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Integration of AI and OR Techniques in Constraint Programming for Combinatorial Optimization Problems

5th International Conference, CPAIOR 2008
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Proceedings



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Preface

The 5th International Conference on Integration of AI and OR Techniques in Constraint Programming for Combinatorial Optimization Problems (CPAIOR 2008) was held in Paris, France May 20–23, 2008.

The purpose of this conference series is to bring together researchers in the fields of constraint programming, artificial intelligence, and operations research to explore ways of solving large-scale, practical optimization problems through integration and hybridization of the fields' different techniques. Through the years, this research community is discovering that the fields have much in common, and there has been tremendous richness in the resulting cross-fertilization of fields.

This year, we allowed submissions of both long (15 page) and short (5 page) papers, with short papers either being original work, a reduced version of a long paper, or an extended abstract of work published elsewhere. We were not surprised by the 69 submissions in the long paper category: this is an active field with many researchers. We were surprised by the 61 short paper submissions. This was far more than predicted. With 130 high-quality submissions, competition for acceptance in this year's program was particularly fierce. In the end, we accepted 18 long papers and 22 short papers for presentation and publication in this volume.

In addition to the selected papers, there were three invited talks. Those speakers were Cindy Barnhart, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Pascal Van Hentenryck, Professor of Computer Science at Brown University, and François Laburthe, Director of Operations Research and Innovation at Amadeus, a leading information technology firm in the travel industry.

On May 20, a Master Class was held, organized by Cindy Barnhart and Laurent Michel, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Connecticut. The theme of the Master Class was “Modeling Practical Problems: The OR/CP Interface.” The Master Class is intended for PhD students, researchers and practitioners.

Thursday afternoon was given over to three workshops: Open-Source Software for Integer and Constraint Programming, organized by Robin Lougee-Heimer of IBM Research and Ionut Aron, formerly of IBM Research, Bin Packing and Placement Constraints, organized by a group led by Nicolas Beldiceanu of EMN Nantes, and Constraint-Based Methods for Bioinformatics, organized by Agostino Dovier of the University of Udine.

This year, the conference organization was divided. While we handled the program, François Fages, Senior Research Scientist INRIA, joined Laurent in the conference organization. François and Laurent, with the help of the colloquium office at INRIA, were responsible for organizing the venue, finding sponsorship

funds, and the million other details that go into running a successful conference. François was also particularly helpful in assisting us with program policy decisions, and we are grateful for his thoughts and experience.

We would particularly like to thank the Program Committee for their efforts. No one expected 130 submissions, and they did a tremendous job of reading, reviewing, and commenting on papers in a timely and insightful fashion.

Finally, we would like to thank the sponsors who make this possible. These include the Association for Constraint Programming, INRIA, Microsoft Research/INRIA Joint Center, National ICT Australia, ILOG, COSYTEC, Intelligent Information Systems Institute at Cornell, KLS OPTIM, Jeppesen Technology Services and the energy company Total.

May 2008

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