Preface

This volume contains some of the papers presented at the **Third International Conference on Approximation and Optimization in the Caribbean**, which was held at the Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Mexico, from October 8 - 13, 1995. The contributions include original research papers as well as some survey articles. All of them have been refereed.

One hundred seventy four participants from more than twenty countries presented one hundred two papers in this meeting. The conference is a continuation of a series in the Caribbean area, to be continued at the Universidad Simon Bolivar, Venezuela, in March 1997. The proceedings of the first and second conferences were published in Lectures Notes in Mathematics 1354 (1989) and in Peter Lang Series on Approximation and Optimization, Vol. 8 (1995), respectively.

This conference was jointly organized by the Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, the Universidad de las Americas Puebla, the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, the Sociedad Matematica Mexicana, the Humboldt-University of Berlin, the Technical University of Berlin, the Technical University of Aachen and the Universidad de La Habana. We are grateful to these institutions as well as to the International Mathematical Union (IMU) and to the German Society for the Advancement of Scientific Research (DFG) for co-sponsoring the conference. Thanks to their financial support a considerable number of mathematicians from Europe and Latin America were able to participate.

The organizers are indebted to the various referees who contributed with their work to set up this volume and to Prof. Bernd Wegner for his technical assistance in preparing the tex files for EMIS. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Hilda Morales, Mrs. Jutta Kerger and Mrs. Ramona Klaass for the organizational work in preparing and holding the conference.

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