Newsletter 11 of EUROPT

The Continuous Optimization Working Group of EURO

http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/

June 2008

EUROPT - The Continuous Optimization Working Group of EURO

Words from the Chair

Dear Members of EUROPT, dear Friends,

It is my happy privilege to address you some salutation words when I assume my responsibilities as new Chair of EUROPT. This is a great honour and, at the same time, a big challenge for me, due to the fact that my predecessors developed an enormous task and leaded brilliantly EUROPT to its wonderful present.

I would like to devote my first gratitude words to Prof. Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, Past-Chair of EUROPT, who has contributed to this success with his almost exclusive dedication, his enthusiasm and efficiency. I also want to thank to all the members of the Managing Board for their unvaluable contribution. In particular to Prof. Kaisa Miettinen, our Vice-Chair, for her care and good taste in preparing our Newsletter, to our dear Past-Past-Chair Prof. Florian Jarre for his leadership, and Prof. Leonidas Salaukas for his very efficient organization of our recent EURO Mini Conference in Neringa. Thank you very much all of you. Our warmest welcome to Domingos Cardoso for joining the MB with so many stimulating projects.

My challenge consists of maintaining this progress line, supporting and participating actively in any future scientific event that may contribute to reach our desired levels of excellence. We have to do our best to attract researchers to our group, offering them a friendly atmosphere, creating synergies, and helping them to attain their professional objectives.

Let me express my cordial welcome to all new members who joined us during the last months. I would like to meet all of you in some of the important events we are organizing or participating in the close future, including OR conferences of national OR Societies, etc.

In 2009 we will have the EURO XXIII 2009 in Bonn, Germany, and before that, we will celebrate our 7th EUROPT Worhshop "Advances in Continuous Optimization" in Remagen, Germany (July 3-4). You are kindly invited to propose a Stream or Session at any of these events. If you accept this invitation, please send an e-mail with your proposal to my address marco.antonio@ua.es (with copy to gweber@metu.edu.tr). In our e-Newsletter you will find complete information about further events. Please do not hesitate in sending your suggestions, proposals, questions, etc. to us. We need your advice and breaking ideas to improve our performance and to achieve the EUROPT goals.

With my best wishes, Your sincerely,

Marco A. Lopez
Chair of EUROPT

Words from the Past Chair

Dear Members of EUROPT,

The vote given by you for the new EUROPT Managing Board made me very glad and grateful! It reflects your and our confidence to the new leadership, and to the stability and continuity of our EURO working group and its development into the future. Indeed, my colleagues, our friends, Professor Lopez-Cerda – dear *Marco* as the new Chair, Professor Miettinen, dear *Kaisa*, as our new Vice Chair, and Professor Duer – dear *Mirjam*, Professor Sakalauskas – dear *Leonidas*, and Professor Cardoso - dear *Domingos*, deserve our confidence: EUROPT is in "very good hands" – of precious scientists and wonderful friends who went a long and good way with us in EUROPT already. Thanks to them for their willingness and readiness to work for our best! But You and We all are needed – to go on preserving and further refining EUROPT as an institution of devotion, premium science, service to our people, friendship and of chances given to the youth!

I wish to sincerely thank Professor Jarre – dear *Florian* – who now leaves the MB, for all his friendship and leadership! Let me send to *You* my cordial thanks for all the confidence and support which you gave to me while I chaired EUROPT. *We* are EUROPT!

With best wishes,
God's blessings to EUROPT, its new MB and to you, Yours cordially,
Willi (Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber), Past Chair of EUROPT

Managing Board of EUROPT for 2008-2010

The members of EUROPT have elected the new Managing Board for the term 2008-2010:

Prof. Marco A. Lopez-Cerda (Chair),
Prof. Kaisa Miettinen (Vice Chair, Chair Elect),
Prof. G.-W. Weber (Past Chair),
Prof. Mirjam Duer,
Prof. Leonidas Sakalauskas and
Prof. Domingos Cardoso.

EUROPT Fellow 2008

By the decision of the Managing Board of EUROPT with its six members together with the two Honorary Coordinators of EUROPT, the EUROPT FELLOW award was established in 2006 to honor and celebrate the most distinguished members of EUROPT who made extraordinary contributions to the field of Continuous Optimization and demonstrated close affiliation with our EURO Working Group: EUROPT.

With a unanimous decision of the Managing Board of EUROPT, with the support of the two Honorary Coordinators, Professor CORNELIS ROOS (Delft University of Technology) has been selected as the EUROPT FELLOW 2008.

Professor Roos is a renowned expert of the area of continuous optimization. He has published more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals, has co-authored four books and edited several books and conference proceedings. He was among the pioneers of Interior Point Methods (IPMs) and made unparalleled contributions to establish this area in Europe and world-wide. Professor Roos' contributions include the best complexity bound for path-following interior point methods for linear and convex optimization, the introduction of the target following paradigm and the development of optimal partition based sensitivity analysis.

Professor Roos is serving on the editorial board of seven journals; he has chaired prize committees and served on managing boards both in SIAM and the MPS. Professor Roos has been organizing several workshops and conferences, among other the first path-breaking workshops on Interior Point Methods in Europe. He has initiated the High Performance Optimization (HPOPT) workshop series that still provides an on-going forum for established and young researchers to exchange ideas and learn about the latest developments on continuous optimization. Professor Roos has made significant contributions to educate the new generation of continuous optimization researchers in Europe. He has supervised more than 100 master students, advised more than 10 highly successful Ph.D. students; many of them are by now professors. They have won several prestigious prices and have authored four books.

Kees Roos is a founding member of EUROPT. He has participated in most of the EUROPT events, has represented the continuous optimization area as a semi-plenary speaker at the EURO XXII conference, and as a distinguished invited speaker at many other conferences.

EUROPT is welcoming Professor Roos as its EUROPT FELLOW for the year 2008.

