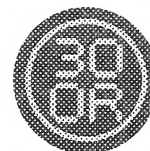


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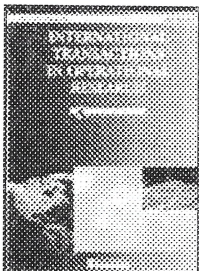
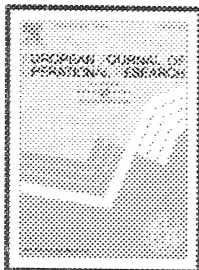
Recent changes in euro-online.org. (More)

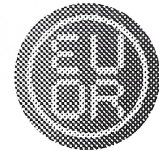
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Column One: Goodbye Message from the EURO Past-President

by Laureano F. Escudero

It is a pleasure to address all of you, friends and colleagues, at the end of my service to EURO through its Executive Committee. After serving EURO as President Elect in 2002, President in 2003-2004 and Past-President in 2005 I would like to share my thoughts with you. The first thing that is coming to my mind is the pleasure and honour that I have for having the opportunity to serving in the EC jointly with the superb people that has been serving there over those years.

Euro has several instruments to help the European community to increase the visibility and application of OR to the problems that we are facing today. EURO has 27 working groups. Several additional instruments are EJOR (The European Journal of Operational Research), one of the leading journals in OR at a world level and the Euro-k conferences (the k=21 conference will be held in Reykjavik, next July). As you know, EURO has other important instruments such as the Mini-EURO conferences, the EURO Summer/Winter institutes and the recent and very successful OR Peripatetic Post-graduate Program (ORP3). Some of the EURO Prizes are the EURO Gold medal, the EURO Excellence in Practice Award and the EDDA (EURO Doctoral Dissertation Award). Perhaps the less known but one of the most interesting prize is the MSSIP (Management Science Strategic Innovation Award). The 2006 edition is devoted to MS/OR to humanitarian security (chaired by Georgio Gallo) and the 2007 is devoted to Logistics (chaired by Luk van Wassenhove). An interesting project is our increasing collaboration with ALIO (Asociación Latina de Investigación de Operaciones) having joint scientific meetings and making easier for the students to go to summer-winter schools in both sides of the Atlantic.

During these years we have updated our by-laws to accommodate them and to make easier our relation with the European Commission, among others.

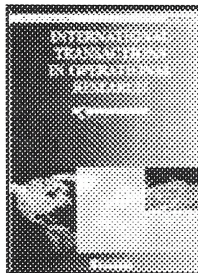
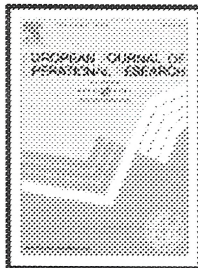
There is a project that we particularly feel proud of and it is the Africa project, in collaboration with IFORS (the EURO Societies must be members of IFORS), INFORMS and some other institutions. It is chaired by our current EURO President, Alexis Tsoukias.

We are concerned with the promotion of OR in our Society at large. This concern is also shared by our member societies, by IFORS, INFORMS and others. We have launched a task force also coordinated by Alexis to address the problem. The task force is already producing results. For more information (and for other information as well) I suggest you to visit our page at <http://www.euro-online.org>

Last January EURO was 30 years old, a history of challenges and of success. Today it represents 29 national societies and more than 10000 practitioners and academics all around Europe. We are proud of the past results, but the world has changed very much since EURO was launched in 1975, and we need a new structure for EURO. Its Executive Committee has decided to continue the major effort to create the European OR Society but under the "dual

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membership" condition (term coined by Zilla Sinuany Stern while she served EURO as Vice President 1). This condition force that the members of the European Society must belong also to one of the OR societies, at least, that now and then are state members of EURO. The reason for this change seems to be very clear for the EC. We are confronted with the process of the European unification (European training standards, European research funding, European job market, etc.). We think that being a Society instead of an Association will reinforce us to promote OR in Europe.

Again, it has being for me a privilege to serve as President of EURO.

