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Editorial

Feature cluster INCOM 2006 Metaheuristics: Transportation and logistics

We are pleased to present a feature cluster dedicated to articles in the domain of Transportation and Logistics submitted after the 12th IFAC INCOM'06 Symposium. The main goal of this symposium was to put together people in Manufacturing Automation, Operational Research and Industrial Engineering so that they can propose new problems and solving solutions. INCOM'06 took place from 17 to 19 May 2006 in Saint-Étienne (France) and was a major scientific and industrial event in the domain of Manufacturing System and Logistics. Indeed, the proceedings took the form of 3 volumes, edited by A. Dolgui, G. Morel and C. Pereira totalizing 2665 pages written by 950 authors, divided into 98 sessions. More than 600 papers were submitted, originating from 57 countries. Only a bit more than half of them were finally retained in the proceedings. Nearly 800 participants attended the symposium, among them, one-third coming from the industry.

The success of this meeting pushed J. Teghem, Editor-in-Chief of EJOR to propose us to prepare a feature cluster dedicated to a track we had co-organized. According to the new EJOR standards, only the top 10 contributions could be accepted for this cluster. So, we started in February 2007 a tight refereeing process of the papers submitted. Before the end of April, more than 150 reports were obtained from referees. We have to warmly thank all the referees who helped us significantly in preparing this feature cluster and insuring its quality. Without them, it would be impossible for us to edit this feature cluster in such a short time while meeting the standards of EJOR which is now among the best journals in Operations Research.

This feature cluster, while containing a limited selection of articles focused on Metaheuristics, Transportation and Logistics, includes various aspects of these domains: Tabu Search, evolutionary algorithms, variable neighbourhood search, parallel implementation, multi-objective optimization, stability analysis, vehicle routing, supply management and integrated logistics. Namely, 10 papers have been selected (in order of submission):

- A memetic algorithm with dynamic population management for an integrated production-distribution problem, by M. Boudia and C. Prins.
- A deterministic tabu search algorithm for the fleet size and mix vehicle routing problem, by J. Brandão.
- A guided tabu search for the vehicle routing problem with two-dimensional loading constraints, by E.E. Zachariadis, C.D. Tarantilis, C.T. Kiranoudis.
- A two-level tabu search for the three-dimensional bin packing problem, by T.G. Crainic, G. Perboli and R. Tadei.
- An evolutionary algorithm for the vehicle routing problem with route balancing, by N. Jozefowiez, F. Semet and G. Talbi.
- Genetic algorithms for a supply management problem: MIP-recombination vs greedy decoder, by P. Borisovsky, A. Dolgui and A. Eremeev.
- Stability evaluation of a railway timetable at station level, by X. Delorme, X. Gandibleux and J. Rodriguez.
- A variable neighborhood search heuristic for periodic routing problems, by V.C. Hemmelmayr, K.F. Doerner and R.F. Hartl.
- A variable neighbourhood search algorithm for the open vehicle routing problem, by K. Fleszar, I.H. Osman and K.S. Hindi.
- A cooperative parallel tabu search algorithm for the quadratic assignment problem, by T. James, C. Rego and F. Glover.

The guest editors want to express their appreciation to the authors for the quality of their contributions, and to the referees for their careful, insightful and timely reviews.

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Finally, the guest editors thank Professor Jacques Teghem, EJOR Editor, for his support and assistance in the preparation of this feature issue.

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