

Preface

Following the death of Claude Berge in June 2002, the Equipe Combinatoire, the group founded by Berge in 1975 under the aegis of the C.N.R.S. and in liaison with the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, decided to organise a conference on graph theory in his memory. This meeting, GT04, took place in July 2004. It was the first international conference on graph theory to be held in the Paris region since the memorable meeting in Orsay in 1976, which coincided with Claude's fiftieth birthday. The conference was held in the heart of the Latin Quarter, on one of the campuses of the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, the Couvent des Cordeliers (the former site of a Franciscan convent). Our aim was not only to celebrate the life and achievements of Claude Berge, but also to organise a conference in the line of continuity of the international meetings on graph theory and related topics which had been held successfully in Marseille-Luminy at five-year intervals since 1981.

GT04 brought together many prominent specialists on topics upon which Claude Berge's work has had a major impact, such as perfect graphs and matching theory. The meeting attracted over two hundred graph-theorists, roughly half of whom contributed to the scientific program. Plenary talks were presented by Maria Chudnovsky, Vašek Chvátal, Gérard Cornuéjols, András Frank, Pavol Hell, László Lovász, Jaroslav Nešetřil, Paul Seymour, Carsten Thomassen and Bjarne Toft.

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This volume includes contributions from many of the participants. All papers were refereed, and we are pleased to thank those colleagues who assisted us in this task. A short section of open problems presented during the meeting and edited by Rama Murty concludes the book.

The Editors

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