Newsletter 8 of EUROPT

The Continuous Optimization Working Group of EURO

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

November 2007

EUROPT - The Continuous Optimization Working Group of EURO

Words from the Chair

Dear Members of EUROPT, dear Friends,

In these last months of the year, the preparations for the next year's conferences become intensified more and more. Many ones of us are becoming very much involved by preparing their travels and presentations, or are conference organizers, as stream or session organizers of our events in 2008.

This column and, what is more, this e-Newsletter may serve for a reminder of these activities. From the viewpoint of EUROPT, the events which our EURO working group coorganizes, where precious members of EUROPT accepted to serve as organizers and coworkers in various ways and to carry work loads and responsibilities, deserve our warm appreciation, interest and support!

There will be *20th EURO Mini Conference "Continuous Optimization and Knowledge-Based Technologies"* (**EurOpt 2008**) in Neringa, Lithuania, which is cordially recommended to our EUROPT members, but also the EUROPT supported *International Conference on Engineering Optimization* (**EngOpt 2008**) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and *Workshop on Advances in Financial Mathematics and Stochastic Calculus* in Ankara, Turkey, 2008, *in memory of our dear EUROPT member and teacher Prof. Hayri Körezlioğlu* who left us this year.

The organizers of *IFORS 2008* in Sandton, South Africa, honour us with their confidence, too, and there will be some further events which we very much appreciate – among of them events of our new sister EURO WGs *EURO CBBM* and *EURO ORD*, conference by our friends from *multi-criteria decision making*, from *decision support systems*, *hybrid systems* and from *global optimization*. And whoever is interested in *EURO XXIII 2009* and its preconference *EUROPT workshop*, can get first information and reference persons, too.

Please find Call for Papers and more details, including contacts, in this e-Newsletter! You are also welcome to write to me on any question related with these events (gweber@metu.edu.tr). In order that our EUROPT members become best provided scientifically and our events become those great successes which were able to reflect the devotion of the organizers and hosts, please never hesitate to send an e-mail.

Our support, service and work on special issues of the journals CEJOR, OMS, Optimization, MMOR, TOP and EJOR go on very well. Some issues are in finalization; two issues which we fostered became concluded and will appear: both the CEJOR and the EJOR special issue *"OR for Better Management of Sustainable Development"*.

Please find further information about us at our EUROPT homepage http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/ and at EURO side (visit http://www.euro-online.org/display.php?page=working_groups& and click "EWG EUROPT, EURO Continuous Optimization", please).

EUROPT expresses its gratitude to its web-, its database master and its master of EUROPT at EURO page, our friends *MSc. Basak Akteke-Öztürk, Mr. Köksal Yucesoy and MSc. Aysun Tezel*!

Finally, let me and us all wish for our good friend and *EUROPT Fellow 2007, Prof. Dr. Georg Still*, who became ill, a good and soon recovering, and an excellent and robust health. All the best from us, dear Georg!

Now, I may leave you with our 8th Newsletter, with a joy- and fruitful lecture of it!

Thank you very much, our dear newsletter editor Kaisa, *Prof. Dr. Kaisa Miettinen*, for all your care and lovely efforts!

With best wishes, Your sincerely,
Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, Chair of EUROPT

2nd Call for Papers: 20th MINI-EURO CONFERENCE "Continuous Optimization and Knowledge-Based Technologies" (EUROPT- 2008)

Neringa, Lithuania, May 20-23, 2008 http://www.mii.lt/EUROPT-2008

Dear Colleague,

You are cordially invited to the EURO MC "Continuous Optimization and Knowledge-Based technologies". Please, register in November, 2007, willing to submit the paper to EUROPT-2008 Proceedings, indexed/abstracted in the ISI list and delivered during the Conference.

Submissions: Three kinds of contributions are welcome:
- Submission of abstract (0.3 page) for communication. After acceptance a presenter delivers 25 minutes communication in a contributed session.
- Submission of contributed papers (6 pages A4). The accepted papers will be published in a Conference Proceedings, which will be indexed /abstracted in ISI Proceedings and delivered during the Conference. Please, find example and guidelines from the site.
- Proposal for a stream session of at least 3 papers/communications devoted to a given topic. After acceptance the promoter will be responsible for the session and will chair it.

Invited Speakers (further ones will follow):
- Inderjit Dhillon (University of Texas at Austin, USA): Information-Based Knowledge Discovery
- Mirjam Dür (Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany): Global Optimization
- Kaisa Miettinen (University of Jyväskylä, Finland): Multi-Objective Optimization and Multi-Criteria Decision Making
- John Shawe-Taylor (University College London, UK): Optimization and Machine Learning
- Jerome Stein (Brown University, Providence R.I., USA): Optimization in Banking
- Jacek Blazewicz & Marta Kasprzak: Continuous and Discrete Methods of Data Mining in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Publications: Three kinds of publications:
- The volume of Conference Proceedings will be published, indexed/abstracted in ISI Proceedings and delivered during the Conference.
- The organizers will prepare a special issue of the TOP (Journal of the Spanish OR Society) based on a thorough review process of papers presented at the Conference and submitted by the authors.
- The organizers will prepare a special issue of the journal INFORMATICA, indexed/abstracted in the ISI Master list.

