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## Preface

Three series of lectures were given at the 31st Probability Summer School in Saint-Flour (July 8–25, 2001), by the Professors Catoni, Tavaré and Zeitouni. In order to keep the size of the volume not too large, we have decided to split the publication of these courses into two parts. This volume contains the courses of Professors Tavaré and Zeitouni. The course of Professor Catoni entitled “Statistical Learning Theory and Stochastic Optimization” will be published in the *Lecture Notes in Statistics*. We thank all the authors warmly for their important contribution.

55 participants have attended this school. 22 of them have given a short lecture. The lists of participants and of short lectures are enclosed at the end of the volume.

Finally, we give the numbers of volumes of Springer *Lecture Notes* where previous schools were published.

### *Lecture Notes in Mathematics*

1971: vol 307	1973: vol 390	1974: vol 480	1975: vol 539
1976: vol 598	1977: vol 678	1978: vol 774	1979: vol 876
1980: vol 929	1981: vol 976	1982: vol 1097	1983: vol 1117
1984: vol 1180	1985/86/87: vol 1362	1988: vol 1427	1989: vol 1464
1990: vol 1527	1991: vol 1541	1992: vol 1581	1993: vol 1608
1994: vol 1648	1995: vol 1690	1996: vol 1665	1997: vol 1717
1998: vol 1738	1999: vol 1781	2000: vol 1816	

### *Lecture Notes in Statistics*

1986: vol 50	2003: vol 179
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