

# Preface

OR2014, the German Operations Research Society's (GOR) annual international scientific conference was held at RWTH Aachen University on September 2–5, 2014. The conference's general theme was “business analytics and optimization” that reflected the growing importance of data-driven applications and the underlying decision support by operations research (OR) models and methods. This volume contains a selection of extended abstracts of papers presented at OR2014. Each of the 124 submissions was reviewed by two or three editors and we decided to accept 90 of them, solely on the basis of scientific merit. In particular, the GOR Master's thesis and dissertation prize winners summarize their work in this volume. The convenient EasyChair system was used for submission and paper handling.

OR2014 was a truly interdisciplinary conference, as is OR itself, and it reflected also the great interest from the natural sciences. Researchers and practitioners from mathematics, computer science, business and economics, and engineering (in decreasing order of their share) attended. The conference Web site [www.or2014.de](http://www.or2014.de) contains additional materials such as slides and videos of several of the presentations, in particular the talks given by practitioners at the business day.

We would like to thank the many people who made the conference a tremendous success, in particular the program committee, the 35 stream chairs, our 12 invited plenary and semi-plenary speakers, our exhibitors and sponsors, the 60 persons organizing behind the scenes, and, last but not least, the 881 participants from 47 countries. We hope that you enjoyed the conference as much as we did.

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Marco Lübbecke  
Arie Koster  
Peter Letmathe  
Reinhard Madlener  
Britta Peis  
Grit Walther

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Lübbecke, M.; Koster, A.; Letmathe, P.; Madlener, R.;  
Peis, B.; Walther, G. (Eds.)

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