

Preface

This volume contains the regular papers presented at ISCO 2014, the Third International Symposium on Combinatorial Optimization, held in Lisbon during March 5–7, 2014. ISCO 2014 was preceded by the Spring School on “Stochastic Programs with Integer Variables: Theory, Algorithms and Applications” given by Rüdiger Schultz and Jonas Schweiger. ISCO is a new biennial symposium. The first edition was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, in March 2010, and the second in Athens, Greece, in April 2012. The symposium aims to bring together researchers from all the communities related to combinatorial optimization, including algorithms and complexity, mathematical programming, operations research, stochastic optimization, graphs, and combinatorics. It is intended to be a forum for presenting original research on all aspects of combinatorial optimization, ranging from mathematical foundations and theory of algorithms to computational studies and practical applications, and especially their intersections.

In response to the call for papers, ISCO 2014 received 97 regular submissions. Each submission was reviewed by at least two Program Committee (PC) members with the assistance of external reviewers. The submissions were judged on their originality and technical quality and the PC had to discuss in length the reviews and make tough decisions. As a result, the PC selected 37 regular papers to be presented in the symposium giving an acceptance rate of 38 % (64 short papers were also selected from both regular and short submissions). Three eminent invited speakers, Michel Balinski (CNRS and Ecole Polytechnique, Paris), Martin Grötshel (Zuse Institute Berlin), and Matteo Fischetti (Badova University), gave talks at the symposium. The revised versions of the accepted regular papers and extended abstracts of the invited talks are included in this volume.

We would like to thank all the authors who submitted their work to ISCO 2014, and the PC members and external reviewers for their excellent work. We would also like to thank our invited speakers as well as the speakers of the Spring School for their exciting lectures. They all greatly contributed to the quality of the symposium.

Finally, we would like to thank the Organizing Committee members for their dedicated work in preparing this conference, and we gratefully acknowledge our sponsoring institutions for their assistance and support.

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