

Optima@ISMP

Newsletter of the 20th International Symposium on Mathematical Programming

Wednesday, August 26, 2009



Today's Plenaries

Matteo Fischetti

Pure Cutting Plane Methods for Integer Linear Programming: A Computational Perspective

Marriott-Chicago DE, 9am

Shuzhong Zhang

Approximation Algorithms for Homogeneous Polynomial Optimization with Quadratic Constraints

Marriott-Chicago D, 5pm

David Shmoys

Strong LP Formulations in the Design and Analysis of Approximation Algorithms

Marriott-Chicago E, 5pm

ISMP Banquet Tonight

Your Dinner Date

-A 'Sue' Story-

Tonight's banquet is set in the Field Museum's Stanley Field Hall, current home to 'Sue,' the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex specimen in the world.

The centerpiece of the grand Hall, Sue towers 13 feet high at the hips and stretches 42 feet long from head to tail; her skull (unmounted due to its weight) is 5 feet long, and can be seen up-close on the balcony overlooking Field Hall. Unveiled in May of 2000, Sue's massive frame, fashioned from over 200 bona fide bones, is believed to be of the Late Cretaceous period. This makes her over 67 million years old—and easily, the senior guest at tonight's banquet.

Perhaps unknown even to many Chicagoans, Sue's discovery spurred a dispute; her bones were discovered on land owned by a private rancher, which was also land belonging to a Sioux American Indian reservation. Was Sue the rancher's property, or the property of the U.S. government through the reservation? For five years, ownership of Sue was debated, until a court declared her property of the rancher.

In 1997, the rancher sold Sue to the Field Museum at public auction, for almost 8.4 million dollars. To raise such a hefty sum, the museum partnered with McDonald's Corporation and The Walt Disney World Resort, among others. See "Wednesday's ISMP Items" (far left) for schedule of buses to the banquet.

Wednesday's ISMP Items

Mathematical Programming Editorial Boards Lunch




Gleacher Center-South Lounge (Rm 320), Noon

ISMP Conference Banquet
Field Museum, 7pm-10pm

New! Busing to museum provided from Marriott lobby, 6:30pm-6:45pm. (See sidebar for museum info.)

Submitted note: The current *INFORMS* Journal contains a special cluster of seven papers on the topic of High-Throughput Optimization. View the issue's table of contents at <http://joc.journal.informs.org/current.dtl>

Want to see your item on this list later in the week? Email optima.ismp@gmail.com before 3pm and we'll try to slip you in!

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		
76° F 63° F Scattered Rain	72° F 61° F Scattered Rain	74° F 59° F Rain Likely

That's So Random!

Arbitrarily featured, potentially great...

Kory Hedman

Optimal Multi-period Generation Unit Commitment and Transmission Switching with N-1 Reliability (Session WC13, Optimization in Energy Systems Cluster)

Marriott-Miami, 3:45pm

Hedman is a Ph.D. student at Berkeley; the talk is about joint work with Michael Ferris, Emily Fisher, Shmuel Oren and Richard O'Neill.

Inside MPS

Interviews with MPS publications editors Kurt Anstreicher (MPA), Danny Ralph (MPB), Bill Cook (MPC) and Phillippe Toint (MPS/SIAM Series on Optimization)

To Kurt Anstreicher: You are in your third year as Editor of MPA. Did you do anything differently when you took over the journal? What have you learned from the editing experience so far?

KA: The biggest decision that the Editor-in-Chief of MPA has to make is (*flip page*)



(cont. from front) how many papers to evaluate themselves. Given how much work [and time] goes into refereeing papers, it is in everyone's interest to avoid detailed evaluations of papers that have a low probability of being accepted. I try to exclude as many such papers as possible, sometimes in consultation with one of the Associate Editors or a Senior Editor.

To Danny Ralph: MPA and MPB are published under the same banner and share volume numbering. How do Series A and Series B differ?

DR: MPA fields papers on any topic in mathematical programming. By contrast, MPB fields proposals for special issues on particular themes. Special issues are driven by a small group of 2-4 guest editors. This effectively enlarges the editorial board of MPB to a guest editorial board that brings a lot of diversity to the table.

