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Time by Linear Programming -- Robotic Exploration, Brownian Motion and Electrical Resistance -- Fringe analysis of synchronized parallel algorithms on 2–3 trees -- On Balls and Bins with Deletions -- “Balls into Bins” — A Simple and Tight Analysis -- Invited Paper -- Tornado Codes: Practical Erasure Codes Based on Random Irregular Graphs -- Regular Papers -- Using Approximation Hardness to Achieve Dependable Computation -- Complexity of Sequential Pattern Matching Algorithms -- A Random Server Model for Private Information Retrieval -- Almost Optimal (on the average) Combinatorial Algorithms for Boolean Matrix Product Witnesses, Computing the Diameter (Extended Abstract) -- Randomized Lower Bounds for Online Path Coloring -- Parallel Random Search and Tabu Search for the Minimal Consistent Subset Selection Problem -- On Various Cooling Schedules for Simulated Annealing Applied to the Job Shop Problem -- A High Performance Approximate Algorithm for the Steiner Problem in Graphs -- Invited Paper -- Random Geometric Problems on $[0, 1]^2$ -- Regular Papers -- A Role of Constraint in Self-Organization -- Constructive Bounds and Exact Expectations for the Random Assignment Problem -- The “Burnside Process” Converges Slowly -- Quicksort Again Revisited -- Sampling Methods Applied to Dense Instances of Non-Boolean Optimization Problems -- Second-Order Methods for Distributed Approximate Single- and Multicommodity Flow.

Sommario/riassunto

The Workshop on Randomization and Approximation Techniques in Computer Science, Random'98, focuses on algorithmic and complexity aspects arising in the development of efficient randomized solutions to computationally difficult problems. It aims, in particular, at fostering the cooperation among practitioners and theoreticians and among algorithmic and complexity researchers in the field. RANDOM'98, held at the University of Barcelona (UPC), October 8–10, 1998, is the second in the series, after Bologna. This volume contains all contributed papers accepted for presentation at the workshop, together with invited lectures by Josep Diaz (UPC Barcelona), Alan M. Frieze (Carnegie Mellon U.), Michael Luby (ICS Berkeley), and Emo Welzl (ETH Zurich). The contributed papers were selected out of several dozen submissions received in response to the call for papers. All papers published in the workshop proceedings were selected by the program committee on the basis of referee reports. Considerable effort was devoted to the evaluation of the submissions by the program committee and a number of other referees. Extensive feedback was provided to authors as a result, which we hope has proven helpful to them. We would like to thank all of the authors who responded to the call for papers, our invited speakers, the referees, and the members of the program committee: Michael Luby, Chair, ICS Berkeley Andrei Broder, Digital Systems Research Center Bernard Chazelle, Princeton U. Andrea Clementi, U. of Rome Anna Karlin, U. of Washington Richard Karp, U. of Washington Claire Kenyon, U. of Paris Sud Michael Mitzenmacher, Digital Systems Research Center Rajeev Motwani, Stanford U. Prabhakar Raghavan, IBM Maria Serna, UPC Barcelona Alistair Sinclair, U. of California, Berkeley Madhu Sudan, MIT Avi Wigderson, Hebrew U. Peter Winkler, Bell Labs We gratefully acknowledge support from the European Association INTAS, the Comissionat per a Universitats i Recerca (Generalitat de Catalunya), and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. Finally, we would like to thank Helena Martinez, Carme Alvarez, Conrado Martinez, and Jordi Petiti Silvestre for their help in the preparation of the meeting. August 1998 Michael Luby, José D. P. Rolim, Maria J. Serna Contents Invited Paper Disjoint Paths in Expander Graphs via Random Walks: A

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