Venue:
The conference will take place in the Baltic sea-side resort Nida (Neringa, Lithuania). The venue of the Conference is hotel "Jurate". Neringa, situated on the sandy peninsula at the Baltic Sea, is a nice corner of Europe that has to be explored. Neringa ideally suits for scientific meetings because of special status of United Nations for Neringa quiet natural environment, limited urbanization and public attendance composes with modern organizational infrastructure and convenient connection through Klaipeda and Vilnius with many cities. The charter bus will transfer to Nida and back through Klaipeda those who arrive to Vilnius (4-5 hours).

Registration Fees:
* Type of registration

	Until April 15, 2008	After April 15, 2008
Normal (1)	270 €	320 €
Student (2)	100 €	150 €

* They include the volume of Conference Proceedings, conference documentation, lunches and coffee breaks.

Important Dates:
October 12, 2007 - proposals for stream session organising,
November 5, 2007 - registration/abstract submission (for those submiting papers to Proceedings),
December 15, 2007 - paper (6 A4 pages) submission for Proceedings,
February 15, 2008 - paper acceptance notification,
April 15, 2008 - Early registration fee payment,
May 20-23 - Conference,
June 30, 2008 - full paper submission to the special issues of TOP and INFORMATICA.

Contact:
EUROPT-2008, Institute of Mathematics & Informatics, Akademijos st 4, Vilnius 08663, Lithuania
E-mail: europt2008@ktl.mii.lt
http://www.mii.lt/europt-2008

Sponsors:
- EURO (The Association of European Operational Research Societies)
- LITORS (The Lithuanian Operational Research Society)
- GOR (The Germany Operational Research Society)
- MII (Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius, Lithuania)
- VGTU (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania)
- EUROPT (EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization)
- Institute of Applied Mathematics, METU (Ankara, Turkey)
- IBM Zurich, Switzerland

Looking forward to meeting you in Neringa!

With best regards, Leonidas Sakalauskas, Chairman of EUROPT-2008

IFIP TC8/WG8.3 Working Conference

International Conference on Collaborative Decision Making (CDM'08)
Toulouse, France, July 1-4, 2008
http://www.irit.fr/CDM08/

Organised by INPT/ENSIACET/IRIT/UT1

The IFIP TC8/WG8.3 conferences present the latest innovations and achievements of academic communities on Decision Support Systems (DSS). These advances include theory, systems, computer aided methods, algorithms, techniques, and applications related to supporting decision making.
 This conference is supported by the Euro Working Group on DSS http://www.euro-online.org/.

The main theme for the 2008 edition of the conference is Collaborative Decision Making and in particular, addressing the question of how to support Collaboration in Decision Making? Welcome answers will incorporate key elements to deal with the complexity of supporting collaborative decision making. Expected contributions will try to answer to some of the following questions: Where does the data for collaborative decision making come from and how is it assembled? Who is, or should be, involved in making the decision? How do teams collaborate to build up common understanding? How to Tackle Complexity in decision making and decision support? A special focus on Data, Models and Actors will be taken into account.

Topics: The topics of interest for the conference include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitation of team coordination and data collection and exchange
- Logistics knowledge collaboration model
- Impact of introducing new technology on collaboration
- Spontaneous collaborations

- Evaluation of the most appropriate collaboration level
- Coordination of distributed supply chain partnerships
- Machine intelligence coupled with human intelligence
- Collaboration across supply networks using intelligent agents
- Knowledge-intensive collaborative design
- On-demand business process-based collaboration
- Utilizing context in knowledge management and collaborative systems
- Collaboration among entities in a network such as schedulers
- Social collaboration systems
- Intellectual capital as a resource network for collaborative decision making

Papers focused on other areas linked to DSS area are also welcome, for example:
- Data-driven DSS (including data mining types of problems)
- Model-driven DSS
- Intelligent DSS
- Real-time DSS

A Doctoral Colloquium will be held as part of the conference July 1st 2008 is organised by G. Philips-Wren and D. Paradice. PhD students, who are developing their research ideas are encouraged to submit papers, as well as those who are already well into the execution of their studies. Both of them are requested to register their own information and then submit their current works in the part Paper Submission on the website http://www.irit.fr/CDM08/

PhD students are requested to submit 3-5 A4-pages in length with 2cm margins all around containing: the title, authors' names and affiliation, surface and electronic addresses (first page), a 200 words abstract, up to 5 keywords, the text, figures, tables, etc., acknowledgments, and references. Submissions should be in MSWord format. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

Submissions: Authors are requested to register their own information and then submit original, complete papers in the part Paper Submission on the web site http://www.irit.fr/CDM08/.

Authors are requested to submit full papers addressing any of the topics of interest for this conference. Each paper should not exceed 10 A4-pages in length with 2cm margins all around containing: the title, authors' names and affiliation, surface and electronic addresses (first page), a 200 words abstract, up to 5 keywords, the text, figures, tables, etc., acknowledgments, and references. Papers should be in MSword format. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Authors are requested to contact https://webmail.metu.edu.tr/0/_top?actioncompose=1&to=cdm08@irit.fr for any more information.