Modelling, Computation and Optimization in Information Systems and Management Sciences (MCO'08) September 8-10, 2008, Metz, France - Luxembourg
http://lita.sciences.univ-metz.fr/~mco08/

Topics of the conference:

Area 1 : Optimization and Decision Making
Area 2: Data Mining Theory, Systems and Applications
Area 3: Computer Vision and Image Processing
Area 4 : Computer Communications and Networks
Area 5 : Optimization and Search techniques for Security, Reliability, Trust

Early registration**: July 5, 2008**

For further informations, you will find the first announcement and the flyer of the conference at this address:
http://www.lita.univ-metz.fr/~mco08/announcement.php

Workshop on Hyper-heuristics: Automating the Heuristics Design Process September 13, 2008, Dortmund, Germany
http://www.cs.nott.ac.uk/~gxo/hhworkshop.html
In PPSN 2008, 10th International Conference on Parallel Problem Solving from Nature, http://www.ppsn2008.org

WORKSHOP THEME
Hyper-heuristics can be thought of as "heuristics to select/generate/learn heuristics". They are techniques that explore a search space of heuristics. The idea is to automatically devise algorithms by combining the strength and compensating the weakness of heuristics at hand. The approach is motivated by the aim of raising the level of generality at which search systems can operate. The goal is to obtain methods applicable to a wider range of problem domains than is possible today.

This workshop aims to bring together researchers and practitioners involved in hyper-heuristics and related approaches, in order to learn from each other, develop common understandings, and inspire new approaches.

Relevant topics include, but are not limited to:
- Hyper-heuristics:
  + applications and new challenging domains
  + classifications or categorisations of approaches
  + evolution of heuristics (by genetic programming or grammatical evolution)
  + issues in multi-objective, discrete and continuous optimization
  + integration of machine learning techniques (e.g. reinforcement learning, classifier systems, neural networks, and others)
  + new frameworks for better utilisation of local search components
  + scalability issues
  + parallel models

- Related approaches:
  + adaptive and self-tuning algorithms
  + adaptive multi-meme algorithms
  + algorithm portfolios
  + model-based search
  + reactive search

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Extended abstracts are invited from prospective authors, addressing a relevant topic as described above. Manuscripts of three pages without exceeding 1000 words in LNCS style should be submitted in PDF format directly to hhsubmit@cs.nott.ac.uk.

A special issue of the JOURNAL OF HEURISTICS has been arranged for the extended versions of papers accepted at the Workshop. (http://www.springer.com/math/applications/journal/10732)

WORKSHOP FORMAT: We aim for a half-day workshop consisting of individual presentations and an open group discussion. The authors of accepted contributions will be given 10 minutes to present their views. The discussion will also be seeded by the following invited speakers (20 minute talks):
> Prof. Roberto Battiti, University of Trento, Italy
> Prof. Edmund Burke, University of Nottingham, UK
> Prof. Riccardo Poli, University of Essex, UK

IMPORTANT DATES:
 Paper submission deadline: **June 6th, 2008**
 Notification of acceptance: June 30th, 2008

 Workshop Organisers: Gabriela Ochoa   Ender Ozcan
                               http://www.cs.nott.ac.uk/~gxo   http://www.cs.nott.ac.uk/~exo

Call for Papers: QiCP'08: Second International Workshop on Quantification in Constraint Programming "Beyond Existentially Quantified Variables" in conjunction with CP'2008, 14th International Conference on Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming
Sydney, Australia, September 14, 2008
http://www.univ-orleans.fr/lifo/evenements/QiCP2008/

Constraint Programming is a very successful paradigm to express combinatorial problems for which it provides both a representation language and powerful solving techniques. Modeling uncertainty in data and/or the presence of an adversary can be done by introducing universally quantified and/or stochastic variables. They are used to encode possible alternative that have to be all taken into account to provide a robust solution. Possible applications are games, robust scheduling, conformant planning or model checking for the discrete case. For continuous variables, it includes control design, verification of safety and performance conditions of a system in engineering or determination of values of design variables compatible with all values of some uncertain physical data. The aim of this workshop is to collect papers describing novel and ongoing works in the field, and to foster discussions and cross-fertilization between different approaches.

Scope: This workshop is open to all aspects related to quantification in Constraint Programming and SAT. The aim of the workshop is to present ongoing work and to exchange ideas on modeling and solving quantified problems. Topics that may be addressed in papers for consideration for inclusion in this workshop include, but are not limited to:

- Search and propagation algorithm
- Modeling issues with quantified languages
- Complexity results
- Quantified global constraints
- Quantified languages design and compilation
- Strategy extraction and representation
- Over-constrained quantified problems, explanations
- First-order constraints

- Quantification in CHR
- Uncertainty handling
- Stochastic constraint programming
- Implementation issues
- Other types of variables, non-backtrackable variables where domain prunings are not undone on backtracking
- Applications and benchmarks of Quantified Constraints, QBF and Stochastic CSP

Submissions:
The workshop is open to all members of the CP community. Submitted papers can be up to 15 pages in length, describing work on one or more of the topics relevant to the workshop. Alternatively, a shorter paper (maximum 5 pages) can be submitted, presenting a research statement or perspective on topics relevant to the workshop. All submissions will be reviewed and accepted papers will be published in the workshop proceedings. At least one author must attend the workshop. The proceedings will be available electronically on the workshop web page and in hardcopy at CP 2008.

We encourage authors to submit papers electronically in pdf format. Papers should be formatted using the Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) style. All submissions should include the author's name(s), affiliation, complete mailing address, and email address. Workshop papers will be published in workshop notes as well as on the Web.

