

18th Mini-EURO Conference
“Variable Neighborhood Search”

Year: 2005
Name: MEC XVIII
Date: November 2005
Location: Puerto de la Cruz
Country: Tenerife island, Spain
Organiser(s): J.M. Moreno
Theme: Variable Neighborhood Search

The “**18th Mini EURO Conference**” (webpages.ull.es/users/gci/mecvns/) was dedicated to the **Variable Neighborhood Search** (VNS) and was held at the **Orotava Palace** hotel (www.puertopalace.com/) in the city of **Puerto de La Cruz**, (www.puertodelacruz.es/puerto/) in the island of Tenerife (www.webtenerife.com) from 23th to 25th November, 2005.

The presidential table of the inaugural session was compounded by the vice-rector of “Research and Technology Development” of the University of La Laguna (www.ull.es/), the Major of the City-hall of the town of Puerto de La Cruz (www.puertodelacruz.es/puerto/), the Director of the “Science, Technology and Innovation” (<http://www.octi.info/>) of the Government of the Canary Islands, the Honorary Chair of the Meeting and the Local Organizing Committee Chair. A book was edited and distributed to the participants with a presentation of the event, the details of the scientific and organizing committees, the detailed program, the list of papers organized by thematic sessions, the contents of the plenary sessions, the extended abstracts of the regular contributions and the list of authors alphabetically ordered with an indicator of the page of the corresponding works. The Proceedings of the Conference were edited on CD with ISBN: 84-689-5679-1: The content is accessible at <http://webpages.ull.es/users/gci/mecvns>. It includes a Presentation, the Committees, the list of papers ordered by sessions and alphabetically by title and by authors with the corresponding links to pdf files with extended abstracts or full papers, and the whole list of Sponsors and Collaborators with the links to their webpages.

A free “Welcome dinner” was offered to the participants and accompanying persons on 22 November and a Gala dinner on 25 November in the lounges of the hotel. On the 26 November, the participants and accompanying people had a free excursion to “Las Cañadas del Teide” National Park (<http://reddeparquesnacionales.mma.es/en/parques/teide/>), including a visit to the Visitor’s Centre at “El Portillo” and a Canary typical lunch in the Gardens “Victoria” in the Village of “La Orotava” (<http://www.villadelaorotava.org/>). The participants had free access to Internet during the development of the conference. Several bags of tourist promotion by

several promotional gifts, maps and leaflets of tourist information facilitated by different local entities were given to all the participants. A special honouring to the Honory Chair, Professor Pierre Hansen, with a special coffee break that included a birthday cake after the corresponding session celebrated in his honour and where he received several presents was also offered.

Three special issues devoted to the 18th MEC will appear in the journals: **European Journal of Operational Research** ISSN: 0377-2217 (<http://www.elsevier.com/>), **Journal of Heuristics** ISSN 1381-1231 (<http://www.springerlink.com/>) and **IMA Journal of Management Mathematics** (<http://www.oxfordjournals.org/>) ISSN 1471-678X.

There were 5 Plenary Talks, 10 thematic sessions with a total of 50 regular papers and a special session with 8 talks. The list of Plenary Talks was the following:

1. **Combining Variable Neighbourhood Search and Estimation of Distribution Algorithms**
Pedro Larrañaga
Chair: J.M. Moreno
2. **Soft Computing based Metaheuristics for Optimization**
José Luis Verdegay Galdeano
Chair: B. Melián
3. **VNS in Classification**
R. Blanquero, E. Carrizosa, N. Diaz-Diaz, B. Martín-Barragan, F. Plastria, D. Romero-Morales_
Chair: J.A. Moreno
4. **Parallel VNS**
Theodor Crainic
Chair: P. Hansen
5. **A hybrid heuristic for a real-life car sequencing problem with multiple requirements**
Celso Ribeiro, Daniel Aloise, Thiago Noronha, Caroline Rocha, Sebastian Urrutia
Chair: N. Mladenovic

The list of organizations and companies that cooperated with the Conference is the following

- ULL – The University of La Laguna
<http://www.ull.es/>
- EURO – The Association of European Operational Research Societies
<http://www.euro-online.org/>
- GERAD – Group for Research in Decision Analysis, Canada
<http://www.gerad.ca/>
- Dirección General de Investigación del Gobierno de Canarias
<http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/educacion/DGUI/>
- Oficina de Ciencia y Tecnología del Gobierno de Canarias
<http://www.octi.info/>
- Instituto Universitario de Desarrollo Regional de la Universidad de La Laguna
<http://webpages.ull.es/users/inuder/>

- Dirección General de Investigación del Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia
<http://www.mec.es/>
- SEIO – Sociedad de Estadística e Investigación Operativa
<http://www.seio.es/>
- CajaCanarias – Caja General de Ahorro de Canarias
<http://www.cajacanarias.es/>
- AEPIA – Asociación Española para la Inteligencia Artificial
<http://aepia.dsic.upv.es/>
- Cabildo de Tenerife
<http://www.cabtfe.es/>
- Ayuntamiento del Puerto de la Cruz
<http://www.puertodelacruz.org/>
- Ayuntamiento de La Orotava
<http://www.villadelaorotava.org/>
- Ayuntamiento de San Cristóbal de La Laguna
<http://www.aytolalaguna.com/ayto/>
- Ayuntamiento de Santa Cruz de Tenerife
<http://www.sctfe.es/>
- SPET - Sociedad de Promoción Exterior de Tenerife
<http://www.webtenerife.com/>
- Viajes SABANDA, S.A.
<http://viajessabanda.over.es/>
- TECNOEMPLO, S.L.
<http://www.tecnoempleo.es/>
- GCI - Grupo de Computación Inteligente de la Universidad de La Laguna
<http://webpages.ull.es/users/gci/>

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