Each paper will be reviewed by at least two referees. Accepted papers will be published only if at least one of the authors is registered to attend the conference in due time. Accepted papers with at least one registered author will appear in the Proceedings of the Conference published as a book.

Best papers will be forwarded for submission to several special issues for high level journals in the DSS area like Journal of Decision Systems, Intelligent Decision technologies, Group Decision and Negotiation.

Time Schedule
Paper submission due November 16th 2007
Doctoral Colloquium submission due February 15th 2008
Notification to authors January 18th 2008
Final Version of accepted papers February 15th 2008
Conference July 1st to 4th 2008

Language: The official language of the conference is English.

Conference location: Toulouse is a large city in the south west of France in the Midi Pyrénées country. For more information about Toulouse and its country please visit: http://www.cict.fr/toulouse/EBienvenue.html .

Conference chair : Zaraté Pascale, INPT – ENSIACET 118 route de Narbonne, 31077 Toulouse Cedex 4, France, email: Pascale.Zarate@ensiacet.fr, Tel : + 33 5 62 88 58 36

i-MATH Intensive School on
MATHEMATICAL PROGRAMMING AND ITS APPLICATIONS

CIEM, Castro Urdiales, SPAIN, 28 January - 8 February 2008
http://www.i-math.org/?q=es/node/794

Aims:
- Training in the basic concepts and tools in MP, together with advanced tools linked with different key problems in information societies, finances, data mining, distribution and others of similar relevance.
- To promote and encourage:
  - An enhancement in the state of the art in MP.
  - Young mathematicians in their training age to enter into the field of MP, via a series of courses presenting, in an attractive and rigorous way, the main issues in MP and their most promising areas of applications.
  - Interaction of participants in a friendly atmosphere.
  - Research of the highest quality, supporting the cooperation of students, trainers and their research groups.
  - The study of models of higher complexity and applicability, calling for different methodologies and tools, which, due to their complexity, are usually not considered in the standard academic framework.
  - Visibility of the selected topics, and thus also of the research groups addressing them. Awareness of the different agents involved in R+D+I activities and resources management.

Program Structure:
- 4 Courses of 6 hours each, taught by professors from abroad with highest scientific records
- 8 Workshops, of different length, supervised by Spanish researchers
- 1 Discussion Panel about "Social and Industrial Applications and Technological Transfer of MP", with the participation of potential users of MP, coming from industries, companies, etc.

Courses:
- Linear Programming (L.P). Theory and Applications: T. Terlaky (McMaster University, Canada)
- Nonlinear Programming: A. Ben-Tal (Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Israel)
- Global Optimization: P. Hansen (GERAD Montreal, Canada)
- Integer and Combinatorial Optimization: M. Groetschel (ZIB Berlin, Germany) - Invited

Workshops:
- Optimization Models: M.A. Goberna (Univ. de Alicante)
- Numerical Nonlinear Programming (NLP): F.J. Prieto (Univ. Carlos III), J. Castro (Univ. Politecnica de Cataluna)
- Optimization and Uncertainty: L. Escudero (Univ. Miguel Hernandez), A. Alonso (Univ. Rey Juan Carlos)
- Discrete Optimization in Logistics: A. Corberan (Univ. de Valencia), E. Fernandez (UPC), A. Marin (Univ. De Murcia)
- Optimization for Decision-Making: C. Romero (Univ. Politecnica de Madrid), J. Puerto (Univ. de Sevilla)
- Convex Analysis and its Applications: M.A. Lopez (Univ. de Alicante), E. Carrizosa (Univ. de Sevilla)
- Optimization and Finance: J. Nogales (Univ. Carlos III)
- Optimization of dynamic and stochastic systems: J. Nino Mora (Univ. Carlos III)

Students:
- Up to 20 students, from Spain or abroad, in their pre-doctoral or early post-doctoral training stages. Age below 35.
- English will be the official language of the School.
- Living expenses of the 20 students will be covered. Moreover, 10 students will receive a grant of 250 Euros each to support their travel expenses. This will apply only for those students showing they do not have access to any other source of financial support, according to the criteria of the Committee.

Registration:
- From 1st of October to the 15th of November, 2007
- Students interested in participating in the school should address a message to ciem@unican.es, with subject "i-MATHProgSchoolApplication" providing their names and affiliations, and attaching a copy of their C.V.'s.

Organizing Committee: Marco A. Lopez (Univ. de Alicante), Chair, Emilio Carrizosa (Univ. de Sevilla), Laureano Escudero (Univ. Miguel Hernandez), Justo Puerto (Univ. de Sevilla).

Further and complete information: visit the URL: **http://www.i-math.org/?q=es/node/794**

Preliminary Announcement & *Call for Papers*: IFORS Sandton 2008

18th Triennial Conference of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies, July 14-18, 2008, Sandton, South Africa, http://www.ifors2008.org
Conference Theme:
Operational Research: Developing communities, managing the connections between them

The IFORS Triennial 2008 conference will bring operational researchers from around the globe together in Sandton, in southern Africa. We invite you to join your colleagues for the pre-eminent international conference in operational research, offering an intensive scientific programme covering the full spectrum of topics in our field.

