

Preface

This book contains papers presented at the bilateral workshop of British and Lithuanian scientists “Optimal process design” held in Vilnius, Lithuania from 15th to 17th of February, 2006. The workshop was supported by the British Council through the INYS programme.

The workshop was organized by UCL (University College London), UK, and the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Lithuania. The meeting was co-ordinated by Professor A. Žilinskas and Dr J. Žilinskas from the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, and Professors E. S. Fraga and I. D. L. Bogle from UCL.

The British Council International Networking for Young Scientists Programme (INYS) brings together young researchers from the UK and other countries to make new contacts and promote the creative exchange ideas through short conferences. Mobility for young researchers facilitates the extended laboratory in which all researchers now operate: it is a powerful source of new ideas and a strong force for creativity. Through the INYS programme the British Council helps to develop high quality collaborations in science and technology between the UK and other countries and shows the UK as a leading partner for achievement in world science, now and in the future. The INYS programme is unique in that it brings together scientists in any priority research area and helps develop working relationships. It aims to encourage young researchers to be mobile and expand their knowledge. The homepage of the INYS supported workshop “Optimal Process Design” is available at <http://www.mii.lt/inys/>.

The workshop was divided into four sections: General Methodologies in Design, Design Applications, Visualization Methods in Design, and Operations Applications. Twenty two talks were selected from twenty seven submissions from young UK and Lithuanian researchers. Professor

C. A. Floudas from Princeton University, USA, gave an invited lecture. Some review lectures were also given by the other members of the scientific committee.

This book contains review papers and revised contributed papers presented at the workshop. All papers were reviewed by leading scientists in the field. We are very grateful to the reviewers for their recommendations and comments.

We would like to thank the British Council for financial and organizational support.

We hope that this book will serve as valuable reference document for the scientific community and will contribute to the future co-operation between the participants of the workshop.

I. D. L. Bogle
J. Žilinskas