

ELAVIO 2017
February 24 — March 04
Buenos Aires and Miramar, Argentina

During the final year of my PhD at the University of Bologna, Italy, I had the chance to obtain a scholarship from EURO to participate at ELAVIO 2017 and live an incredible experience. Even if I am used to travel, to come back in France (my native country) or to go to conferences or visiting periods, this trip in Argentina astonished me.

Of course, the beauty of the country played a major role, Buenos Aires is a very active city with a beautiful architecture, and Miramar is a dreamy place close to the sea. But I was particularly impressed by the summer school organization: after a first night at the hotel with my one-week roommate Tulio, we began the summer school at Ciudad Universitaria with the first classes (about various subjects such as graph coloring and the stable set problem) followed by the poster session. The weekend was free to enjoy the city, so we went through the streets of Buenos Aires, visited the football stadium and drank some “mate” (a local drink similar to tea) in the park. On Sunday, we arrived at Miramar, in an outstanding place, to follow the core of the summer school.

One of the good aspects of ELAVIO, is that the subjects taught are very wide: thus, I followed some classes strongly related to my research area (my Ph.D. deals with exact approaches for cutting and packing problems) like sports scheduling and integer linear programming modelization, but also some classes on unfamiliar topics, such as non-linear optimization and graph theory.

Even if the classes were really interesting, the real heart of ELAVIO resides in its participants and organizers: no less than 60 persons coming from more than ten countries manage to create this specific atmosphere that makes you feel welcome, even if you don't speak so well the common tongue (Spanish). The activities we shared, ranging from driving a quad to bath in a jacuzzi, create some bounds that go beyond the classic research relationship you create during traditional conferences. Thus, I thank again Willy, all the organizers, EURO, and all the participants for this amazing experience at ELAVIO 2017, and I strongly encourage all the PhD students to apply and participate in this incredible summer school.

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