Laureano F. Escudero

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EURO Newsletter #2 (December 15, 2005)

Report: Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize 2004

by Robert Dyson

MSSIP 2004

The Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize 2004 was the second to be awarded and was in the field of performance management and benchmarking. Submissions were invited covering data envelopment analysis (DEA), stochastic frontier analysis, benchmarking and balanced scorecard. There were nine high quality submissions all in the field of DEA which perhaps indicates a bias in the interests of the OR community.

The jury of Philippe Vincke, Maurice Shuttler, Leopold Simar, Raymond Bisdorff, Jyrki Wallenius, Marin Keuhn (of the sponsors SAP AG Germany) and Robert Dyson (Chair) deliberated and communicated via virtual meetings. Two submissions emerged as front runners and finally there was a consensus that the prize should be awarded to Timo Kuosmanen, Laurens Cherchye and Timo Sipilainen for the paper entitled "The law of one price in data envelopment analysis: restricting weight flexibility across firms". The prize was awarded at the conference banquet and the paper presented in a semi-plenary session. A rewarding feature of the process was that several of the submitting authors had attended the Euro Summer Institute on DEA at the University of Warwick in 1998. It was good to see many of the young graduates of the Institute from across Europe realising their undoubted potential. The winning paper will be published in EJOR.

An unintended consequence of the process was that most of the submissions were not presented at the conference. Perhaps in future a short list might be drawn up and included in the conference programme with the final decision being confirmed after the presentations.

Robert

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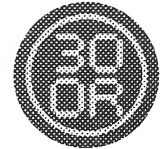
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EURO Newsletter #2 (December 15, 2005)

Stories: Water Distribution in Kenya

by *Tabitha Gathoni Mundia*

How serious is the water problem in Kenya?

Providing for the basic (water, food and shelter) needs in the developing countries remains a great challenge.

Fact: (16 million) half of the population in Kenya lack access to safe water. 13 million from the rural area - ref. daily nation (newspaper) dated 23rd march 2005.

Water policies :

- The 1990s 'water for all by year 2000'.
- More recently millennium development goals by 2015.

Remember water is life and every human being has a right to basic needs!

Introduction

Case study used in the analysis: Kangaru village.

Kangaru village is one of the numerous villages in Embu district in the eastern province of Kenya. More than half of the population live below the poverty level. Being in the highlands of Kenya the area is well drained with the Kapingazi River bordering it a number of streams flowing across it. The land is sloppy and has a steep gradient. It is also very good for farming. Kangaru village is scarcely populated with the people owning relatively large parcels of land. People here depend on the seasonal rain and on river kapingazi to farm, water their animals, bathe and carry their household chores like doing their laundry.

Drawbacks of drawing water from river Kapingazi

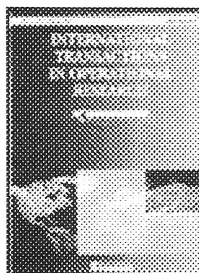
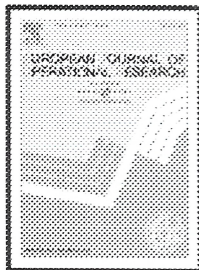
- Increase in school dropouts.
- Unhygienic drinking water causes waterborne diseases.
- Productivity has been adversely affected
- Women suffer backaches and other spine-related problems
- Conflicts due to trespassing

Problems in achieving government policies in the area:

- It had proposed to that people have piped water that is provided by the municipal council in the area at a monthly fee instead of using the river. But almost 90% of the villagers cannot afford the fee
- Misappropriation of the allocated funds to run the water for all project.
- It did not have a suitable method to have piped water in all homesteads. Considering that the area is very steep and sloppy

Overview of solution

- This paper proposes a cost-effective solution to the government and any



- Since we have n possible sites and r sites to develop we can have $n!$ possible minimal trees.
 $r!(n-r)!$
- These permutations are done using the software Tora to give accurate results.
- The set of possible sites that has the minimum spanning tree is picked as our water collection points that are cost effective.
- Where the minimum is the sum of the relative distances in a given possible site.

