

Foreword: selected papers from the Franco-Canadian workshop on combinatorial algorithms

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The 2005 Franco-Canadian Workshop on Combinatorial Algorithms was held at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada) from August 18th to 20th. As the name suggests, the workshop intends to celebrate the long tradition of scientific and cultural connections between Canada and France. The workshop consisted of three days of plenary and contributed talks on combinatorial algorithms (understood in the broadest sense). As reflected by the papers included in this volume, the Franco-Canadian workshop brought to McMaster researchers from around the world.

All participants of the Franco-Canadian workshop were invited to submit a paper for possible inclusion in a special issue of the Journal of Combinatorial Optimization. The submitted papers were refereed according to the rigorous standards of the journal, and six were chosen for inclusion in the special issue. The topics of the selected papers range over applications, algorithms and complexity theory, and mathematical foundations of optimization.

We would like to thank the contributors for their high-quality papers, as well as the referees for their thorough reviewing job. We would also like to offer special thanks to Ding-Zhu Du, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Combinatorial Optimization, for his continuous support. Finally, we are indebted to the financial support of the Fields Institute, MITACS, McMaster's Faculty of Engineering and the Department of Computing and Software.

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