

SIAG/OPT Business meeting

Wednesday, May 18th 2011; 6:45 PM

Darmstadtium Conference Center, Darmstadt, Germany

Approximately 60 attendees.

Michael Todd, the Chair of SIAG/OPT, called the meeting to order. He introduced the new officers, serving from January 2011 until December 2013, and thanked the outgoing officers. He also thanked Sven Leyffer for his service as the editor of the newsletter, and announced that Sven will be staying on as a co-editor, joined by Franz Rendl.

Another “thank you” went out to the local conference organizers for putting on an extremely successful SIAM Optimization conference. A few announcements about the conference (OPT11):

- Conference co-chairs: Michael Ferris (University of Wisconsin, USA) and Stephen Vavasis (University of Waterloo, Canada)
- Final registration number: 590
- SIAG Optimization Prize announced at the conference
 - Awarded to Christine Bachoc (Universite Bordeaux) and Frank Vallentin (TU-Delft)
 - Nominations for the 2014 prize should be sent to Mihai Anitescu

Next, several “advertisement” announcements were made on behalf of publications and organizations of interest to SIAG/OPT community:

- Publications:
 - SIAM News: would be good to introduce more optimization
 - SIAM Journal on Optimization (editor-in-chief: Jorge Nocedal): Journal doing well: submission rate about 260 per year; this year saw a faster start. Acceptance rate about 1/3. Jorge highlighted the well organized electronic submission system and quick publication turnaround.
 - MOS-SIAM Series on Optimization (editor-in-chief: Thomas Liebling). Pablo Parrilo, a member of the editorial board, had a simple message: “If you are writing a book, talk to the editors.”
 - SIAG/OPT Views-and-News (editors: Sven Leyffer and Franz Rendl): Sven highlighted that this is the newsletter of the AG, and depends on members’ submissions. Articles should be 5-8 pages in length, on relevant themes for the community, targeted to general audience. The authors keep the copyright to the papers
- Other organizations and conferences:
 - ICIAM 2011, 7/18-22/11 in Vancouver, BC, Canada: 22 Mini-Symposia with “Optimization” in the title, 2 optimization-focused invited plenaries.
 - INFORMS Optimization Society (Chair: Jon Lee): Society Conference will take place in Coral Gables, Florida, US, 2/24-26/12. Other OS news: Nominations for 4 annual prizes are due at the end of June; nominations for new officers are due at the end of July. For details on all of the above, see society newsletter.

- Mathematical Optimization Society (Chair: Philippe Toint): Next ISMP is in Berlin, Germany, 8/19-24/12. Committees for prizes awarded at the conference have been set up; nominations are welcome already (calls are forthcoming); rules are posted on the web.

Next, Mike Todd discussed possible locations for the next SIAG/OPT conference (OP14), inviting suggestions. Some considerations raised:

- The last four meetings were in North America or Europe. The next meeting could be in North America; South America or Asia are possibilities as well.
- Practical consideration: SIAM has staff to help with conferences in North America, including organizational and logistical help, as well as recordings of plenary talks. To hold a conference outside North America, we need a very strong organizing committee. It can be done (see example of OP11); if there are suggestions, proposals are needed.
- More coordination with ISMP is desirable to avoid consecutive meetings in nearby locations. Ideas for OP14 included Montreal, San Francisco, Seattle, Vancouver and San Diego. In informal approval voting, the West coast of the US won by a small margin over the East coast.

The last item on the agenda was the discussion of SIAG/OP membership. Overall membership is good (we are currently the second largest AG). However, the student membership is relatively low. A reminder: each member can nominate 2 students for free membership. For detailed statistics and benefits of membership, see presentation slides on the SIAG/OPT webpage.

Other business brought up at the meeting:

- Mike Todd: For future OP conferences, authors should follow rules against giving multiple talks. More student talks are encouraged.
- Michael Ferris: in the past, we decided to limit electronic communication to the wiki; is it time to revisit that decision? E.g. , should we have a blog? (This suggestion did not seem to have much support at the meeting; however, other outlets for sharing ideas and obtaining information about optimization were mentioned, including Wikimization at www.convexoptimization.com/wikimization/index.php/WIKIMIZATION.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM