

20th Mini-EURO Conference
“Continuous Optimization and Knowledge Based Technologies”
(EUROPT-2008)
May 20-23, 2008, Neringa, Lithuania

Year: 2008
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Date: May 2008
Location: Neringa
Country: Lithuania
Organiser(s): Leonidas Sakalauskas
Theme: Continuous Optimization and Knowledge Based Technologies

The International Conference and EURO Mini Conference “Continuous Optimization and Knowledge Based Technologies (EUROPT-2008)” was held in Neringa, Lithuania, May 20-23, 2008, <http://www.mii.lt/EUROPT-2008>.

The organizing institutions of the EUROPT-2008 are

- European Association of Operational Research Societies (EURO),
- EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization (EUROPT),
- Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius, Lithuania,
- Lithuanian Operational Research Society (LitORS),
- Germany OR Society (GOR),
- Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vilnius, Lithuania,

in cooperation with

- European Chapter on Metaheuristics (EUME);
- European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimization (ECCO);
- European Working Group on Financial MOdelling;
- IBM Europe (Zurich),
- Institute of Applied Mathematics, METU, Ankara, Turkey.

The conference EUROPT-2008 was supported by

- European Association of Operational Research Societies (EURO),
- EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization (EUROPT WG),
- Germany OR Society (GOR),
- IBM Europe (Zurich),
- European Office of Aerospace Research & Development (EOARD),
- Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM),
- Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Conference was organized by the Organizing Committee, chaired by Professor Leonidas Sakalauskas from the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius, Lithuania, and co-chaired by Professor Gerhard Wilhelm Weber from the Middle EAST University, Ankara, Turkey. The scientific programme of the conference has been created as well as papers to publish in ISI Proceedings and special issues of top-rating journals have been selected by the International Programme Committee, chaired by Professor Tamas Terlaky from the McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, and co-chaired by Professor Boris T. Polyak from the Institute of Control Problems, Moscow, Russia.

The EUROPT-2008 has provided a forum for multidisciplinary communication of recent works on continuous optimization and knowledge based technologies, in which many newcomers were introduced on the international stage, renowned experts honoured, new research projects were started, friendship between participants was initialized and intensified as well as friendship between nations deepened.

The Programme Committee accepted 166 abstracts for publishing in the Volume of Abstracts from those submitted by more than 200 authors from 28 countries. 123 participants from 24 countries (Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Czech, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States) attended the Conference communicating with 7 invited lectures, 1 EUROPT invited lecture, and 112 contributed presentations in 28 parallel contributed sessions.

The invited lectures have been delivered by well-known scientists who put the special emphasis on those areas that mostly contribute to the appreciation of the state-of-the-art of continuous optimization and knowledge-based technologies, that became important tutorials for many young promising researchers, who took an active part in the conference. The following invited lectures have been delivered:

“PAC-Bayes theory of Generalisation” by Prof. John Shawe-Taylor (University College London, UK),

“Machine Learning with Bregman Divergence” by Prof. Inderjit Dhillon (University of Texas at Austin, USA),

“A tale of two debt crises: stochastic optimal control analysis” by Prof. Jerome Stein (Brown University, USA),

“OR in RNA structure analysis” by Dr Marta Szachniuk and Prof. Jacek Blazewicz (Poznan University of Technology, Poland),

“Optimization and knowledge-based technologies in Electricity Markets” by Prof. Yves Smeers (Catholique University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) ,

“Discrete nonlinear optimization in a conic programming framework” by Prof. Mirjam Dür (Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany),

“Multi-Objective Optimization and Multi-Criteria Decision Making” by Prof. Kaisa Miettinen (University of Jyväskylä, Finland).

The EUROPT invited lecture “Computing safe dike heights at minimal costs” has been also delivered by Prof. Kees Roos from the Delft University, Netherlands, who was nominated as EUROPT Fellow in 2008.

Dissemination of knowledge discovered in EUROPT-2008 is a very important task. The Programme Committee selected 84 papers from those 113 submitted for publishing in the Volume of ISI Proceedings, which have been delivered during the Conference. The organizers of the Conference are planning to prepare special issues of selected EUROPT-2008 papers to be published in the top-rating journals “Informatica”, “TOP (An Official Journal of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research)”, “Technological and economic development of economy”.

Prof. Leonidas Sakalauskas
Vice-President of the Lithuanian Operational Research Society
Chairman of EUROPT-2008

ANNEX



Conference participants at the hotel „Jurate“



**Invited lecture of Professor Kaisa Miettinen
(Jyvaskyla University, Finland)**



**Bahar Sennaroglu, Kadri Akay, Nesrin Guler, Deniz Inan, Pakize Taylan
Mujgan Tez, Gerhard Weber, Guvenc Arslan**



During the excursion in Nida



**Kadri Akay, Bahar Sennaroglu, Dean Webb,
Saverio Giuliani-Nesrin Guler-Mujgan Tez**



Folk music group „Joldija“



Excursion to Thomas Mann house



Neringa is in the list of United Nations heritage