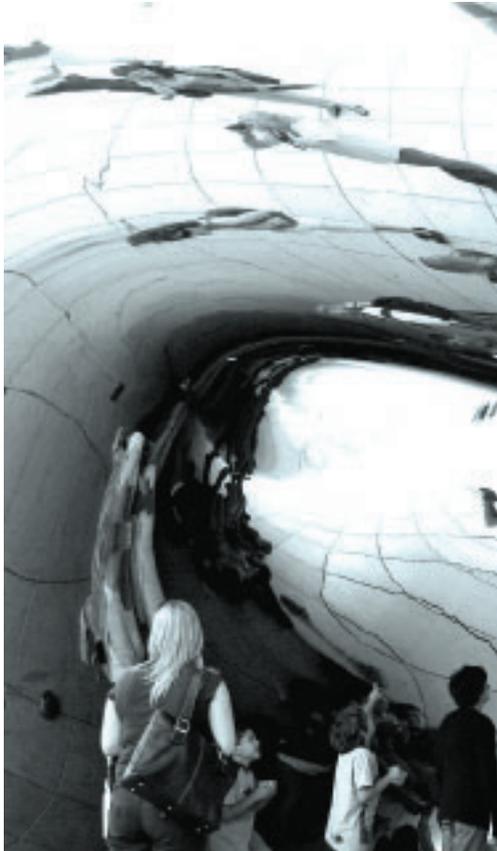


Optima@ISMP

Newsletter of the 20th International Symposium on Mathematical Programming

Friday August 28, 2009



Today's Plenaries

Andrzej Ruszczyński
Risk-Averse Optimization
Marriot-Chicago DE, 8:30am

Pablo Parrilo
The Convex Algebraic Geometry of Rank Minimization
Marriot-Chicago D, 1pm

That's So Random!

Arbitrarily featured, potentially great...

Wellington Oliveira
An Inexact Bundle Method for Two-stage Stochastic Linear Programming (Session FA16, Stochastic Optimization Cluster)
Gleacher 200, 11:30am
Oliveria's talk is about joint work with his Rio colleagues Claudia Sagastizabal and Susana Scheimberg.

Conference Context

Millenium Park Feature **- How 'The Bean' Was Born -**

Affectionately nicknamed 'the Bean' by Chicagoans, the 110-ton elliptical Cloud Gate sculpture (pictured on back) has garnered both criticism and praise for its whimsical legume-like shape. Still, regardless of aesthetics, the gleaming steel pod is a sight atop the raised plane of AT&T Plaza.

Conceived by London-based artist Anish Kapoor, the Bean was forged of over 150 highly polished steel plates with no visible seams. It is 66 feet long and 33 feet tall, with a 12-foot high 'gate' at its middle. Kapoor and engineer Chris Hornzee-Jones, also from London, intentionally shaped and positioned the sculpture to reflect and distort Chicago's famous skyline and invite interaction.

The Bean is usually surrounded by crowds gazing at, touching, exploring and generally being captivated by its shape and reflection.

As Cloud Gate was somewhat difficult to engineer, its construction fell behind schedule, so that it was unfinished when unveiled at Millenium Park's grand opening celebration in 2004. The Bean was then concealed again until its official dedication, in 2006.

Next ICCOPT Announced

The next International Conference on Continuous Optimization (ICCOPT) will be held in Santiago, Chile on July 26-29, 2010. This MPS-sponsored conference is the third in a series, the first two being held in Troy (2004) and Hamilton (2007). Visit <http://www.iccopt2010.cmm.uchile.cl/> for additional details. As is traditional at ICCOPT, the main conference will be preceded by "winter school" for graduate students on July 24-25, which students can apply to attend. Organizing Committee chair Alejandro Jofre or any of his fellow organizers would be happy to tell more.

Wednesday's ISMP Banquet



Friday



72° F | 62° F
Rain Likely

Saturday



70° F | 54° F
Chance of Rain

Sunday



60° F | 54° F
Mostly cloudy

Inside ISMP

Interview with MPS publications editors Andrea Lodi (Optima editor), Marc Pfetsch (MPS webmaster)
To Andrea Lodi: You've been Optima editor since 2006 and have put the newsletter back on a regular publication schedule. Please tell us a little about how you've reshaped Optima and how you structure each issue.

