

Evolutionary Computation in Combinatorial Optimization

8th European Conference, EvoCOP 2008, Naples, Italy, March 26-28, 2008, Proceedings

Metaheuristics have been shown to be effective for difficult combinatorial optimization problems appearing in various industrial, economical, and scientific domains. Prominent examples of metaheuristics are evolutionary algorithms, tabu search, simulated annealing, scatter search, memetic algorithms, variable neighborhood search, iterated local search, greedy randomized adaptive search procedures, ant colony optimization and estimation of distribution algorithms. Problems solved successfully include scheduling, timetabling, network design, transportation and distribution, vehicle routing, the travelling salesman problem, packing and cutting, satisfiability and general mixed integer programming. EvoCOP began in 2001 and has been held annually since then. It was the first event specifically dedicated to the application of evolutionary computation and related methods to combinatorial optimization problems. Originally held as a workshop, EvoCOP became a conference in 2004. The event gave researchers an excellent opportunity to present their latest research and to discuss current developments and applications. Following the general trend of hybrid metaheuristics and diminishing boundaries between the different classes of metaheuristics, EvoCOP has broadened its scope over the last years and invited submissions on any kind of metaheuristic for combinatorial optimization.

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53,49 €
49,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9783540786030
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-3-540-78603-0
Verlag: Springer
Erscheinungstermin: 14.03.2008
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2008
Serie: Lecture Notes in Computer Science
Produktform: Kartoniert
Gewicht: 464 g
Seiten: 292
Format (B x H): 155 x 235 mm

