

Optima@ISMP

Newsletter of the 20th International Symposium on Mathematical Programming

Monday, August 24, 2009



Today's Plenaries

Stephen Boyd

Real-time Embedded Convex Optimization

Marriott-Chicago DE, 9am

Eva Tardos

Games in Networks: The Price of Anarchy, Stability, and Learning

Marriott-Chicago D, 5pm

Mihai Anitescu

Numerical Methods for Large Scale Differential Variational Inequalities

Marriott-Chicago E, 5pm

That's So Random!

Arbitrarily featured, potentially great...

Guanghai Lan

A Unified Optimal First-order Method for Convex Optimization (Session MA06, Conic Programming Algorithms, Programming Cluster)

Marriott-Kansas City, 11:30am

Dr Lan is beginning an appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Florida.

Welcome to ISMP!

The ISMP Organizing Committee and the Mathematical Programming Society (MPS) welcome you to Chicago for the 20th International Symposium on Mathematical Programming! We wish you an enjoyable and productive meeting. Downtown Chicago has changed a lot in recent years, and we hope you have the opportunity to explore new features such as Millennium Park and its sculptures and architectural innovations, as well as the more established cultural riches of the Art Institute, the Field Museum (site of Wednesday evening's conference banquet), and orchestra concerts at Grant Park and Ravinia Park. We're particularly pleased to introduce Optima@ISMP, the daily newsletter of the conference. We're aiming to keep you informed of the major events each day, let you know about happenings in MPS, and give you hints about places to dine and visit around town.



Monday's ISMP Events

MPS Council Meeting
Gleacher Center South Lounge (Rm 320), 7:00pm
(By invitation)

COSP Business Meeting,
Gleacher Room 208, Noon-1:00pm
(Bring your own lunch unless you placed an order with the organizers in advance.)

Coming Tuesday

MPS Business Meeting
Marriott-Chicago D, 6:15pm-7:15pm

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

ISMP Prize Winners Announced at Opening Ceremony

The ISMP Opening ceremony at Chicago's Orchestra Hall last night featured welcome addresses from ISMP Chair John Birge and MPS Chair Steve Wright, together with presentation of MPS's prizes. A performance by the Midwest Young Artists Big Band concluded the program. A feature of the evening was an appearance by family members of the late Delbert Ray Fulkerson, in whose memory the Fulkerson Prize was established in 1979. The family was introduced by Ray's colleague and former MPS Chair George Nemhauser. We are grateful to Dr. Kieran Fulkerson and to other family members for their generous contribution to the endowment.

The 2009 prize winners were:
Dantzig Prize (co-sponsored by SIAM): Gérard Cornuéjols
Fulkerson Prize (co-sponsored by AMS): Maria Chudnovsky, Neil Robertson, Paul Seymour, Robin Thomas (shared one prize); Daniel Spielman, Shang-Hua Teng (shared one prize); Thomas Hales, Samuel Ferguson (shared one prize).
Beale-Orchard-Hays Prize: Tobias Achterberg
Tucker Prize: Winner - Mohit Singh; Finalists - Jiawang Nie, Tobias Achterberg
Lagrange Prize in Continuous Optimization (co-sponsored with SIAM): Jean Bernard Lasserre

Monday



82° F | 66° F
Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



88° F | 67° F
Mostly Cloudy

Wednesday



79° F | 61° F
Chance for Storms



Inside MPS

Interview with Steve Wright, MPS Chair

Can you give us a little background on the Mathematical Programming Society (MPS)?

MPS was founded in 1971-72, with the goal of providing continuity between ISMPs, which by then were being held on a regular three-year schedule. The society journal, *Mathematical Programming*, also started publication around that time.

What has happened in MPS since the last ISMP in Rio (2006)?

We've started the new journal *Mathematical Programming Computation*, amended the society's constitution and thoroughly modernized the bylaws, and established ICCOPT alongside ISMP and IPCO as a regular MPS-sponsored conference. We've revamped the MPS web site, and are once again publishing the society newsletter *Optima* on a regular schedule—with new editors and producers. ISMP 2009 has been a major focus, along with regular society activities such as prizes and publication of the existing society journals and book series.

What do you see as future challenges and opportunities for MPS?

Maintaining the quality of the society's assets - the publications, conferences, and prizes that make such an important contribution to the profession - and finding new ways to serve the field. Technical sections, regional sections and expansion beyond the traditional membership base of the US and Europe are all ways to grow the society.

As MPS chair, what was your biggest challenge? Did you find much of your effort was specifically focused?

The biggest challenge has been trying to keep all the balls in the air! Among the many priorities, I'd say my highest was to ensure the success of this symposium. A great ISMP is probably the single biggest boost that our field of optimization can get in each 3-year cycle. Thanks to great work by the organizers and staff, I'm confident it will be a terrific meeting.

What direction(s) would you like to see MPS take in the next few years?



Cluster chairs for Conic Programming sessions are Raphael Hauser and Kim-Chuan Toh.

One issue that I hope to tackle in my final year as chair is membership. In these days of electronic access to journals, retaining members is a challenge for a society such as ours that's not a section of a larger organization. A strong and active membership produces good leadership and helps MPS serve the field better. In 2010 and beyond, it will be up to the next generation of officers, councillors, and editors to set the specific priorities, and they'll do a great job.

Puzzler!

Suppose you're given twelve balls of identical appearance. Eleven of the balls have the same weight, while the "odd ball" has a different weight. You also have a balance scale that can determine whether any two equal-size subsets of balls are the same weight, or whether one is heavier or lighter than the other. Define a scheme for identifying the odd ball that uses—at most—three weighings.

Optimal Chicago City attractions to visit on your down time.

Good Eats

Sample Chicago - Greektown

Near Intersection of Halsted St. and Adams St.
A short taxi ride from ISMP is Chicago's Greektown, home to a number of famous restaurants within a couple of blocks, including Greek Islands, Pegasus, Roditi's, and the Parthenon. Hearty food and great value. Dare to drink the retsina and order the flaming cheese as an appetizer.

Quick Bite - Reagle Beagle

160 E. Grand Ave., at Grand and St. Clair.

The Beagle's menu is classic, shareable pub grub with a few flourishes like the Jamaican jerk pulled pork served in its a hollowed-out pineapple. Of course, everyone's favorite from the 1970s era—fondue—is also on the menu.

For more dining ideas, visit metromixchicago.com



Tonight in Chicago

Chicago Architecture Foundation Happy Hour Tour - 'Downtown Deco'

Learn the origins of Art Deco and visit Chicago's Art Deco skyscrapers. Free drink ends two-hour tour. \$16; reservations recommended - 312-922-3432 x226. Meet at CAF shop, 224 South Michigan Avenue, 5:30pm.

Ravinia Outdoor Concert Series -

Eroica Trio: Works by Gershwin, Bernstein, Mendelssohn. Pack a picnic and get there by taxi (45-minute drive). Tickets \$10-\$40. Box Office - 847-266-5100. *Ravinia Park, 200-231 Ravinia Park Road, Highland Park, 8pm.*

Free Art Exhibits- Chicago Cultural Center New Art from China, editorial cartoons, collages, watercolors and sculptures. Walk to this one! *77 E. Randolph Street. thru 7pm Mon-Thurs.*