Please send your submission by email to the workshop organizers, using the subject line "QiCP'2008 submission": enrico@dist.unige.it, arnaud.lallouet@univ-orleans.fr, rueher@essi.fr

Important Dates: Paper submission: **July 11, 2008**
Notification: July 30, 2008
Final version: August 20, 2008

Second Call for Papers: MOPGP08: 8th International Conference on Multiple Objective and Goal Programming
September 24-26, 2008, Portsmouth, United Kingdom
http://www.mopgp.com/mopgp08/mopgp08.htm

The MOPGP series aims to bring together academics and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines whose common interest is the development of theory and state-of-the art practice for decision situations containing multiple objectives. Papers are invited on any topic relating to the theory and application of multiple objective and goal programming. Please send an abstract of no more than 500 words to mopgp08@port.ac.uk. Preferred formats are Word or pdf files. The abstract deadline is **26th June 2008**.

International Workshop on Advances in Shape and Topology Optimization
September 25-27, 2008, Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria,
http://math.uni-graz.at/start-workshop08/

Conference Scope: The workshop aims at bringing together researchers from scientific areas related to shape or topology optimization and their application in science and engineering. Besides theoretical aspects, recent algorithmic developments and, in particular, new application areas are of interest.

Based on a large group of invited speakers with each of them renowned for various contributions to the field, the format of the conference facilitates discussions on recent trends and future directions in shape and topology optimization.

Early registration: **September 7, 2008**

SEMINAR ON MULTIPLE CRITERIA DECISION AID
October 1, 2008 Chania (Crete), Greece
http://www.dpem.tuc.gr/fel/seminar

Multiple criteria decision aid (MCDA) has grown rapidly within the fields of operations research and management science (OR/MS), towards becoming a multidisciplinary discipline involved with the formulation, modelling and analysis of decision-making problems in the context of multiple (conflicting) criteria, goals and objectives. The success, popularity and future development of MCDA is supported by the numerous real world problems, which require the simultaneous consideration of multiple decision criteria.

This one-day seminar will provide an introduction to the main principles and practice of MCDA, together with the presentation of an arsenal of methodologies which are widely used for multicriteria decision making, aiding and support. Starting with the basics of MCDA and preference modelling, the course will also cover several criteria aggregation models (e.g., value function techniques, outranking methods, rule-based models), model development approaches under the preference disaggregation paradigm as well as new extensions such as the rough sets theory. Real-world applications and case studies will also be discussed. All lectures will be given by eminent scholars working on MCDA.

The seminar provides a unique opportunity to the participants to get a sound and vigorous presentation and analysis of multiple criteria decision support and the existing techniques in this field. The participants will also have the opportunity to communicate with experts on MCDA, which will help them to gain additional understanding and to ensure an up-to-date view of MCDA, as well as to get practical and research guidance.

Who should attend: This seminar is designed for new researchers and students working on operations research, management science and decision analysis, who wish to increase their understanding of the MCDA field and the existing techniques, as well as for professionals working on similar fields.

Course contents and schedule
The seminar will cover a wide range of MCDA techniques, as well as real world application and case studies in the multicriteria decision making, aiding and support. Among other, the lectures will cover topics like preference modelling, aggregation-disaggregation approaches, outranking methods, rough set approach to MCDA, MCDA applications, etc).

Fee and registration
The registration fees are 100 euros (for regular registration) or 50 euros (for students). These fees include handout material, coffee, refreshments and lunch during the breaks, as well a certification of attendance.

Contact Details: Assistant Professor E. Grigoroudis, Technical University of Crete
Dept. of Production Engineering and Management University Campus, 73100 Chania, Greece
E-mail: seminar_mcda@ergasya.tuc.gr, Tel.: +30-28210-37346, Fax: +30-28210-69410

International Conference in Nonlinear Analysis and Optimization Problems
Petrovac, Montenegro, October 6-10, 2008

Fees: Registration fee (includes accommodation, three meals, participation at the Workshop, coffee breaks, all local costs): 390 EURO.

Deadlines: First deadline: **May, 31st**
Second deadline: **July 15th**

Contacts: You are encouraged to send short abstract and the title of your presentation to opn@cg.ac.yu with "Workshop - Petrovac" as a subject. Please, contact the same address if you have any questions.

CALL FOR PAPERS: 2008 International Multiconference on Computer Science and Information Technology
October 20-22, 2008, Hotel Golebiewski, Wisla, Poland
http://www.imcsit.org

The 2008 International Multiconference on Computer Science and Information Technology will consist of the following conferences:

- Workshop on Agent Based Computing (ABC V) http://www.abc.imcsit.org
- 3rd International Symposium Advances in Artificial Intelligence and Applications (AAIA'08) http://www.aaia.imcsit.org
- Computer Aspects of Numerical Algorithms (CANA'08) http://www.cana.imcsit.org

- Computer Linguistics - Applications (CLA'08) http://www.cla.imcsit.org
- 8th International Multidisciplinary Conference on e-Commerce and e-Government (ECOM&EGOV-08) http://www.ecom-egow.imcsit.org
- 4th Workshop on Large Scale Computations on Grids (LaSCoG'08) http://www.lascog.imcsit.org
- International Conference on Principles of Information Technology and Applications (PITA'08) http://www.pita.imcsit.org
- First International Symposium on Multimedia - Applications and Processing (MMAP'08) http://www.mmap.imcsit.org
- 3rd International Workshop on Secure Information Systems (SIS'08) http://www.sis.imcsit.org
- International Workshop on Real Time Software (RTSCS'08) http://www.rts.imcsit.org
- Workshop on Wireless and Unstructured Networking: Taming the Stray (WAHOC'08) http://www.wahoc.imcsit.org
- Workshop on Computational Optimization (WCO'08) http://www.wco.imcsit.org
- Workshop IT Research and Development in Poland http://www.rd.imcsit.org

The 2008 AAIA Symposium is dedicated to the memory of professor Ryszard S. Michalski http://www.mli.gmu.edu/michalski

Furthermore, the AAIA Symposium award two "Professor Zdzislaw Pawlak Best Paper Awards" for contributions which are outstanding in their scientific quality. The two award categories are:

- Best Student Paper - for graduate or PhD students. Papers qualifying for this award must be marked as "Student full paper" to be eligible for consideration.
- Best Paper Award - for the authors of the best paper appearing at the Symposium.