The Operations Research Society of South Africa (ORSSA) is proud to host IFORS 2008 at the Sandton Convention Centre, in the heart of South Africa's business and economic activities. Conference hotels are in very close proximity to the Convention Centre. We invite you to experience all the beauty and diversity of Sandton, and South Africa's surrounding environments while you participate in this premier OR meeting: the 18th Triennial Conference of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies.

Abstract Submission Deadline: December 15, 2007
All members of the international OR community are invited and encouraged to submit papers for IFORS 2008.

Important Dates
June 1, 2007 Abstract submission opens
December 15, 2007 Abstract submission deadline
March 15, 2008 Super-saver registration deadline
May 1, 2008 Authors' registration deadline to appear in the printed programme
May 15, 2008 Early registration deadline
July 14-18, 2008 Conference dates

Chair, Organising Committee:
Hans W. Ittmann, Logistics and Quantitative Methods, CSIR, RSA, E-mail address: hittmann@csir.co.za
Chair, Programme Committee:
John J. Bartholdi III, Georgia Tech, USA, E-mail address: jbartholdi@isye.gatech.edu

Report: *On the "Life" in the German Operations Research Society* GOR – a *Partner* of ORST
written by Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (IAM, METU)

The report (dated October 27, 2007) is available at
http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/On%20GOR%20-%20for%20ORST%20-%20No%204.pdf

EURO-CBBM Conference on Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Medicine

Rome, Italy, September 15-17, 2008
http://euro-cbbm.ku.edu.tr/RomeConference/homepage.htm

Objectives of the Conference

The EURO-CBBM Conference is organized by the EURO Working Group on Operational Research in Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Medicine. The objective of the conference is to bring together researchers developing and using computational methods to solve problems in computational biology, bioinformatics and medicine. The conference intends to be an effective forum for the exchange of ideas and for the discussion of current research issues and future trends.

Areas of interest

We welcome researchers from different backgrounds addressing challenging problems in computational biology, bioinformatics and medicine including but not limited to:

- *biomolecular sequence analysis*,
- *comparative genomics*,
- *phylogenetics,*
- *modelling and prediction of gene patterns,*
- *microarray informatics*,
- *protein structure* prediction,
- *protein interactions*,
- *genetic networks*,
- *analysis of genetic variations,*
- *systems biology*,
- *gene classification* (e.g., for protection of gene pools),
- *docking and drug design*,
- *modeling and analysis of metabolic networks*.

Invited speakers

Alberto Apostolico   *(Giorgia Institute of Technology)*
Costas Maranas   *(Pennsylvania State University)*
Martin Vingron   *(Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics)*

Venue

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) Piazzale Aldo Moro 7, Rome

Important Dates

- Deadline for abstract submission: **May 15, 2008**
- Notification of acceptance / Preliminary program available: **July 1, 2008.**
- Deadline for early registration: **July 15, 2008**.
- Conference: **September 15-17, 2008**

Abstract submission

Abstracts of no longer than 500 words are being accepted until May 15, 2008. Send your abstracts to Metin Turkay (mturkay@ku.edu.tr).

Conference web page: Detailed information on the Conference can be found at the conference web site:
http://euro-cbbm.ku.edu.tr/RomeConference/homepage.htm

Conference Committee: Paola Bartolazzi, Jacek Blazewicz, Jon Garibaldi, Ceyda Oguz, Metin Turkay, Gerhard Wilhelm Weber

1st Call for Papers:
WORKSHOP in Memory of PROFESSOR HAYRI KÖREZLIOGLU

"Recent Developments in Financial Mathematics and Stochastic Calculus", METU, Ankara, Turkey,   April 25-26, 2008, http://korezlioglu.iam.metu.edu.tr

On June 26, 2007, our dear teacher and friend Prof. Dr. Hayri Körezlioglu passed away at the age of 77. Professor Körezlioglu was the founder and chair of the Department of Financial Mathematics at the Institute of Applied Mathematics (IAM) of the Middle East Technical University (METU). The institute was established in 2002 (http://www3.iam.metu.edu.tr/). That he is no longer among us means a great loss for everyone at IAM. IAM is organizing a special workshop in memory of Professor Hayri Körezlioglu. It would like to share moments of science and friendship in his honour, in areas of applied mathematics which Professor Körezlioglu worked in as a researcher, educator and as a pioneer in Turkey. The workshop will follow a series of seminars for practitioners from the financial sector, mainly, from Turkey, and for our students. Its program aims to represent various subjects constituting the title of the event. Talks will focus on the progress made in Financial Mathematics for modeling financial phenomena and developing numerical techniques for applications. An additional emphasis will be made on the theoretical foundations in Stochastic Calculus. Concerning applications, a major problem is model identification based on observations. In many countries, particularly in developing economies, statistical data are insufficient. This creates both decision making problems under uncertainty and model risks.

The scientific goals of the workshop consist in sharing and discussing recent excellent research achievements, in preparing future projects on modern challenges in science and development of the financial sector, and is an invitation to the youth into this dynamics, with a special emphasis on guiding it. The workshop program will consist of tutorials, invited and contributed papers.

