

This year I attended ELAVIO by the second time and I could be sure that it is undoubtedly an amazing opportunity to meet new young researchers and know or review interesting topics in the Operations Research area applied to new contexts. I would like to thank the EURO for providing me the opportunity of be present again to the school.

In this edition, the school was held in the Universitat de Lleida, Spain and was focused on the use of operations research in the agricultural area. One of the main talks was about new applications of the diet problem to animal nutrition, showing all the considerations about a real life nutrition problem, as the taste of the food, the variation of ingredients, the availability and seasonality of some products, etc... In a other talk, the focus was in how to make the supply chain cleaner and more suitable with modern environmental exigences.

A more ludic (but no less serious or) application presented was the use of optimization algorithms to plan sport championships. It was showed that a bad plan could bring not only higher costs as well give advantages to some of the competitors; so the places and days where each match must happen should be decided looking for more equilibrated travels and a more fair competition, as well respect several transmission contracts done with TV stations.

As in other recent schools and conferences in Operations Research, topics as column generation and machine learning were also discussed. While the column generation talk was directed to a specific application (in agricultural area), the one about machine learning showed how the optimization algorithms were in the kernel of most of machine learning methods, in special support vector machines.

A surprise to me was the talk about game theory, that is not a topic much discussed in the area of Operations Research but is as much important as the omnipresent machine learning. I hope that conferences to young researches like ELAVIO could also do the job of remember old and useful techniques and not just to do marketing about the new ones.

Finally, as we were in one of the oldest cities in Spain, we were presented to one of the main touristic points of Lleida, where we could learn a lot of interesting facts about the history of the city as well the history of the country. In special it was very pleasant to visit the cathedral of Lleida with its unique architecture.

Based on all the experiences that I described above I could say that it was a very interesting week that I will remember for much time. I hope more people could attend in the next editions and that maybe I could come back some day, as a participant or as a lecture.

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