In addition to a certificate, each award carries a prize of 300 € provided by the Mazowsze Chapter of the Polish Information Processing Society (http://www.pti.org.pl/om/)

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE: English is the sole language for paper submission and presentation.

PAPER PUBLICATION: Proceedings of the 2008 IMCSIT will be published on a CD (ISSN 1896-7094). Each conference will then publish extended versions of selected papers in Special Issues of Journals and/or as Edited Volumes -for more details see sites of each event.

PAPER SUBMISSION: Authors should submit draft papers (as Postscript, PDF of MS Word file, OpenDocument Text). The total length of a paper should not exceed 10 pages (LNCS style). LNCS style templates are available at the conference WWW site. Papers will be refereed and accepted on the basis of their scientific merit and relevance to the specific conference. Conference organizers reserve the right to move submissions between Conferences

IMPORTANT DEADLINES
* Paper submission: **June 15, 2008**
* Notification of acceptance/rejection: July 14, 2008
* Camera-ready paper due: September 1, 2008
* Conference: October 20-22, 2008

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Maria Ganzha (Chair), EUH-E, Elblag and IBS PAN, Warsaw Marcin Paprzycki, IBS PAN and WSM, Warsaw Tomasz Pelech, AGH University of Science and Technology, Krakow

CONTACT: In case of questions, please send an e-mail to: contact@imcsit.org

Second Call for Papers: NICSO 2008
International Workshop on Nature Inspired
Cooperative Strategies for Optimization
Puerto Palace Hotel, Puerto de La Cruz, Tenerife
12-14 November, 2008
http://www.gci.org.es/nicso2008

Pre-registration available:　　　　nicso2008@gci.org.es

NICSO 2008 is the third edition of the International Workshop on Nature Inspired Cooperative Strategies for Optimization. Its aims are
- (1) to foster a deeper understanding of "cooperativity" in computational optimisation systems, and
- (2) to encourage a vigorous exchange of ideas about emerging research areas in cooperative problem solving strategies.

The accepted papers will be published in the Springer book series on Studies in Computational Intelligence.
The authors of the best accepted papers will be invited to revise and expand their contributions for publication in a special issue in the Memetic Computing Journal (Springer) shortly after the event.
IMPORTANT DATES:
Deadline for Submission: **September, 1**
Notification of Acceptance: September, 30
Deadline for Camera-ready: October, 20

All submissions (only pdf file) must be sent at nicso2008@gci.org.es. The length of each contribution will not exceed 12 pages.

Produce a camera ready copy using NICSO2008 latex style found at http://www.gci.org.es/nicso2008.

Each contribution must providing original results, insights and experimental innovations. All submitted papers will be blind reviewed and acceptance will be based on originality, significance, technical soundness and clarity.

WORKSHOP-CHAIR:
. Jose Andres Moreno Perez, University of La Laguna

TOPICS OF INTEREST (but not limited to them):
. Adaptive Behaviour
. Ants Colonies
. Amorphous Computing
. Artificial Life
. Artificial Immune Systems
. Coevolution
. Distributed Computing
. Evolutionary Robotics

. Evolvable Systems
. Genetic Algorithms
. Genetic Programming
. Membrane Computing
. Quantum Computing
. Software Self Assembly
. Swarm Intelligence

Cooperative Strategies for:
. Numerical Optimization
. Combinatorial Optimization
. Non Linear Optimization
. Dynamic Optimization
. Noisy Optimization

. Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
. Game Theory
. Complex Systems
. Optimal Adaptable Control

SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS in pdf format at:
http://www.gci.org.es/NICSO2008/documentos/NICSO2008_2ndCFP.pdf

Conference on Optimization and Practices in Industry (COPI'08)
November 26-28, 2008, Paris, France
http://www.copiconf.org/

This conference is devoted to optimization techniques applied to economic problems that occur over a wide panel of industries (energy, banking, transportation and network management). The purpose is to bring together Academics and Industrials to share different experiences and discuss future trends related to this area. Both theoretical and practical issues will be considered.

Call for Papers: The Veszprém Optimization Conference: Advanced Algorithms (VOCAL-2008), December 15-17, 2008, Veszprém, Hungary, http://www.dcs.vein.hu/vocal/

The Veszprém Optimization Conference: Advanced Algorithms will be held at the Regional Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Veszprém (VEAB http://www.veab.mta.hu/vrchas.html, Hungary, December 15-17, 2007. The conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Information Technology, Pannon University.

SCOPE: The VOCAL conference focuses on recent advances on optimization algorithms: continues and discrete; complexity and convergence properties, high performance optimization software and novel applications are reviewed as well. We aim to bring together researchers from both the theoretical and applied communities in the framework of a medium-scale event.

INVITED TALKS: Distinguished researchers will give featured invited talks on topics of wide interest. Confirmed invited speakers include:
Rainer E. Burkard, Technical University Graz, **Christodoulos A. Floudas**, Princeton University, **Monique Laurent**, CWI Amsterdam, **Katya Scheinberg**, T.J. Watson, Research Center, IBM, **Fabio Schoen**, University, of Florence, **Philippe Toint**, University of Namur and **Ya-xian Yuan,** Chinese Academy of Sciences

CONTRIBUTED TALKS: Each accepted paper will be allotted a 25 minutes talk. Authors wishing to speak should submit an abstract via the conference WEB page by **September 30, 2008.**

Deadline for abstract submission: **September 30, 2008**.
Notification of acceptance / Program available October 30 2008.
Deadline for early registration: October 30, 2008.
Conference begins on December 15 at 7:30 a.m. and ends December 17 at 6:00 p.m., 2008.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee: Tamas Terlaky, terlaky@mcmaster.ca (Chair, McMaster University)
Please send enquiries to: Botond Bertok bertok@dcs.vein.hu

Call for Papers: VI ALIO/EURO Workshop on Applied Combinatorial Optimization, December 15-17, 2008, Buenos Aires, Argentina
http://alioeuro2008.dc.uba.ar/

The VI ALIO/EURO Workshop on Applied Combinatorial Optimization will be held from December 15th to the 17th of 2008 at the campus of the Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Abstract Submission: Authors are invited to submit an extended abstract no longer than 6 pages on A4-size paper using 12-point font. Instructions for electronic submissions are posted at the conference web page http://alioeuro2008.dc.uba.ar/.

