

Preface

This volume contains the papers selected for presentation at IPCO 2002, the Ninth International Conference on Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization, Cambridge, MA (USA), May 27–29, 2002. The IPCO series of conferences highlights recent developments in theory, computation, and application of integer programming and combinatorial optimization.

IPCO was established in 1988 when the first IPCO program committee was formed. IPCO is held every year in which no International Symposium on Mathematical Programming (ISMP) takes places. The ISMP is triennial, so IPCO conferences are held twice in every three-year period. The eight previous IPCO conferences were held in Waterloo (Canada) 1990, Pittsburgh (USA) 1992, Erice (Italy) 1993, Copenhagen (Denmark) 1995, Vancouver (Canada) 1996, Houston (USA) 1998, Graz (Austria) 1999, and Utrecht (The Netherlands) 2001.

In response to the call for papers for IPCO 2002, the program committee received 110 submissions, a record number for IPCO. The program committee met on January 7 and 8, 2002, in Aussois (France), and selected 33 papers for inclusion in the scientific program of IPCO 2002. The selection was based on originality and quality, and reflects many of the current directions in integer programming and combinatorial optimization research.

Starting with the Copenhagen 1995 meeting, IPCO proceedings have been published by Springer in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series. The volume numbers are LNCS 920 (Copenhagen 1995), LNCS 1084 (Vancouver 1996), LNCS 1412 (Houston 1998), LNCS 1610 (Graz 1999), and LNCS 2081 (Utrecht 2001). We are grateful for the help and support of Alfred Hofmann, Executive Editor at Springer, in publishing the current volume.

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