Conclusion

When minimal spanning tree is used the following is achieved:

- 90% of the targeted homesteads will have piped water in their homesteads and hence productivity in their farms will rise.
- The cost of the whole project was within the budget.
- Water will be now available at no monthly fee.
- The flow of water will be reliable since Kapingazi River is permanent.

References

- Delphi algorithms by Rod Stephens
- Journal of operational research society volume 35 number 8.
- Operations research by Taha.

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Posted by Paddel on January 20, 2006

I have the following question:

How do you obtain the weights for potential sites in your problem? Are they a function of cost, labour, etc.?

Thank you for your answer!

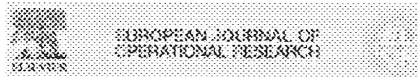
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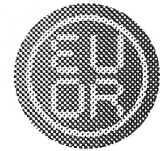
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EURO Newsletter #2 (December 15, 2005)

Members: A word on ORBEL

by *Etienne Loute*

The Belgian OR Society official name is SOGESCI-BVWB. It is referred to by its members as ORBEL rather than by its original name, hard to remind. It was founded in the sixties by academics and OR practitioners in industry and was originally aimed at a large scope of fields characterized by quantitative methods applied to management, from computer sciences to applied statistics. Its founders have been instrumental to the birth of EURO and some of its current members have been and are still deeply involved in the life of EURO.

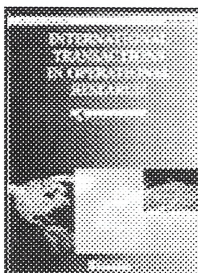
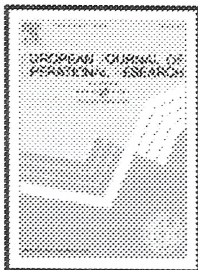
The involvement of members from the non-academic world has been unfortunately declining. In the sixties, Belgian industrial companies were discovering OR. As OR techniques slowly pervaded management practices the field of origin of those techniques was less clearly identified in contrast to statistical techniques which always remained clearly associated to the field of statistics. This is reflected by the fact that the Belgian Statistical Society has about three times the number of members compared to ORBEL. Another phenomenon is the industrial concentration in Europe. A few years ago Belgium has lost two of its industrial flagships, one in the oil industry and the other in the steel industry, both absorbed in world scale industry French groups. This has induced some loosening of their existing ties with OR departments of Belgian universities, which use to have research contract on tactical models in these industries. A more recent example is the merging, also within a large French company, of the major Belgian firm on the electricity market. In contrast with its competitors on the European market, this company had adopted leading edge mathematical techniques to deal with price regulation and electricity contracts. It has hired a significant fraction of the OR PhD output of the Belgian universities over the last years and has probably one of the best team in a department devoted to strategic planning.

Over its four decades of existence, ORBEL did not follow the evolution of the structure of the country, which evolved from a unitary state to a multiregional federal state, with in particular the splitting of the research and education administrations. They are now as distinct as the corresponding administration of two different countries. The rationale of Belgian political leaders was up to now not shared by the administrators of ORBEL. A unitary structure is maintained with an alternance of presidents from both Flemish and French speaking communities. This is reflected in the official name of the Society, which juxtaposes two acronyms, the meaning of which is "society for the application of quantitative methods to management". Communication in the Society is in English. With a membership close to 150, ORBEL succeeds in creating a sense of an OR community and of an added value service to its members. An almost monthly newsletter is close to its second year of existence. Other activities and services are:

- The organization of an annual two days national conference, which has typically an attendance of 80 to 100 people, about 50 papers presented, three plenary talks. The location of this conference is alternately a

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university of the Flemish community and of the French community.

- An annual best student paper ORBEL award endowed by OM Partner an OR Belgian company, leader on the European market, which has had close ties with ORBEL over many years. This competition is open to students who graduate in Belgian universities for a master degree related to OR. The laureate paper is presented in a plenary session of the annual ORBEL conference. The number of students taking part to the competition is typically from six to seven.
- The funding of one-day specialized conferences at research level in active research fields. This year the subject was "Data Mining and OR".
- The distribution of a society journal "4OR" common with the French and Italian OR Societies.
- Acting as a relay for EURO supported activities such as summer institutes, awards, etc.