Extended abstract submission begins on June 1st and ends on **July 31st**.
August 30th authors will be notified whether or not their paper has been accepted.

The Association of Latin-Iberoamerican Operational Research Societies (ALIO) and the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO), both within the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS), organize their joint sixth conference devoted to Combinatorial Optimization. The main purpose of the ALIO/EURO Workshops of Combinatorial Optimization is to bring together Latin American and European researchers and to stimulate activities and discussions about methods and applications in the field of combinatorial optimization. Researchers from other countries are obviously welcome to participate.

Main topics in this conference will be:
Approximation algorithms, Bio-informatics, Complexity, Graph Theory, Game Theory, Integer Programming Logistics, Metaheuristics, Mathematical Programming, Networks

Publication: A selection of full papers will be published in a special issue of the Journal International Transactions in Operational Research (edited by Celso Ribeiro), published on behalf of IFORS (The International Federation of Operational Research Societies), Blackwell Publishing.
Confirmed plenary talks: The following invited speakers have been confirmed so far:
Egon Balas (Carnegie Mellon University, USA) Laureano Escudero (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos) Michel Gendreau (Université de Montréal) Martine Labbé (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) Celso Ribeiro (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil) Jayme Szwarcfiter (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) Paolo Toth (University of Bologna, Italy) Gustavo Vulcano (New York University, U.S.A.) Andrés Weintraub (University of Chile, Chile)

Important Dates:
June 1st, 2008: Opening of paper submission
July 31st,2008: Abstract submission deadline
August 30th,2008: Notification of paper acceptance

CONFERENCE CHAIRS: Isabel Méndez-Díaz (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina) Graciela Nasini (Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina) Paula Zabala (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)

For further information please contact alioeuro2008@dc.uba.ar

Computer Methods in Materials Technology, KomPlasTech 2009
January 11-14, 2009, Krynica-Zdrój, Poland
http://www.komplastech.agh.edu.pl

Deadline for abstract submission is **June 30, 2008**.

Call for Papers: Eleventh International Conference on Optimum Design of Structures and Materials in Engineering, OPTI 2009
8 - 10 June 2009, Algarve, Portugal
http://www2.wessex.ac.uk/09-conferences/opti-2009.html

Conference Topics:
- Optimisation and manufacturing
- Structural optimisation
- Optimisation in biomechanics
- Shape and topology optimisation
- Industrial examples of design optimisation
- Fluid structure interaction
- Damage and fracture mechanics studies
- Composite materials and structures
- Material optimisation

- Aerospace structures
- Applications in mechanical and car engineering
- New algorithms
- Optimisation and earthquakes
- Optimisation under extreme forces
- Optimisation in aerodynamics
- Life cost optimisation
- Reliability based optimisation

You can submit an abstract via the conference website or directly by sending an email to: rcreasey@wessex.ac.uk

CORS-INFORMS International
June 14-17, 2009, Toronto, Canada
http://meetings.informs.org/Toronto09/

2nd International Conference on Numerical Methods in Tunnelling, EuroTun2009
9-11 September, 2009, Bochum, Germany
http://www.eurotun.rub.de

Student Paper Award: George Nicholson Student Paper Competition

The George Nicholson Committee competition is held each year to identify and honor outstanding papers in the field of operations research and the management sciences written by a student.

The following conditions must be satisfied for eligibility:

- The entrant must have been a student on or after January 1, 2008;
- The paper must present original research results;
- The research must have been conducted while the entrant was a student;
- The paper must be written by the entrant with only minor outside assistance (whether this includes editorial or other assistance in terms of the conducted the research);
- An entrant can be a (co-)author in at most one paper submitted to the competition;
- The paper must not have won a prize (1st-2nd) in a previous Nicholson Competition.

One or more advisors may appear as co-authors of a paper, but the student must be the "first author." In particular, the advisor (or nominator) must explicitly comment upon and specify in a letter what is the percentage of contribution of the student:

  a) in defining the problem and initiating the research that resulted in the paper;
  b) in conducting the research itself that resulted in the paper;
  c) in writing the paper.

Prizes will be awarded and finalists will be invited to present their papers at the INFORMS Annual Meeting.

Paper Format: The paper must use double spacing, 11 pt (or larger) font, and 1 inch (or larger) margins (left, right, top, and bottom). The entire paper (including bibliography, appendices, figures, etc.) must not exceed 25 pages and, except for those containing references, each page should contain no more than 35 lines of text.

Submission Requirements: All student entrants must first register through: http://sloanspace.mit.edu/

With login/Email: Nicholson@paper.comp and the password: papercomp

Once registered, entrants will receive all access information necessary to submit a complete entry, consisting of:

  1) an electronic pdf file of one self-contained paper in the specified format (papers not satisfying the format will not be accepted);
  2) a letter signed by both a faculty advisor and the entrant attesting that the six eligibility conditions have been satisfied by the entrant and the paper. Note that the faculty advisor needs to explicitly comment on the three dimensions (regarding the student contribution) listed above;
  3) an e-mail address and telephone number at which the entrant can be contacted.

All entries must be delivered to and accepted by the Committee Chair no later than **June 30, 2008**. Applicants are strongly advised to check the INFORMS website for submission information.