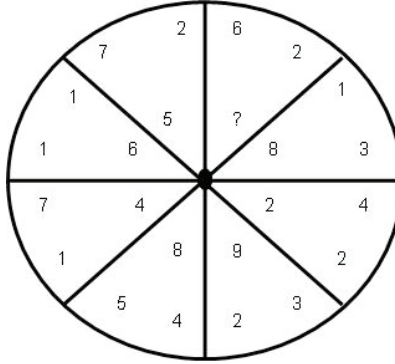
To Bill Cook: What kinds of papers does MPC accept? How are submissions refereed?

BC: MPC is about everything to do with computation. We are still learning how best to manage the review process, particularly with regards to the review of the software that authors submit with their papers. This is a distinguishing feature of MPC: as best we can, the review process will try to verify computational claims made in papers. We have a strong team of Technical Editors who handle the software/computational reviews.

To Phillippe Toint: You have been editor of the MPS/SIAM book series since 2007. What is the aim of the series?

Puzzler!

What number should replace the question mark?



PT: The series is intended to provide reference books for the international research community in optimization. *What should a prospective author do if they have an idea for a possible book in the series? Breakdown what you look for.*

PT: The first thing I would suggest is that they contact the acquisition editor, currently Sara Murphy at SIAM, and the editorial board of the series for an initial advice on the level, subject and timeliness of the proposed contribution. Ideally, a first sketch of a table of contents is the best material on which the discussion can be initiated.

To All: What do you see as a current hot topic in optimization?

KA: Mixed-Integer Nonlinear Programming (MINLP)

DR: The interplay between semidefinite programming and combinatorial optimization continues to be a fascinating area.

PT: I believe that practical application of optimization is becoming more widespread and truly very interesting.

Site of ISMP 2012 Announced

Following the recommendation of the Symposium Advisory Committee, the MPS Council has selected Technical University Berlin as the site of the 2012 ISMP. The Berlin proposal, headed by Martin Skutella, was one of three excellent proposals considered by the committee, the others being from Istanbul (Necati Aras) and the London School of Economics (Susan Powell). ISMP 2012 will be held under the auspices of Berlin's DFG Research center MATHEON, which includes five

participating institutions including the Technical University, where the sessions will take place. Martin Groetschel and Rolf Moehring will join Skutella in forming the core of the local organizing committee. The Symposium will probably take place in mid-August. MPS is most grateful to the Symposium Advisory Committee and its Chair, Tom Liebling, for their great work in soliciting and evaluating the proposals. We look forward to another successful and exciting meeting in 2012!

Optimal Chicago City attractions to visit on your down-time.

Good Eats - Dessert Edition
Great joints fit to satisfy your sweet tooth—after tonight's ISMP banquet.

Sample Chicago - The Original Rainbow Cone

177 N. State St.

Just in time for ISMP, this outpost of the original Rainbow Cone shop (on Chicago's South Side) opened in mid-August. Delightfully chaotic, the signature cone is a small tower of chocolate, strawberry, pistachio and Palmer House ice cream—vanilla with cherries and walnuts, and orange sherbet. A winning combo.

Good Stroll - Ghirardelli Chocolate Shop & Soda Fountain

830 N. Michigan Ave.

Named after Italian chocolatier Domingo Ghirardelli, Ghirardelli chocolate was first brought from Peru to San Francisco in 1852. Today, Ghirardelli Square is a historic site in California. Opened in 1996, this Chicago shop serves treats named for the San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and other landmarks. Designed like an old soda shop, Ghirardelli's has a long bar, a checkered floor and ceiling fans.

Local Trend - Berry Chill frozen yogurt

635 N. State St.

This open-late spot offers 100-percent fat-free frozen yogurt made with lactose-free milk. Try the original "freezy tart" flavor or a rotating flavor selection such as chilled latte, passion fruit or strawberry-banana. For a treat, add toppings like blackberries, mochi, Brazilian papaya or chocolate cookies.



Optima's regular feature 'Tonight in Chicago' has been suspended for Wednesday's issue, as we hope that conferecers are attending our ISMP Banquet at the Field Museum this evening. Please check back on Thursday for info on events.