

The 13th Mini-EURO Conference

Introduction

The 13th Mini-EURO Conference on Handling Uncertainty in the Analysis of Traffic and Transportation Systems was organized by the Polytechnic University of Bari, Department of Highways and Transportation, Transportation Section, from 10 to 13 June 2002 at the Polytechnic University campus area in Bari, Italy (see also <http://www.poliba.it/ewg2002>).

This Mini-EURO Conference follows the 9th and the 11th Mini-EURO Conferences on Transportation, organized respectively by the University of Belgrade (September, 1997) and Helsinki University of Technology (August, 1999). These two highly successful conferences emphasized the theme of new approaches to the transportation systems analysis.

The issue of this Mini-EURO Conference was how to deal with uncertainty that became one of the major subjects in transportation engineering and planning, as advances have been made in Intelligent Transportation Systems.

Until the 60's the only mathematical framework to deal with Uncertainty was the Probability Theory; afterwards, while connection between Uncertainty and Probability was investigated in depth, new paradigms arose and, among them, the Possibility Theory. Then, it became evident that there are different and distinct facets of Uncertainty, which cannot be caught only by Probability Theory.

Therefore, the aim of this Conference was just to put together the most relevant scientists and examine the best use of different theories in representing these different aspects of the Uncertainty.

Sessions of the Conference covered general approach to transportation, planning methodologies and philosophy, choice behavior, traffic control, signal and parking, networks, travel demand and travel time, signal, freight, road maintenance, traffic flow, driver behavior control, dynamic systems.

The invited lecture "Uncertainty: Many Faces and Utility" was given by professor George J. Klir (State University of New York, USA).

During the Conference, also a panel discussion on the subject: "Attitude to deal with Uncertainty in Transportation" has been held. The discussants were: Jotin KHISTY (Illinois Institute of Technology, USA), Hani MAHMASSANI (The University of Texas at Austin, USA) and Markos PAPAGEORGIOU (Technical University of Crete, Greece).

The conference, as many letters from participants acknowledged, was really successful both from a scientific point of view and for attractive tours in a region rich of history and art.

The total number of presented papers was 37, whose 69% from Europe, 16% from USA and Brazil, 15% from Asia.

Along with the 13th Mini-EURO Conference, the 9th Meeting of EURO Working Group on Transportation was also organized on “Intermodality, Sustainability and Intelligent Transportation Systems”. The Meeting was opened by Maurizio Bielli (EWGT Coordinator) and by the invited lecture of Jaime Barceló (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain). Many participants attended both to the Meeting and to the Conference organized along plenary and parallel sessions. Presentations were 115 in all with 150 participants.

The organizing committee has also edited the Conferences Proceedings book (and a CD-ROM), in which short versions of presented papers have been published.

13th Mini-EURO Conference Chairs

Mauro Dell’Orco, Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy

Shinya Kikuchi, University of Delaware, USA

The Scientific Committee

Richard Allsop, University College London, United Kingdom

Maurizio Bielli, National Research Council, IASI, Italy

Giulio Erberto Cantarella, University of Salerno, Italy

Mauro Dell’Orco, Polytechnic of Bari, Italy

Nathan Gartner, University of Massachusetts at Lowell, USA

Chris Hendrickson, Carnegie Mellon University, USA

Yasunori Iida, Kyoto University, Japan

Jotin Khisty, Illinois Institute of Technology, USA

Shinya Kikuchi, University of Delaware, USA

Hani Mahamassani, University of Texas at Austin, USA

Matti Pursula, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland

Francesco Russo, University of Reggio Calabria, Italy

Dusan Teodorovic, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, USA

Henk van Zuylen, Delft University, The Netherlands

The Social Program

During the conference, going in groups for dinner or to parties made the atmosphere very friendly. Registered accompanying persons were brought to short tours to relevant nice places around Bari. The social program included a concert and the gala dinner in the “Castello Svevo” (Swabian Castle) in Bari.

At the end of the conference, two tours were organized: the first one, to the Trani Cathedral and to “Castel del Monte”, a castle built by Frederick the II from Swabia; the second one, to the

Alberobello Village “Trulli”. Both the places have been declared world heritage by UNESCO.

Full papers publication

Selected full papers will be published, after a peer-reviewing process, in a special issue of Transportation Research part C (guest-editors Shinya Kikuchi and Mauro Dell’Orco) and of the European Journal of Operational Research (guest-editors Michele Ottomanelli and Maurizio Bielli).