While it has lost some its industrial roots, ORBEL is evolving according to its time. Nowadays, more emphasis is put on the educational and research aspects of the OR discipline by stimulating contacts across university teams. In spite of the country small size, important subfields such as mathematical programming, especially combinatorial programming, multicriteria decision-making, modeling of preferences, etc. are well represented. On the more application oriented side, supply chain management, transportation systems, data mining, among others, are doing quite as well.

As a final word on the aims of ORBEL, it should be said that it devotes a substantial part of its resources on its youngest generation of members. For example students registering at the annual national conference have a free full membership of the year of the conference (which holds early in the year, see <http://www.orbel20.ugent.be> for the 2006 conference). A student full membership registration independently on this event is cheap. Participation of students to specialized one-day conferences is encouraged through funding of registration fees and travel expenses. The best student paper competition is aimed at stimulating the interest of the students in the society and its activities.

Etienne Loute
ORBEL president 2004 and 2005
loute@core.ucl.ac.be

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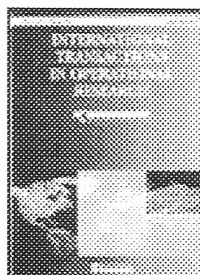
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ADONET - scholarships for doctoral students

UNIVERSITE CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN
CENTER FOR OPERATIONS RESEARCH AND ECONOMETRICS

In the cadre of ADONET (Algorithmic Discrete Optimization Network) financed by the European Union, CORE (Center for Operations Research and Econometrics, Université catholique de Louvain) is looking to offer one or more early-stage researcher scholarships for doctoral students wishing to spend a period from between 3-12 months at CORE during the 2006-2007 academic year (or earlier).

Topics of interest include semi-definite optimization, nonlinear integer programs, mixed integer programming, primal algorithms, polyhedral combinatorics.

Candidates are asked to submit a CV, a brief research proposal and a letter from their supervisor to Laurence Wolsey (wolsey@core.ucl.ac.be). Candidates wishing to start a doctorate will only be considered if they are exceptional, and have at least two reference letters.

Complete applications received by February 1st, 2006 will receive a response by the end of February. Applications received later will be considered in May if resources are still available.

Laurence Wolsey
CORE
Voie du Roman Pays 34
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

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Call For Papers CORS Optimization Days 2006

Dear Colleague,

The CORS/Optimization Days 2006 joint Conference will be held on May 8-10, 2006 at Montreal (Quebec, Canada). I am organizing a cluster on Multicriteria Decision Aid and Multi-Objective Programming. I would like to invite you to participate in this cluster. The guidelines for submitting abstracts are available online at the conference web page: <http://www.crt.umontreal.ca/scrojopt2006>. Please send me a copy of your abstract or submit it through the conference website. Please do not forget to specify that your abstract is for the Multicriteria Decision Aid Cluster. The deadline for submitting an abstract is **February 15, 2006**. For additional information on the CORS/Optimization Days 2006 meeting, please go to the conference web page. Please send me a notice if you plan to participate in this Conference. My e-mail is: baouni@laurentian.ca.

Please diffuse this invitation to all those interested in Multi-Criteria Decision Aid and Multi-Objective Programming.

All the best,

Belaid Aouni, Ph.D.
Professor/Professeur titulaire
Research Coordinator/Coordinateur de recherche
School of Commerce and administration,
Laurentian University,
Sudbury (Ontario), P3E 2C6. Canada.
Phone: +1 (705) 675-1151 ext. 2140.
Fax: +1 (705) 675-4880.