2008 Committee Chair: Dr. Georgia Perakis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management, 50 Memorial Drive, Room E53-359, Cambridge, MA 02142-1347 USA
voice: +1 617 253-8277, fax: +1 617 258-7579, email: georgiap@mit.edu

Student Paper Award: 2008 INFORMS Computing Society Student Paper Award
http://computing.society.informs.org/prizeStudent.php

The INFORMS Computing Society (ICS) Student Paper Award is given annually to the best paper on computing and operations research by a student author, as judged by a panel of the ICS. The award is sponsored by the Mica Foundation of Denmark and is accompanied by a plaque and a $500 honorarium. The winner will be invited to briefly present his or her paper in an ICS-sponsored session at the INFORMS Annual Meeting held in the fall, and the award will be presented at the ICS Business Meeting. The winner will also receive free registration to the next ICS Conference. The judging Panel may name Honorable Mentions, if deemed deserving. All students working on topics relating to the interface of OR and computing are encouraged to submit a paper.

Conditions for eligibility:
1. the entrant must have been a student on or after January 1, 2008;
2. the paper must present original research results;
3. the research must have been conducted while the entrant was a student;
4. the paper must be written by the entrant with only minor outside editorial assistance (one or more advisors may appear as co-authors of a paper, but the student must be the 'first author');
5. the entrant can be a (co-)author in at most one paper submitted to the competition;
6. the paper must not have won a previous ICS Student Award;
7. the entrant must be an ICS member in the year the submission is made. Note that ICS student membership costs just $1.

Application Process: The paper should be 30 pages or less (1 inch margins, double spaced, and 12 point font) and in the standard format of the INFORMS Journal on Computing. Entrants must submit to the Committee Chair in the year of the award:

1. an electronic copy (a Postscript or Pdf file) of one paper to be received no later than June 30 at midnight (EDT);
2. an email address and phone number where the entrant can be contacted in the event they are selected as a finalist;
3. a letter signed by both faculty advisor and the entrant attesting that the seven eligibility conditions are met.

The ICS exists to support research and practice activity on the interface of operations research and computer science. The congenial and active organization of over 500 members welcomes student members and their involvement in all aspects of the organization.

Contact Information: David Morton, Graduate Program in Operations Research, 1 University Station, C2200, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712-0292 (USA), Phone: 512-471-4104, Fax: 512-471-8727 email: icsStudentAward@mail.informs.org

2008 ICS Student Paper Award Committee:
   * David Morton, Chair (The University of Texas at Austin)
   * Alper Atamturk (University of California, Berkeley)
   * Nick Sahinidis (Carnegie Mellon University)

Award: WORMS Award for the Advancement of Women in OR/MS, An award of the Women in ORMS Forum
http://worms.forum.informs.org/

The Award for the Advancement of Women in OR/MS celebrates and recognizes a person who has contributed significantly to the advancement and recognition of women in the field of Operations Research and the Management Sciences (OR/MS). Each nominee will be considered based on his or her history of successfully promoting the professional development, success, and recognition of women in OR/MS. Nominees can have made contributions in multiple ways, such as primarily at their own institutions, through involvement in professional organizations, etc.

Examples of activities to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following: personal commitment and/or leadership with respect to increased hiring, retention, advancement, and recognition of women (students and faculty) in academia, industry, or government; leadership in encouraging, sponsoring, and/or developing professional training/development programs for women in OR/MS; creating an environment that supports women's full participation and advancement in the field of OR/MS, possibly through mentoring, leadership, financial support, and/or personal investment of time.

Nominations should include:

- Nominee's name, affiliation, address, telephone, fax, e-mail;
- A short (250-500 words) description of the nominee's overall contribution to the advancement of the careers of women in OR/MS;
- Description(s) of specific activities, programs, leadership;
- Statements of support from women in OR/MS and/or from organizations which observed or benefited from the nominee's activities;
- The nominee's résumé and other items as appropriate.

All nominations must be submitted via e-mail to the Award Committee Chair by **July 21, 2008**. One award (in the form of a plaque) will be given, if there is a suitable candidate. The award will be presented to the winner during the 2008 INFORMS National Meeting in Washington, D.C. For questions, please contact the Award Committee Chair: Grace Lin, Innovation and Emerging Solutions, IBM Global Business Services, 9 Garey Drive, Chappaqua, NY 10514 U.S.A., voice: (914) 648-8899, e-mail: gracelin@us.ibm.com

Position: UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE NUEVO LEON, Graduate Program in Systems Engineering Tenure-Track Faculty Position

The Graduate Program in Systems Engineering at Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (UANL) is seeking candidates for one or more tenure-track faculty positions. The program (http://yalma.fime.uanl.mx/~pisis) offers MSc and PhD degrees in systems engineering with area of concentration in operations research.

The applicants must have a PhD in operations research, management science, industrial/systems engineering, applied probability, computer science, or a related area. The search is open to all areas of specialization. Preference will be given to candidates with a strong background in one or more of the following research areas: heuristic/metaheuristic search, stochastic modeling (queueing, simulation, applied probability), supply chain management, revenue management, large-scale system optimization, or stochastic optimization; or the following application areas: natural resources (electricity, natural gas, oil, water systems), logistics and transportation, service industry, or manufacturing systems.

Although fluency in Spanish is preferred, English is an accepted alternate choice. Successful applicants may start the appointment on January 2009 or on a later date t o be agreed upon.

Duties include mainly teaching one course per semester at the graduate level, thesis supervision of graduate students, and high-quality research. The program offers a wide opportunity for research, industrial R+D or consulting activities. The salary and benefits package is very attractive for Mexican standards.

UANL (http://www.uanl.mx) is located in San Nicolas de los Garza, in the metropolitan area of Monterrey, the third largest city in Mexico, with a population of over 3 million, a high concentration of artistic, cultural, and sporting events, a growing industry in many of its facets, and a two-hour drive from the border with Texas.

