

Preface

This book is a comprehensive study of the tractability of multivariate problems. We present various existing results obtained by many researchers in the last years, as well as numerous new results. We hope that this book will encourage many people to study tractability and further advance our understanding of tractability. In the course of the book we present a lot of open problems and we would be delighted to see the solution of these problems in the near future.

This book consists of several volumes. The first volume begins with a general introduction to tractability, which is provided by twelve examples of particular multivariate problems, along with a survey of results in information-based complexity that are especially relevant to tractability. The rest of Volume I is devoted to tractability for the case of algorithms using linear information (arbitrary continuous linear functionals). Volumes II and III deal with algorithms using mostly function values. In Volume II we approximate functionals, whereas in Volume III we approximate general operators.

We appreciate valuable comments, suggestions and improvements from our colleagues: Jakob Creutzig, Michael Gnewuch, Dorothee Haroske, Stefan Heinrich, Stephen Joe, Stanisław Kwapień, Thomas Müller-Gronbach, Anargyros Papageorgiou, Friedrich Pillichshammer, Leszek Plaskota, Klaus Ritter, Winfried Sickel, Kris Sikorski, Vasile Sinescu, Joseph Traub, Hans Triebel, Jan Vybíral, Xiaoqun Wang, Greg Wasilkowski, and Art Werschulz.

We are pleased to thank the warm hospitality of the Institute of Mathematics, University of Jena, where the second author spent his sabbatical in 2006–2007 as a recipient of the Humboldt Research Award and where our work on writing the book was started. We also thank our home institutions, University of Jena (for EN), and Columbia University and University of Warsaw (for HW) for allowing us to concentrate on finishing this book project and for supplying excellent research conditions over many years. The second author is pleased to thank the Humboldt Foundation and the National Science Foundation for supporting the work reported here.

Erich Novak
Henryk Woźniakowski