# A survey for the quadratic assignment 

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Invited Review
A survey for the quadratic assignment problem â~ $\dagger$

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#### Abstract

The quadratic assignment problem (QAP), one of the most difficult problems in the NPhard class, models many real-life problems in several areas such as facilities location, parallel and distributed computing, and combinatorial data analysis. Combinatorial optimization problems, such as the traveling salesman problem, maximal clique and graph partitioning can be formulated as a QAP. In this paper, we present some of the most important QAP formulations and classify them according to their mathematical sources. We also present a discussion on the theoretical resources used to define lower bounds for exact and heuristic algorithms. We then give a detailed discussion of the progress made in both exact and heuristic solution methods, including those formulated according to metaheuristic strategies. Finally, we analyze the contributions brought about by the study of different approaches.


## Keywords

Assignment; Integer programming; Combinatorial optimization; Facilities planning and design; Metaheuristics; Branch and bound

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ã $\dagger$ A preliminary version of this survey, with 278 references, is Loiola et al. (2004).
1 Present address: University of Florida, Gainesville, supported by CNPq, Brazil.

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