Topics: We encourage those interested in the following topics to overview the trends or present their recent achievement in themes such as
- option pricing
- hedging of claims,
- interest rate models
- market risk
- credit risk and credit rating
- computational statistics and statistical learning for model identification
- inverse problems in finance
- modeling and solution of random phenomena as Brownian motions
- Levy processes in modeling financial instruments
- functional central limit theorems for semimartingales
- modelling asymmetric or imperfect dynamical information
- rare events and risk management
- optimal portfolio management
- stochastic optimal control in finance
- dependence issue in finance
- optimal stopping
- large-scale optimization techniques in finance
- numerical methods in finance
- software development
- applications of theory and methods to the financial sector of Turkey
- theoretical advances in stochastic processes and time-series models

Important Dates:
Abstract submissions: January 15, 2008
Notification of acceptance: February 1, 2008
Early registration: February 20, 2008
Pre-Workshop Seminar Series: April 23-24, 2008
Workshop: April 25-26, 2008

Invited Speakers (further ones will follow):
* Erhan Bayraktar (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA)
* Ulug Capar (Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey)
* Ralf Korn (University of Kaiserslautern, Germany)
* Wolfgang J. Runggaldier (Universita degli Studi di Padova, Italy)
* Deniz Sezer (York University, Canada)
* Halil Mete Soner (Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey)
* Süleyman Üstünel (Ecole Nationale Superieure des Telecommunications, Paris, France)

Abstract Submission, Registration, Contact, Detailed Information: Please visit http://korezlioglu.iam.metu.edu.tr.

Coorganizing Institutions and Sponsors (further ones will follow): Institute of Applied Mathematics, METU, Ankara, Turkey, Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey, Department of Mathematics, METU, Ankara, Turkey, EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization (EUROPT).

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The European Consortium for Mathematics in Industry

http://www.ecmi2008.org

University College London, 30 June – 4 July 2008
Organised by the Institute of Mathematics and Its Applications

Alan Tayler Lecturer
- **Mario Primicerio**   (Università degli Studi di Firenze)

Plenary Speakers
- **Andrea Bertozzi**   (University of California Los Angeles)
- **Benoit Desjardins**   (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris)
- **Manuel Doblare**   (Universidad de Zaragoza)
- **Ioannis Karatzas**   (Columbia University)
- **Miguel Moscoso**   (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)
- **Colin Please**   (University of Southampton)
- **Yongji Tan**   (Fudan University, Shanghai)
- **Jonathan Tawn**   (Lancaster University)
- **Nick Trefethen**   (University of Oxford)

Key Dates
- **30 November 2007**   Deadline for mini-symposia proposals
- **15 December 2007**   Approval of mini-symposia by committee
- **18 January 2008**   Deadline for receipt of contributed abstracts, mini-symposia abstracts and poster proposals
- **1 February 2008**   Contributing authors notified of acceptance or rejection of submissions
- **22 February 2008**   Early Bird registration deadline
- **2 May 2008**   Confirmation and payment of accomodation
- **20 June 2008**   Closing date for registration and payment

D^2 - Decision Deck, Second Decision Deck workshop

Lamsade - University of Paris Dauphine, Paris, November 15-16, 2007
http://www.lamsade.dauphine.fr/d2-workshop

The Decision Deck project aims at developing an open source, multiple user, software platform for MCDA methods. Decision Deck should become the open source standard for MCDA software. Exhaustive information concerning Decision Deck is available at http://www.decision-deck.org (D2-Wiki), and http://decision-deck.sourceforge.net (sourceforge)
The D2-Decision Deck project has started in 2003 under the name EVAL, an acronym which refers to a research project funded by the Government of the Walloon region (Belgium). EVAL is a joint effort originated from three Belgian university departments: MathRO (Faculté Polytechnique de Mons), SMG (Université Libre de Bruxelles), SCSI (Université Libre de Bruxelles).

The aim is to develop a platform to assist decision makers in evaluating alternatives in a multi-criteria and multi-experts context. The EVAL platform is:
- asynchronous
- Object-oriented (JAVA) and platform independent
- Open source
- Secure (SSL technology)
- Generic

This platform can be seen as a MCDA toolbox, that is, a collection of reusable components that could be assembled or easily modified in view of producing specific MCDA models or user interfaces. Examples of existing components deal with the management of new alternatives, criteria, evaluators or the visualization of results. These granted functionnalities require an access to a mySQL server along with the installation of the JAVA virtual machine. This platform is currently available on the sourceforge collaborative development web site. The implemented functionalities include:
- User management (coordinator, evaluators, decision makers, ...)
- Input of criteria, alternatives, evaluations,
- Data visualisation read only/read-write
- Decision process/workflow management

The principle of open source development should ease the integration of additional MCDA methods as plugins in the platform.

International Conference on Engineering Optimization

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 1-5, 2008, http://www.engopt.org

Some topical information:
Deadline for abstracts: 15th December 2007

Hotel reservation is open: The organizers have arranged block reservations with the Rio Othon Palace Hotel and the Savoy Othon Travel Hotel, offering special rates to the EngOpt 2008 participants.

Special issues dedicated to EngOpt 2008 will be published by: "Inverse Problems in Science and Engineering" and "Engineering and Optimization".

