

## Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 6th International Workshop on Approximation Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization Problems (APPROX 2003) and the 7th International Workshop on Randomization and Approximation Techniques in Computer Science (RANDOM 2003), which took place concurrently at Princeton University during August 24–26, 2003. APPROX focuses on algorithmic and complexity issues surrounding the development of efficient approximate solutions to computationally hard problems, and this was the sixth in the series, after Aalborg (1998), Berkeley (1999), Saarbrücken (2000), Berkeley (2001), and Rome (2002). RANDOM is concerned with applications of randomness to computational and combinatorial problems, and this was the seventh workshop in the series, following Bologna (1997), Barcelona (1998), Berkeley (1999), Geneva (2000), Berkeley (2001), and Harvard (2002).

Topics of interest for APPROX and RANDOM are: design and analysis of randomized algorithms, randomized complexity theory, design and analysis of approximation and online algorithms, complexity of approximation problems, random combinatorial structures, error-correcting codes, pseudorandomness and derandomization, network models and algorithms, average-case analysis, property testing, expander graphs and randomness extractors, random walks, Markov chains, probabilistic proof systems, random projections and embeddings, computational learning, randomness in cryptography, and various applications.

The volume contains 16+17 (APPROX + RANDOM) contributed papers, selected by the two program committees from 40+34 submissions received in response to the call for papers.

We would like to thank all of the authors who submitted papers, the members of the program committees

### **APPROX 2003**

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Klaus Jansen and José D.P. Rolim, Workshop Chairs

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