Preface

The Workshop on *Approximation Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization Problems* **APPROX'98** focuses on algorithmic and complexity aspects arising in the development of efficient approximate solutions to computationally difficult problems. It aims, in particular, at fostering cooperation among algorithmic and complexity researchers in the field. The workshop, to be held at the University of Aalborg, Denmark, on July 18 - 19, 1998, co-locates with ICALP'98. We would like to thank the organizer of ICALP'98, Kim Larsen, for this opportunity. A previous event in Europe on approximate solutions of hard combinatorial problems consisting in a school followed by a workshop was held in Udine (Italy) in 1996.

Topics of interest for APPROX'98 are: design and analysis of approximation algorithms, inapproximability results, on-line problems, randomization techniques, average-case analysis, approximation classes, scheduling problems, routing and flow problems, coloring and partitioning, cuts and connectivity, packing and covering, geometric problems, network design, and various applications. The number of submitted papers to APPROX'98 was 37. Only 14 papers were selected. This volume contains the selected papers plus papers by invited speakers. All papers published in the workshop proceedings were selected by the program committee on the basis of referee reports. Each paper was reviewed by at least three referees who judged the papers for originality, quality, and consistency with the topics of the conference.

We would like to thank all authors who responded to the call for papers and our invited speakers: Magnús M. Halldórsson (Reykjavik), David B. Shmoys (Cornell), and Vijay V. Vazirani (Georgia Tech). Furthermore, we thank the members of the program committee:

- Ed Coffman (Murray Hill),
- Pierluigi Crescenzi (Florence),
- Ulrich Faigle (Enschede),
- Michel X. Goemans (Louvain and Cambridge),
- Peter Gritzmann (München),
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May 1998   Klaus Jansen