Complete information can be found at **http://www.engopt.org**

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT: VII Brazilian Workshop on Continuous Optimization
IMECC-UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil, July 28-31, 2008

MAIN TOPICS

The VII Brazilian Workshop on Continuous Optimization will take place at the Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Scientific Computing (IMECC) of the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), in Campinas SP, Brazil. Subjects to be discussed involve all theoretical and practical aspects of continuous optimization, including implementation issues, applications, convergence, complexity and stability theory. All areas of continuous optimization will be addressed: Linear and Nonlinear Programming, Variational Inequalities, Complementarity Problems, Nonsmooth Optimization, Vector Optimization, Multilevel Programming, PDE Constrained Optimization, Generalized Equations, Global Optimization, Numerical Linear Algebra vinculated to Optimization, Systems of Equations, etc.

The backbone of the workshop will consist of plenary lectures, offered by invited speakers, of 45 minutes each. Further information may be obtained at: e-mail: workshop@brazopt2008.org

PLENARISTS: John E. Dennis - Rice University, Houston, USA, Andreas Fischer - Dresden University of Technology, Dresden, Germany, Clovis Gonzaga - Universidade Federal de Santa Catarirna, Florianópolis, Brazil, William W. Hager -University of Florida, Gainsville, USA, Carlos Humes, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, Alfredo Iusem - Instituto de Matemática Pura e Aplicada, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Berg Jongen - Universiteit Maastricht, Nederland, Krysztof C. Kiwiel - Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland, Nelson Maculan - Universidad Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, José Mario Martínez - Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil, Yuri Nesterov - Université Catholique de Louvain, France, Marcos Raydan - Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Simeon Reich - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel, Claudia Sagastizábal - CEPEL, Brazil, Hugo Scolnik - Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, Mikhail Solodov - Instituto de Matemática Pura e Aplicada, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Benar Svaiter - Instituto de Matemática Pura e Aplicada, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Luis N. Vicente - Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal, Ya-xiang Yuan - Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Besides the plenary lectures, offered by the invited speakers (45 minutes each), there will be also a limited number of contributed talks (20 minutes including discussion). Those interested in contributing a talk should send an abstract by electronic mail, to the address below, no later than February 28, 2008. Acceptation of the contributed talks will be informed no later than March 15, 2008, e-mail: workshop@brazopt2008.org

Registration fees:
* Early Registration (until April 15, 2008): R$ 200 (Brazilian participants) US$150 (foreign participants)
* Registration (after April 15, 2008 and before July 15, 2008): R$ 300 (Brazilian participants) US$ 220 (foreign participants)
* Late Registration (after July 15, 2008): R$ 350 (Brazilian participants) US$ 270 (foreign participants)

International Workshop on Stochastic and Applied Global Optimization, SAGO 2008
Skukuza, South Africa, 19 - 22 July, 2008, http://www.wits.ac.za/conferences/sago/

The SAGO conference will be at an interesting venue, located in the Kruger National Park. Hear about the latest advances in global optimization and view giraffes, lions and elephants as well. SAGO will be held immediately after IFORS Sandton 2008.

Deadline for the submission of abstracts: March 15th, 2008
Notification of acceptance: April 5th , 2008
Deadline for early registration (reduced fee - 415 EUR): April 15th, 2008
Deadline for last minute registration (445 EUR): May 31st, 2008
Discovery trip to Krugerpark: July 19th, 2008
Start conference: July 20th, 2008

Call for Papers: The IEEE International Engineering Management Conference IEMC-Europe 2008

June 28-30, 2008, Estoril, Portugal, http://iemceur08.tagus.ist.utl.pt/
MANAGING ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GROWTH

Invitation: The IEEE Technology Management Council (formerly known as the Engineering Management Society) and the IEMC-Europe 2008 Conference Committee invite full paper contributions from researchers, educators, managers and students of engineering management on the theme Managing Engineering, Technology and Innovation for Growth. Contributions may be conceptual, theoretical or experimental. They should be the result of research activity, case studies or best practices, must shed light on the theory or practice of engineering, technology or innovation management and consider the strategic objective of economic growth.

Topics include:
1- Decision Analysis (1.1- Decision Analysis with Multiple Criteria; 1.2- Decision Analysis Tools for Risk Assessment, Management, and Communication; 1.3- Decision Analysis for Public Decision-Making).
2- Technological Change and Management of Innovation (2.1- Innovation and Productivity Growth; 2.2- Technology-based Entrepreneurship; 2.3- Managing Organisational Change; 2.4- Technological Foresight).
3- Operations and Supply Chain Management (3.1- Operations and Supply Chain Optimization; 3.2- Environmental Issues and Sustainable Operations; 3.3- Close Loop Supply Chains).
4- Cross-functional Emerging Domains (4.1- Actor Networks and Collaborative Models; 3.2- Organizational Learning and Knowledge Management; 3.3- Education in Engineering Management).

Submission of Papers: Papers, in final form, should be written in English, have a maximum of five pages and use the format prescribed in TRANS-JOUR.doc. Each paper should mention the name and number of Topic and Sub-Topic within which it is submitted. Papers will be blind reviewed.

