

Workshop on  
**Tractable special cases of hard combinatorial optimization  
problems**

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Department of Optimization and Discrete Mathematics  
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**Special structures in polynomially solvable cases: Is there much in common?**

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In our talk we present a survey of polynomially solvable cases of NP-hard problems with an emphasis on common structures in these cases. We concentrate on the cases where specially structured matrices are involved. In most considered cases permuting rows and columns of specially structured matrices destroy the properties needed. We discuss the arising recognition problems and pose quite a few open questions from this exciting area of research.