW, and Universiteit Utrecht.

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