

Report of the Organising Committee ORP³2003

The second edition of the ORP³-conference was organised by young researchers of the working group of optimisation, Department of Mathematics, University of Kaiserslautern. It was held at the Pfalz Akademie Lambrecht (near Kaiserslautern) from September 21 to 26, 2003.

The planning and organising phase

During the planning phase the person responsible for ORP³ in the EURO executive committee changed: Rainald Sinuany-Stern became responsible. Nevertheless, Rainald Sinuany-Stern reported us during the complete planning phase. This was especially helpful due to some problems regarding the email-contact with Zilla Sinuany-Stern.

The timeschedule in the planning and organising phase was as follows:

- Call for papers (approximately 500 leaflets, Opt-Net, DManet, EWGLA, math-andoptimisation-news groups): October/November 2002
- Deadline for submission: March 1, 2003
- Notification of acceptance: June 1, 2003
- Deadline for early registration: June 15, 2003
- Conference: September 21 to 26, 2003

We found it very helpful that well established and renowned researchers from the scientific committee, especially Horst W. Hamacher, promoted the conference by informing their colleagues all over Europe.

In total we finally had 32 submissions. The scientific committee accepted 24 of the submitted papers. Due to a late cancellation we ended up with 23 talks that were given at the conference.

The conference itself

Scientific programme:

- Our participants (23 speakers, 1 non-speaker participant, 3 invited lecturers, 3 members of the scientific committee, are representative of a publishing company, the organising committee) were from all over Europe:
 - o Austria (1)
 - o Belgium (invited lecturer) (1)
 - o France (5)
 - o Germany (15)
 - o Hungary (2)
 - o Italy (3)
 - o New Zealand (scientific committee) (1)
 - o Scotland (invited lecturer) (1)
 - o Slovenia (1)
 - o Spain (3)
 - o Sweden (2)
 - o Turkey (2)
 - o USA (publisher) (1)
- Besides the fact that many countries were represented by the participants we were happy to welcome both young researchers and young practitioners.
- There was a wider range of subjects, e.g.
 - o Optimisation algorithms in radiation therapy
 - o Location problems
 - o Graph problems
 - o Multiobjective optimisation
 - o Game theory
 - o Flow problems
 - o Vehicle routing problems
 - o Linear and nonlinear optimisation
 - o Scheduling problems
 - o Stochastic optimisation
- We had 3 invited lecturers (each 90 minutes) who gave a very good overview over the range of OR:
 - o Prof. Valerie Belton (Soft-OR: "Towards an integrated framework for modelling")
 - o Prof. Martine Labbé (OR-theory: "On the generalized subgraph problem")
 - o Prof. Stefan Nickel (OR in practice: "Real world location problems")

- Foreachtalkweplanned45minutes:25minutestalk,20minutesfordiscussion.Moreoverweadopted theideaofhavinganopponentforeachofthetalks.His/herfunctionwastocriticallydiscussthe presentedpaperandtoguidethediscussion.Topreparethemselves,theopponentsgotthecorresponding papersomeweeksbeforetheconferencetookplace.Moreoverweaskedthespeakerssomeweeksprior totheconferencetopreparetheirtalksin suchawaythatabasicintroductiontotheirs subject (comprehensiblealsoforpeopleworkinginotherareas)isgivenatthebeginningofthetalk.

Socialprogramme:

- Sundayevening:get-together
- Mondayevening:optionalvisitonthewinefair ofBadDürkheim,travelbytrain
- Wednesdayafternoon:trip(byfootandpublicbus)totheHambacherSchlosswithguidedtour, afterwardsavisitatawinegrowerwith regionalfoodandwinetasting
- Thursdayevening:farewellevening

FinancialAspects

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- theFreundeskreis(circleoffriends)attheUniversityofKaiserslautern
- theministryforscience,furthereducation,researchandcultureofRhineland-Palatinate

FinalRemarks

Itwasagreatpleasureforustoorganiseandhostthisspecialconferenceandwelearnedalotduringthe planningphase.

Forthenextorganisersitcouldbeinterestingtoconsiderthefollowingtwoimprovementsomeofthe participantsproposedattheendoftheconference:

- theopponentmayintroducethespeakeraswellashe/shemayberesponsibleforthe corresponding timemanagement(wegavethesejobstooneoftheorganisingcommittee)
- allpapersmaybeputonthe currentORP³-homepagebeforetheconference (additionallytothe proceedingsbookwhichwasdistributedatthebeginningoftheconference)

Weadditionallyorganisedabookexhibitionwithbooksfromseveralpublishers.Sincearepresentativeof Kluwer(JohnMartindale)alsoattendedtheconference,theparticipants hadthechancetoestablisha(first) contacttopublishingcompanies.

Twooftheinvitedlecturers(ValerieBeltonandMartineLabbé)joinedusnotonlyfortheirlecturebutstayed foracoupleofdaysandtookpartinthescientificaswellasinthesocialprogramme.Moreoverthreemembers ofthescientificcommittee(HorstW.Hamacher,MatthiasEhrgottandAnitaSchöbel)werepresentduringthe completeconference.Wethinkthatthepresenceofafewwellestablishedresearchers(whoalsoparticipatedin the socialevents)isveryhelpfulforthe participants.They mayactasarolemodelaswellasamentor.

RegardingtheaccommodationwethinkthatourdecisionforthePfalzAkademie wascompletelyright,although thePfalzAkademieisnotdirectlyconnectedtoouruniversityinKaiserslautern. Thatkindofguesthousesare verygoodforsmallconferencesandworkshopssinceaccommodation,lectures/talksandrecreationalareaslike commonroomsareinthesamebuilding. Thisleavesmuchroomforthe participantstodiscussopenquestions andtosocialisewitheachother(whatttheyinfactstartedinstantlyandcontinuedduringthe complete conference).

Concludingwethinkthatthisconferenceisnotsimplyaplatformforyoungscientiststopresenttheirresearch, but,beyondthis,itisagreatchanceforyoungresearcherstogetknowntoeachotherandstartnetworks,to establishcontactstowell-knownresearchers,tolearnmoreaboutotherOR-subjects,tocriticallydiscussresults andtoimprovetheirownabilityinpresenting. Thisisourimpressionoftheconferencebutitstronglycoincides withthestatementsofmanyoftheparticipantsweheardattheendoftheconference.Unfortunatelyitwasnot possibletoinvite thenextorganiserssinceitwasnotclearatthattimewhichOR-groupwillberesponsiblefor organisingtheconferencein2005(andtoourknowledge thisisnotyetclear). Butoneoftheparticipantsagreed to promotetheideaoforganisingtheORP³-conferenceinhisworkinggroupandasfarasweknowthey eventuallyappliedforit.Hencewewhopethatin2005therewillbeanexteditionofORP³.

OrganisingCommittee:

FlorentineBunke,BerhanuGuta,HolgerHennes(vicechair),StefanRuzika,AnitaSchöbel, SusanneScholl,SilviaSchwarze,DagmarTenfelde-Podehl(chair),StevanusAdriantoTjandra