

An overview of ORP³-OR for young researchers and practitioners

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This volume of the *Annals of Operations Research* is devoted to the ORP³ or “the OR Peripatetic Post-Graduate Programme” Conference, held at the facilities of the University of Cádiz (Spain) from September 13 to 17, 2011.

ORP³ is a sequence of conferences sponsored by EURO – The Association of European Operational Research Societies. Its objective is to promote collaboration and scientific and social exchanges between young OR researchers and practitioners. Before the 2011 meeting in Cádiz, four conferences were held: Paris (2001), Lambrecht (2003), Valencia (2005), and Guimarães (2007).

The ORP³ events are not restricted to specific fields and they accept any topic within the general scope of operations research. Nevertheless, in Cádiz the following topics were especially welcome: integer programming and combinatorial optimization, discrete optimization, graphs and networks, location theory, transportation and logistics, game theory, network optimization, multicriteria optimization, production management, supply chain management, and routing problems.

Due to capacity constraints, participation in the Cádiz meeting was limited to a group of 36. Applicants were considered only if they were either young PhD students, young post-docs, or young faculty in OR (having completed the doctoral thesis a maximum of two years before the deadline for submission), or young OR analysts (having a maximum of two years of professional experience at the deadline for submission). The selection of participants by the Scientific Committee was based only on the quality of their full paper submissions. Papers were expected to contain high quality material that would be publishable in an international

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OR journal. Coauthored papers were acceptable as long as they were presented by a young coauthor participant. All accepted papers appeared in [Castaño et al. \(2011\)](#).

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all who supported us in preparing this event: EURO, “Acción Complementaria” MTM2010-10788-E of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation/FEDER, SARE-C6-0368 of I-Math Project, Cádiz University through the Department of Statistics and Operations Research, Vicerectorado for Research and Technology Transfer and Social Council, and the Spanish Network on Location and related problems, MTM2009-07290-E. We also wish to thank the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation/FEDER through grant numbers MTM2007-67433-C02-(01,02), MTM2010-19576-C02-(01,02), and DE2009-0057, and Junta de Andalucía/FEDER through grant number FQM-5849.

We are grateful to the members of the Program Committee for thoroughly overseeing the examination and refereeing process of selecting the best 36 papers out of the 120 submissions. We warmly thank the members of the Organizing Committee for their dedication and hard work in putting all things together. Both committees put tremendous efforts into crafting a conference program that provided a wealth of opportunities to enhance understanding, to debate and discuss ideas with young and senior researchers of OR, and to develop new collaborations. We thank them for that.

The *Scientific Committee* for the ORP³-2011 included: Antonio M. Rodríguez-Chía (Universidad de Cádiz, Spain, Chair), Justo Puerto (Universidad de Sevilla, Spain, Co-Chair), Francisco Barahona (Thomas J. Watson Research Center, USA), Ángel Corberán (Universidad de Valencia, Spain), Elena Fernández (Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, Spain), Xavier Gandibleux (Université de Nantes, France), Stefan Ruzika (Kaiserslautern University, Germany), Eligius M.T. Hendrix (Wageningen University, Netherlands), Martine Labbé (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), Mercedes Landete (Universidad Miguel Hernández, Spain), Alfredo Marín (Universidad de Murcia, Spain), Stefan Nickel (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany), Arie Tamir (Tel Aviv University, Israel), Francisco Saldanha-da-Gama (University of Lisbon, Portugal), and the late Bruno Simeone (Universita La Sapienza, Rome).

The *Organizing Committee* was formed by Antonia Castaño Martínez (Chair), Inmaculada Espejo Miranda (Co-Chair), Concepción Valero Franco (Co-Chair), Juan I. García García, Juan A. García Ramos, Bartolomé López Jiménez, Juan L. Peralta Sáez, Carmen D. Ramos González, Miguel A. Sordo Díaz, and Alfonso Suárez Lloréns, all from the Universidad de Cádiz.

The meeting took place at the Faculty of Nursing and Physiotherapy of the Universidad de Cádiz. Located on a headland that juts out into a bay, the city of Cádiz has an amazing and colorful past that can be traced back to the Phoenicians in 1100 BC, and it is considered to be western Europe’s oldest city. Moorish in appearance, the city center is made up of cobbled, narrow streets and charming little squares. The conference tour took the participants to the historic center of Cádiz. There were two programmed visits in Jerez de la Frontera, a rich countryside of Cádiz situated between the sea and the mountains, which is famous throughout the world for its wines and horses. The first was a visit to the sherry winery Bodega Gonzalez Byass (Tio Pepe). This historic and monumental site is one of Europe’s most visited vineyards. The second was a visit to the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art, to enjoy the *How the Andalusian Horses Dance* show, an equestrian ballet accompanied by totally Spanish music and 18th century style costumes, all put together and choreographed using movements based upon classic dressage, doma vaquera, and the daily chores of traditional equestrian work.

The scientific program of ORP³ consisted of 36 presentations by the young researchers from 20 different countries, three tutorials, and three seminars.

- Tutorial I: Global Optimization, Panos Pardalos (University of Florida, USA)
- Tutorial II: Combinatorial Optimization, Francisco Barahona (Thomas J. Watson Research Center, USA)
- Tutorial III: Game Theory, Ignacio García-Jurado (Universidad de la Coruña, Spain)
- Seminar I: Location and Routing Problems, Ángel Corberán (Universidad de Valencia, Spain) and Alfredo Marín (Universidad de Murcia, Spain)
- Seminar II: Transportation and Logistics, Martine Labbé (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) and Stefan Nickel (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany)
- Seminar III: Continuous and Integer Programming, E. Carrizosa (Universidad de Sevilla)

In this special volume, *ORP³–OR for Young Researchers and Practitioners*, we have tried to put together contributions by young researchers and practitioners and to stimulate research activity in all areas of operations research. Therefore, it gathers not only selected papers presented at the Cádiz ORP³ conference but also other relevant papers that were coauthored by at least one young researcher. After a thorough refereeing of 127 submissions, 28 papers were accepted for publication. We thank the anonymous referees for their diligent efforts and constructive feedback during the entire review process.

The Guest-Editors,
Justo Puerto, Antonio M. Rodríguez-Chía, Arie Tamir

References

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