



Handbook of Metaheuristics: 146 (International Series in Operations Research & Management Science)

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The first edition of the Handbook of Metaheuristics was published in 2003 under the editorship of Fred Glover and Gary A. Kochenberger. Given the numerous developments observed in the field of metaheuristics in recent years, it appeared that the time was ripe for a second edition of the Handbook. For different reasons, Fred and Gary were unable to accept Springer's invitation to prepare this second edition and they suggested that we should take over the editorship responsibility of the Handbook. We are deeply honored and grateful for their trust. As stated in the first edition, metaheuristics are "solution methods that orchestrate an interaction between local improvement procedures and higher level strategies to create a process capable of escaping from local optima and performing a robust search of a solution space." Although this broad characterization still holds today, many new and exciting developments and extensions have been observed in the last few years. We think in particular to hybrids, which take advantage of the strengths of each of their individual metaheuristic components to better explore the solution space. Hybrids of metaheuristics with other optimization techniques, like branch-and-bound, mathematical programming or constraint programming are also increasingly popular. On the front of applications, metaheuristics are now used to find high-quality solutions to an ever-growing number of complex, ill-defined real-world problems, in particular combinatorial ones.

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