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Preface to the 13th ILAS Conference Proceedings, Amsterdam 2006

This special issue of *Linear Algebra and its Applications* is devoted to selected papers presented at the 13th Conference of the International Linear Algebra Society, which was held July 18–21, 2006 at VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The conference preceded the GAMM-SIAM meeting on Applied Linear Algebra, which was held July 24–27 in Düsseldorf. Together the two conferences made it possible to enjoy “14 days of linear algebra in Europe”. The ILAS conference attracted about 220 registered participants, coming from six continents.

The program was comprised of 14 invited plenary lectures, 7 minisymposia and many contributed talks.

The organizing committee consisted of Harm Bart, Daniel Hershkowitz (ILAS President), Steve Kirkland, Henk van der Vorst, Paul Van Dooren and the four local organizers: Jan Brandts, André Klein, André Ran (chair) and Peter Spreij.

The success of the conference was largely due to generous support of several companies and institutions: The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, the Thomas Stieltjes Institute for Mathematics, the Mathematical Research Institute, the VU University Amsterdam, the University of Amsterdam, Elsevier B.V., Taylor and Francis, The MathWorks, Stichting Advancement of Mathematics and ILAS all supported the conferences. Thanks to this, many participants obtained some form of support, and several special lectures could be given.

The conference reflected to some extent local specializations and interests, while still maintaining the broadness of linear algebra as a whole. The talks covered a wide variety of topics, ranging from graph theory, via operator theory, numerical linear algebra, and statistics all the way to systems and control theory. This shows how wide and lively the area of linear algebra is. This is also reflected in the papers contained in these proceedings, which cover the field of linear algebra and its applications in all its broadness. The editors hope these proceedings will serve as a valuable source of information on the state of the art in linear algebra.

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