Important Dates:
Papers submission deadline   25th January 2008
Notification of acceptance   28th April 2008
Early registration deadline   8th May 2008
Normal registration deadline   23rd May 2008
Conference dates   28-30th June 2008

Second workshop of the Operational Research Society's Decision Analysis Special Interest Group (DASIG)

"Good Practice in Decision Making", Manchester Business School, December 11, 2007

The format of the day will be as follows:
1030-1045 Welcome
1045-1245 Case studies

- Practicing decision analysis when stakes conflict: The case of electromagnetic fields policies in California - Detlof von Winterfeldt, University of Southern California
- Complex Decision Making for Environmental & Flood Risk Management - Colin Foan, Environment Agency
- Public Engagement in Decision Making at UK Nuclear Sites - Mike Egan, Quintessa
- Lost CAUSEs? implications of oversights in problem structuring, lessons from practice - Val Belton, University of Strathclyde

1245-1400 Lunch
1400-1545 Plenary discussion - What is good practice in decision making, and how can we promote it?
1545-1630 Tea break, wrap-up and what's next?

There is no fee for this event and you do not have to be a member of the OR Society to attend. If you wish to come, please register with Nadia Papamichail (n.papamichail@mbs.ac.uk) by 11th November so that we have numbers for catering. Feel free to forward this invitation on to anyone whom you think may be interested.

With best wishes, Alec Morton, Nadia Papamichail, Gilberto Montibeller; DASIG organising committee

Call for Papers: 11th International Workshop on Project Management and Scheduling (PMS 2008)

April 28 - 30, 2008, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The EURO Working Group on Project Management and Scheduling was first established during EURO VIII Conference in Lisbon in 1986. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Working Group in Poznan during PMS 2006. In April 2008, we are going to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first workshop held in Lisbon in 1988.

PMS 2008 welcomes contributions from researchers in the field of project management (project planning, project scheduling, project control), and machine scheduling (single and parallel Processor problems, flow shops, job shops, open shops).

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
Extended abstracts of not more than 4 single-spaced A4 pages written using font size 11 in either Microsoft Word or PDF format must be submitted electronically. Please check the conference web sites for details. All abstracts submitted will undergo a peer review process, and abstracts accepted will be published in the workshop proceedings available at the workshop. The first name will be taken as the corresponding author unless otherwise requested.

IMPORTANT DATES
Deadline of submission for 4-page abstracts   November 12, 2007
Notification of acceptance   December 12, 2007
Deadline for final version of 4-page abstracts   January 21, 2008
Early registration deadline   February 15, 2008

Please note that at least one of the authors should be registered by the early registration deadline for the abstract to be published in the proceedings.

WORKSHOP SECRETARY: pms2008@boun.edu.tr

Report: MCDM at OR 2007 in Saarbrücken

This year, the International Conference „Operations Research 2007", as the annual main meeting of the GOR (Gesellschaft für Operations Research e.V.) took place at the Saarland[)] University in Saarbrücken, from 5th - 7th September 2007. The conference was devoted to the role of Operations Research in the service industry, since the transition of many countries from a production orientation to a service society combined with a continuous demographic change generated a need for intensified Operations Research activities in this area. Accordingly, the OR2007 was preceded by a one day tutorial on Operations Research in Hospitals, emphasising the practical relevance of scientific methods for improved decision making.

The scientific program consisted of over 310 contributed talks, which are organized in 18 scientific sections, including one section devoted to software applications in the field of Operations Research. Three plenary and twelve semi-plenary talks were offered to the approximately 400 participants from 30 countries. In addition, several publishing and software companies exhibit their current, OR related, products.

The session Multi Criteria Decision Making comprised four sections, demonstrating the large scope of our research topic:

- Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) (chaired by Andreas Kleine, Institute of Business Administration, University of Hohenheim)
- Multi Objective Decision Making (MODM) (chaired by Stefan Ruzika, Department of Mathematics, University of Kaiserslautern)
- Fuzzy Systems (chaired by Jutta Geldermann, Chair for Production and Logistics, University of Göttingen)
- Applications of MCDM (chaired by Martin Josef Geiger, Chair for Industrial Management / Lehrstuhl für Industriebetriebslehre, University of Hohenheim)

It should be noted that topics of multi criteria decision making had been tackled as well in numerous other sessions with special sections, e.g. "Facilities Planning and Multiple Criteria" in the session "Production and Service Operations Management" or "Data Envelopment Analysis" in the session "Finance, Banking and Insurance". In addition, the sessions on Production and Service Operations Management, Scheduling and Project Management, Project Management, Simulation, System Dynamics and Dynamic Modelling, Supply Chain Management and Traffic, Graphs and Networks, Applied Quantitative Analysis, Health Care and Applied Probability offered presentations on the application of Multi Criteria Decision Making as well. This underlines the importance of our field of research, which obviously reached significant relevance for practical application.

Since up to 17 presentations in different sessions took place in parallel, the individual sections could retain their familiar atmosphere, giving space for intense discussions. A most gratifying development is the growing participation of colleagues from all over the world, namely from France, Serbia and Thailand in our session. Unfortunately, the colleagues from Iran, who submitted several papers, neither appeared nor excused themselves, leaving gaps in the programme, which raised complaints by several conference attendees.