Applicants should submit: (1) a cover letter describing professional achievements and previous research work, and your expected contribution to the program; (2) full CV highlighting professional experience, research interests, publication record, computer skills, and degree of fluency in Spanish; and (3) three letters of recommendation (Spanish or English); addressed to PISIS Academic Coordinator, at the address below. It is strongly encouraged one of these letters comes from the PhD thesis supervisor. Electronic submission of items (1) and (2) is encouraged.

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the positions are filled.   For further information, contact: Recruiting Committee, UANL, Grad Program in Systems Eng, 5945   AP 126-F, Cd. Universitaria, San Nicolas de los Garza, NL, MEXICO 66450
   Off:+52(81)8329-4020, Fax:+52(81)1052-3321, jobs@yalma.fime.uanl.mx, http://yalma.fime.uanl.mx/~pisis/

Two Positions: The Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, University of Heidelberg

invites applications for a

   Professorship (W3) in Applied Mathematics

Applicants should have an eminent research record in "Mathematical Stochastics" with emphasis on "Stochastical Analysis" in scientific applications.

   Professorship (W3) in Mathematics (Differential Geometry)

Both professor positions are positioned within the Excellence Programme at the University of Heidelberg, MAThematics Center Heidelberg (MATCH, http://www.match.uniheidelberg.de/), and are expected to strengthen the research profile and the potential of raising third-party funding.

Adequate participation is expected in the teaching of undergraduate and graduate courses in Mathematics. In general, German is the language of instruction. The University of Heidelberg intends to increase the number of women in teaching and research; women are therefore explicitly encouraged to apply. Handicapped persons with the same qualifications will be given preference.

Applications (hardcopy and electronic) with the usual documents (curriculum vitae, description of scientific interests, list of publications (no reprints), record of teaching activities, third-party funding) should be submitted until **June 27, 2008**

to: Dekan der Fakultaet fuer Mathematik und Informatik, Universitaet Heidelberg,
Im Neuenheimer Feld 288, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany

Position: Assistant Professor in Operations Research

Tenure track, 38 hours a week

The Department of Quantitative Economics (www.fdewb.unimaas.nl/ke) at Maastricht University, The Netherlands is looking for an Assistant Professor in Operations Research.

The department consists of 3 research groups, namely Mathematical Economics & Game Theory, Econometrics, and Operations Research. The Operations Research group has currently 6 faculty members and around 6 PhD students. Our working language is English. We are strongly research oriented. The main research areas are combinatorial optimization, algorithmic mechanism design, and operations / supply chain management. In these fields we do both fundamental and applied research. The department is part of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (www.unimaas.nl/feba), which is a highly international school in economics and business with AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA accreditation.

Tasks: Contribute to research of the department and teaching in operations research and operations management for undergraduate and graduate students in econometrics and OR, economics and international business.
Requirements: PhD degree in Operations Research, mathematics, computer science or related fields, (completed before January 1st 2009), strong research orientation, willingness to work in teams. Professorial potential to work in the department fields of expertise.

We offer: Employment basis: tenure track. Salary: competitive, depending on qualifications and work experience. Estimated maximum salary per month is EUR 4190, in accordance with scale 11. You receive an 8% holiday allowance. Non-Dutch applicants could be eligible for a tax treatment (30% rule).
Applications: should be sent to recruitmentAEA@efb.unimaas.nl or to s.vanhoesel@ke.unimaas.nl, before **July 31, 2008**.

Information: Prof. dr. Ir. Stan van Hoesel, tel.: ++ 31 43 388 3727, e-mail: s.vanhoesel@ke.unimaas.nl,
Prof. dr. Rudolf Muller, tel.: ++ 31 43 388 3799, e-mail: r.muller@ke.unimaas.nl,
Prof. dr. Joris van de Klundert, tel.: ++ 31 43 388 3281, e-mail: jj.vandeklundert@ke.unimaas.nl

Two Positions:
Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Business Information Systems and Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Project and Risk Management

Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Business Information Systems, Description:

Applications are invited for a Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Business Information Systems. The successful candidate will join an established group of systems professionals who lead the business information systems provision within the Business School. The group makes contributions to a range of BIS units and courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and is involved in the supervision of a number of doctoral students. Core areas in the group include Information Strategy, Strategic Information Systems, Information Systems Development, eBusiness and eCommerce, Systems Theory, Web Development, Business Intelligence, Systems Management, Project Management for IS, and Knowledge Management.

Members of the group contribute to wider academic activities including course leadership, personal tutorship and teaching and learning development activities. Research is an important element to the group's activities and members make contributions to conferences, journals and other publications. Knowledge Transfer and other consultancy activities are a growing element of the group's work. Early career IS professional would particularly be encouraged to apply for this post. Please state the grade of post for which you are applying.

Download application from: http://www.port.ac.uk/vacancies/academic/vacancytitle,78359,en.html

Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Project and Risk Management, Description:

Applications are invited for a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Project and Risk Management at Portsmouth Business School. The post might appeal to an existing academic in a Project and Risk Management related subject or an experienced professional who wishes to move into teaching/research. Teaching will be mainly on our postgraduate programmes including the MSc Project Management and MSc Risk Management, but may also involve some undergraduate teaching.

Applications from candidates with recent professional experience and/or who are able to teach two or more of the following will be especially welcome:- Project Management, Project Systems and Methods, Risk Management, Organisational Risk and Environmental Risk.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate potential or achievement in research and knowledge transfer, have good communication skills, be self-motivated and have the ability to work in a team. Please state the grade of post for which you are applying.

Download application from: http://www.port.ac.uk/vacancies/academic/vacancytitle,78360,en.html

Open position: A PhD student position for 3 years

PROJECT TITLE: Robust optimization: theory and applications
FUND: Swiss National Science Foundation Project
DEADLINE: **10th August** 2008 (the position may be filled prior to this date if a suitable candidate is identified)
STARTING: 1st November 2008

The Istituto Dalle Molle di Studi sull'Intelligenza Artificiale (IDSIA, www.idsia.ch) invites applications for a PhD student position at University of Lugano, Faculty of Informatics (http://www.inf.unisi.ch/education/phd/).