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CALL FOR PAPERS : WORKSHOP ON BAYESIAN NETWORKS IN DEPENDABILITY (BND2006)

co-located with the First International Conference on Availability, Reliability and Security (AREs) ARES 2006
April, 20th - April, 22nd 2006
Vienna University of Technology (<http://www.ares-conf.org/>)

WORKSHOP CO-CHAIRS:

Stefania Montani, University of Piemonte Orientale
Hichem Boudali, University of Twente

WORKSHOP TOPICS:

Bayesian Networks (BN) have been proposed in the field of Artificial Intelligence as a probabilistic framework for reasoning under uncertain knowledge. The robustness and flexibility of this formalism are demonstrated by the wide spectrum of real world problems in which they have been successfully tested. The area of dependability has to be included in the range of BN application domains, since, in recent years, some works have started to investigate the capabilities of this methodology in modeling and analyzing complex and safety critical systems. In particular, with respect to traditional dependability analysis formalisms, BN show an increased modeling power: they allow to deal with multi-valued variables, local dependencies among components, and noisy interaction among component behavior in a natural way - three issues that can not be easily accounted for by Fault Trees, for instance. In addition, a general inference mechanism (combining prediction as well as diagnosis) can be naturally performed on them, even if evidence is gathered during analysis.

Several extensions of the BN formalism also appear to be of great interest: among them Dynamic BN and temporal BN in general for dealing with dynamic system behavior, and object-based representations for dealing with parametric representations.

The goals of this workshop will be to:

- collect present approaches to dependability applications of BN;
- show case studies and practical experiences;
- provide a forum for discussion of trends, research issues and opportunities of co-operation among different groups.

Topics of interest will include (but are not limited to):

- BN for modeling and analyzing safety critical systems
- BN and BN extensions for modeling and analyzing systems showing complex dependencies
- comparisons among the application of BN and other more classical methodologies
- comparisons among different BN approaches to dependability problems
- case studies in using BN for dependability analysis
- use of BN to structure elicitation of expert judgment

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Contributors should submit PDF papers of at most 5 pages (IEEE Computer Society Proceedings Manuscript style: two columns, single-spaced), including figures and references, using 10 fonts. Author Guidelines are available on the web at <http://computer.org/cspress/instruct.htm>

The abstract and full paper have to be submitted via the ARES website (<http://www.ares-conf.org/myreview/SubmitAbstract.php>
<http://www.ares-conf.org/myreview/SubmitPaper.php>)

Proceedings of the ARES workshops will be published by IEEE Computer Society Press.

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 19th 2005: deadline for paper submission

January 20th 2006: notification of acceptance

February 1st 2006: camera ready copy due

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE:

Joanne Bechta Dugan, University of Virginia

Marc Bouissou, Electricité de France

Helge Langseth, Sintef, Norway

Luigi Portinale, University of Piemonte Orientale

John L. Quigley, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Luis E. Sucar, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey

Philippe Weber, Université Henri Poincaré, Nancy

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European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR)
Special Issue on "Continuous Optimization in the Industry"
submission deadlines of full papers: January 15, 2006
Contact: Prof. Dr. Tibor Illes, Email: illes@cs.elte.hu

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3rd ESICUP Meeting: SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS (and CONFERENCE POSTER)

The EURO Working Group on Cutting and Packing Meeting

Porto, Portugal, March 16-18, 2006

Up-to-date information at <http://www.isep.ipp.pt/esicup-3rdMeeting>

Organizing Committee:

Eduarda Pinto Ferreira (ISEP) Chair

António Miguel Gomes (FEUP/INESC Porto)

Cláudio Alves (UM)

José F. Oliveira (FEUP/INESC Porto) - ESICUP coordinator

Program chair:

José Valério de Carvalho (UM)

Important Dates

- Title and abstract submission - December 31, 2005
- Notification of acceptance - January 14, 2006
- Registration - January 31, 2006
- Meeting - March 16-18, 2006

Bursaries

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of bursaries to cover the conference fee for one of the packages that include accommodation. In order to apply you must be presenting a paper and be either a PhD student or from Eastern Europe. Applications from PhD students must be accompanied by a letter or an email from their supervisor confirming that they are registered as PhD students.

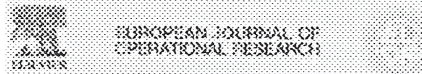
How to apply

To apply you must first have submitted an abstract using the web site of the conference. You may then apply by sending an email to José F. Oliveira (jfo@fe.up.pt). Application deadline is the 31st December.

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