The semiplenary talk "Assessing Decision-Making Practices: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" was given by Nadia Papamichail, Senior Lecturer in Information and Decision Systems at the Manchester Business School and the University of Manchester. She highlighted the results of an ongoing research project on decision lifecycles in a leading UK telecommunications company, concluding that decision making practices can be improved through consultations with stakeholders (i.e. customers, shareholders, investors, business partners and employees) with the aim of establishing a decision vision as well as a strategic plan to achieve this.

The informal get together at the registration, the welcome reception and the conference dinner gave ample opportunities to discuss with colleagues and friends. Especially the Conference Dinner should be mentioned, which took place at the World Cultural Heritage Völklingen Ironworks (Völklinger Hütte) built in 1873. At the moment, the exhibition "Genius I - *The mission: discover, research, invent"* opens up the vast panorama of the most significant inventions that have impacted human life from ancient times to the present day in the impressive environment of the blower hall of the Ironworks.

Altogether, the OR 2007 was a major event of the Operations Research Society in Germany, and our special thanks go to Stefan Nickel (Chair for Operations Research and Logistics, Saarland University) and his team for their tremendous effort to make the conference a success. More information, including the Final Programme with all abstracts, can be found at: http://www.or2007.de

The next meeting of the GOR Working Group "Decision Theory and Practice", together with the GOR Working Group "OR in Energy, Environment and Life Sciences", covering Multi Criteria Decision Making, will be organized by Frank Heyde and Christiane Tammer (Institute for Mathematics, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg; Email: frank.heyde@mathematik.uni-halle.de) at the LEUCOREA in Wittenberg (http://www.leucorea.de.) from 12th – 14th March 2008. Any interested researchers and practitioners are cordially invited.

[*)] The Saarland is a state in Germany on the Franco-German border with roughly 1 million inhabitants. It is named after the Saar River, which flows through the area. Because of its extensive coal deposits, the region was long contested between Germany and France, especially after World War I, when the League of Nations assigned the administration of the newly formed Saar Territory to France. After a 1935 plebiscite Saarland became a German province, but it was again placed under French control in 1945. Autonomy was rejected by the populace in 1955, and the region officially became a state of West Germany in 1957.

Jutta Geldermann (Chair for Production and Logistics, Georg-August University Göttingen)

Call for Papers: BuR – Business Research

The VHB is pleased to announce the forthcoming launch of BuR – Business Research, a new peer-reviewed open access journal for business research. The electronic format of the journal will allow innovative content and reader involvement not possible in a printed journal; such as immediate electronic access to data sets, software, Java applications, interactive graphics, multimedia applications, hypertext links, and full-text searches. Downloads of the journal and single articles are free of charge. Its open access design facilitates the rapid worldwide dissemination of the latest research. We guarantee a fast-track review process whereby each author who submits an article will receive a decision letter within 10 weeks; after two rounds of review the articles will be either accepted or rejected. Papers are now being accepted for consideration for publication. The first issue of the journal will be published in March 2008.

About the Journal
The objective of Business Research is to advance business and management studies at all levels worldwide. Business Research will publish articles on a wide spectrum of topics (see Aims and Scope). The journal's contents will be distributed and preserved on a non-exclusive basis by VHB and UB Köln. Being part of the library collection, the journal falls under the preservation scope of a major research institution, thus guaranteeing long-term preservation of the journal content in perpetuity.

Issues
Business Research is a quarterly journal; issues will be published in spring, summer, autumn and winter, plus articles accepted for publication will be accessible in the Early View Section immediately after their final acceptance. All accepted articles will be available online in advance of the publication date. An E-Mail Alert Service will notify interested readers about the publication of the latest issue.

Aims and Scope
The journal will publish original papers relating to all aspects of business administration. It is devoted to the improvement and further development of business research. The journal aims at providing high quality and timely feedback and engaging exemplary scholars in the process of identifying and developing innovative and excellent research. The journal's broad scope is designed to cover both traditional fields of business administration and crossfunctional, multidisciplinary research that reflects the complex character of business problems. Of particular interest are articles devoted to developing novel perspectives or exploring new domains of research. Business Research is not tied to any particular subfield, type of analysis, or national context.

For further details, see http://www.business-research.org/.

Some words from the Newsletter Editor

Dear reader,

Many thanks for the material sent for this newsletter, in particular Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber. Material for the next newsletter is always most welcome. Please, send me email with 'EUROPT Newsletter' as the subject!
        For further optimization-related information, you may visit http://optnet.itwm.fhg.de/opt-net/, the Opt-Net electronic forum for the optimization community organized by SIGOPT under the auspices of the Deutsche Mathematiker Vereinigung (DMV). Let me remind you that I have collected links related to conferences in operations research and optimization at **http://www.mit.jyu.fi/miettine/lista.html#Conferences**.

        Remember that EUROPT welcomes new members. Becoming a member is easy: fill the form at http://anadolu.lib.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/h_newuser.php (note that EUROPT has no membership fees!).

With best wishes, Kaisa Miettinen   miettine at hse.fi (this address is valid till the end of 2007)
Email address from January 1, 2008: kaisa.miettinen at jyu.fi

EUROPT NEWSLETTER
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