We are looking for an outstanding Ph.D. student with excellent mathematical as well as computer programming skills. In order to be admitted, the applicant must have completed a Master degree in computer science, informatics, or a closely related field prior to joining the program. We are particularly interested in a candidate with a strong know-how in the following areas:
* Optimization on networks
* Optimization under uncertainty (robust optimization)
* Exact methods based on mathematical programming
* Metaheuristic algorithms (tabu search, simulated annealing, ant colony optimization, etc.)

The position is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The initial appointment will be for 3 years, with possible extensions. The salary is for the first year 38,400 CHF (Swiss Francs), for the second year 41,400 CHF and for the third year 44,400 CHF, low taxes. No teaching activity is required. Travel funding is guaranteed in case of papers accepted at conferences. The official language at IDSIA is English. The position is suitable for students no older than 35 years. We guarantee that the selection process, based solely on the research records, will give equal opportunities to female and male researchers.

Applicants should submit:
(i) Detailed curriculum vitae
(ii) Letter of presentation and motivation
(iii) List of three references and their email addresses
Please send all documents to via email to roberto@idsia.ch.

Reference persons: Dr. Roberto Montemanni, IDSIA, Istituto Dalle Molle di Studi sull'intelligenza Artificiale, Galleria 2, CH-6928 Manno (Lugano), Switzerland. Phone: +41 58 666 666 7 Email: roberto@idsia.ch, URL: www.idsia.ch/~roberto
Prof. Luca Maria Gambardella, IDSIA, Istituto Dalle Molle di Studi sull'intelligenza Artificiale, Galleria 2, CH-6928 Manno (Lugano), Switzerland. URL: www.idsia.ch/~luca

Awards: EURO Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize (MSSIP 2010) on the topic of Optimization in Telecommunications

The MSSIP Prize is awarded for an outstanding innovative contribution to Management Science/OR each year when a EURO Conference takes place. This time the subject is **Optimization in Telecommunications** and the prize will be awarded at the EURO 2010 Conference taking place in Lisbon (Portugal). The submitted work should consist of a recent paper in which a theoretical result or a practical implementation is explained. The prize is sponsored by SAP AG (12000 Euro). Submissions in electronic form should be sent before 1 January 2010 to the Jury Chair, Eric Gourdin: eric.gourdin@orange-ftgroup.com

Call for Applications

The prize is intended to recognize the role of Operational Research/Management Science in the context of **modern telecommunications**.

The world of telecommunications has changed drastically over the last decade. These changes have been caused by several factors. On the one hand, technological evolutions allow to increase constantly the bandwidth offered to the communications and to access to network services always more easily from many different places. On the other hand, the telecommunication market has become more open and many actors can pretend to play an important role in the telecommunication business. Finally, the telecommunication industry has also been driven by the new needs of the populations and the companies wishing to exchange always more information in a wide variety of situations.

To provide efficient new services, the various actors involved in the telecommunication business are putting a lot of energy to design and deploy quickly complex network architectures combining many different technologies and sometimes based on existing networking infrastructures. Many difficult decisions have to be taken on various time scales to produce and maintain a comprehensive layer of telecommunications technologies able to address uncertain demand scenarios, to offer connectivity and bandwidth requirements, or more generally some Quality of Service (QoS), and to resist to a set of most likely failure scenarios. End-users wish to remain connected, to be uniquely and safely identified and to access their own private content, wherever they are, in several places or even when they move from one place to another. Radio networks and wireless equipments must also be deployed to allow everyone to access to network facilities in the best possible conditions. Rich multimedia contents (TV, video on demand, video streaming,…) will be more and more accessed through the alternative media provided by telecommunication networks causing huge amounts of data to travel in the networks and causing potential congestions.

Operational Research and Management Science is clearly a key feature that can make quite a difference in designing and managing efficiently all these networks. However, the underlying optimization problems are, most of the time, very difficult and the size of the real instances is often huge. The research has always been very active in the field of telecommunication network optimization. For all the above-mentioned reasons, the field has regained a lot of interest recently and many new or different challenging optimization problems have emerged and have been more or less successfully investigated. However, there are still many difficult questions to address and the scientific community will surely contribute to find better answers.

This prize is intended for some major contribution on a recent telecommunication problem. The submission should be a single or jointly authored unpublished paper describing either a successful application of known OR/MS methodologies to a real problem in the broadly defined area of **Optimization in Telecommunications** or novel methodologies that have been developed in order to solve relevant problems in this area. **Innovative and strategically relevant approaches and results will be privileged given the nature of the prize.**

The paper is to be submitted in electronic form to the chair of the jury, no later than **January 1, 2010**.

Eric Gourdin.
Senior Expert in Network Optimization, France Telecom, Orange Labs R&D, eric.gourdin@orange-ftgroup.com

Some Words from the Newsletter Editor

Dear readers,

Now that our EUROPT Working Group has elected a new managing board, it is time for me to step down as a newsletter editor and leave the future newsletters in the hands of a new team chaired by Professor Domingos Cardoso. I hope you will send information about future events etc. to him. Sincere thanks for the past two years of collaboration. In particular, I wish to thank Willi Weber for all his valuable contribution and devotion to our working group!

I would like to point out that the annual report of EUROPT for 2007-2008, prepared by Prof. Weber, is available at the web site of EUROPT: http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/ or you may access it directly at http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/Annual%20Report%20of%20EUROPT%202007-2008.pdf

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me as the Vice Chair of EUROPT. We in the new managing board will continue the work in order to further develop our field and serve our members. We also welcome new members! Becoming a member is simple: all that is needed is filling the form at http://anadolu.lib.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/h_newuser.php. Feel free to advertise EUROPT and remember that EUROPT has no membership fees!

All feedback and suggestions are most welcome at kaisa.miettinen@jyu.fi.

EUROPT NEWSLETTER
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Co-workers: Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber and Basak Akteke Ozturk