AL: *Optima* has a long tradition of almost thirty years. With my co-editors, Alberto Caprara and Katya Scheinberg, I have been primarily concerned about putting *Optima* back on MPS members' desks regularly—without changing too much of the newsletter's structure. Just in 2008, we decided to change the structure a bit to associate with each issue a specific topic. To do this, we added a "Discussion Column" to the traditional area-specific work contributed by recognized experts. The column is intended to offer a [relevant] commentary written by other experts, or a related interview or another (shorter) paper in the area. [Using this format], we hope each issue has its own character and can be referred to by interested readers.

Also in 2008, we started publishing an "MPS Chair's Column" regularly. The column recaps the activity of the Society and drives readers' attention to important events and decisions.

To Mark Pfetsch: You took over as Web editor in 2007. The site was redesigned in 2008 and launched in early 2009.

Tell us a bit about the redesign: the motivation, the process, the implementation details, etc.

MP: The old webpages were a bit outdated, both from the visual impression and the technical details behind the scenes. We initiated the redesign in Spring 2008. We hired a design company to set up the new framework and transform most of the content. This process was finished in late Fall 2008, and the web pages went online in January 2009. The new web pages are based on PHP and are easily maintainable and extendable. From the (visual) design point of view, we tried to stay close to the old setting.

What new features have been added to the site during your term? Why?

MP: New features include the news bar on the left, and new content



at several places, e.g., on the new journal *Mathematical Programming Computation*. Moreover, the site for the *Optima* newsletter has been moved to our server and all issues of *Optima* are now available online. Additionally, most issues of the COAL newsletter of the former Committee on Algorithms are now available online, thanks to Trond Steilhaug.

What features would you like to see added in future? Why?

MP: Here are some ideas out of the box: A blog devoted to more mathematical issues, a discussion forum for MPS members, a RSS feed, and many others. MPS and I are open to support such and other ideas. Of course, their implementation would depend on someone volunteering to provide content, e.g. for a Blog. Feedback on this would be very welcome.

On a higher level, it is a general question of how the MPS can provide information and data that is interesting and useful for current and prospective members.

To all: What do you see as a current hot topic in optimization?

AL: My personal preference goes to MINLP, a great domain of interaction among mathematicians in different areas and an endless source of interesting applications.

MP: Maybe the extension of integer programming techniques to nonlinear integer programming can be seen as a current hot topic, on the edge of evolving into a separate mature research field.

Puzzler!

Given a doughnut (with a hole), what is the largest number of pieces you can divide it into using just three planar cuts?

Optimal Chicago

If you're staying in Chicago for the weekend, you'll have plenty to do!

Good Eats

Taste Chicago - The Gage

24 S. Michigan

This spot, across from Millennium Park, is a lively Irish pub with culinary flare. Look for a globally influenced American menu – lamb chop and stew vindaloo or roasted saddle of elk with juniper berry and rosemary. The interior has a vintage-industrial vibe with green subway tiles and reclaimed factory windows.

Good stroll - Gaylord Indian Restaurant

100 E. Walton St.

Try their lunch buffet offering a variety of Indian dishes for \$11.95. (An a la carte menu is also available.) At dinner, expect more traditional table service.

Tonight in Chicago

Chicago Architecture Foundation Happy Hour Tour - 'Modern Skyscrapers'

Visit some of the sites that gave Chicago its status as a center of modern architecture. Includes stops at Trump Tower and the Art Institute's new modern wing. Free drink ends two-hour tour. \$16; reservations recommended - 312-922-3432 x226. *Meet at CAF shop, 224 South Michigan Avenue, 5:30pm.*

Jammin' at the Zoo

Angel Taylor, 7:15pm; Five for Fighting, 8:45pm. Tickets, \$28 at the door. Take a taxi for a short ride. *Lincoln Park Zoo, Cannon Dr./Fullerton.*

This weekend

Chicago Architecture Foundation Tours

- 'Secrets of Grant Park,' Sat., 11:30am
'Magnificent Mile,' Sat., 10am, 'Millennium Park Revealed,' Sun., 11am. \$15; reservations recommended - 312-922-3432 x226. *Meet at CAF shop, 224 South Michigan Avenue.*

Baseball - Chicago Cubs vs. New York Mets. Purchase tickets at the event. Take the 'L' Red Line North from the Grand station to the Addison station. *Wrigley Field, 3pm.*

Also try

Renting a bicycle. Available for under \$40/day, at the Michigan Ave. bridge. River water taxi. \$3 gets you a scenic boat ride. Multiple pick-up points. Clark St.! Chicago's Gold Coast, Lincoln Park and Wrigleyville neighborhoods flank this bustling vein through the city.