

6th Australia-China Workshop on Optimization: Theory, Methods and Applications

Guillermo Pineda-Villavicencio*

Summary

Optimization is a field of mathematics with numerous contemporary applications, and the 6th Australia-China Workshop on Optimization provided an opportunity to showcase recent advances. It was held at the University of Ballarat on 28 and 29 November 2013, sponsored by the University of Ballarat and the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (from the Australian part), and by the Chongqing Normal University and Shanghai University (from the Chinese part). A full list of the sponsors appeared on the workshop website (<http://federation.edu.au/faculties-and-schools/faculty-of-science/school-of-science-and-technology/research/conferences-and-workshops/the-6th-australia-china-workshop-on-optimization-theory,-methods-and-applications>) and in the delegate packs. So did full details of the workshop program, including abstracts of all the talks. There were 41 registered participants, including two keynote speakers: Professor Joe Dong (University of Sydney) who spoke about Intelligent Systems for Power System Security Assessment, and Professor Kok Lay Teo (Curtin University), who spoke about A Free Terminal Time Optimal Control Problem. Another 20 speakers gave invited short talks of 30 minutes each. The topics of the talks ranged from the theory of mathematical programming and optimisation to their applications to fields as diverse as traffic management, electricity grids, cell division, and scheduling problems.

Participants came not only from six Australian and four Chinese universities, but also from CSIRO, NICTA and Chile. Fifteen participants were students, who took good advantage of the opportunities provided by the workshop. The program occupied two full days, with no parallel sessions, thus enabling participants to hear everything of interest to them and have stimulating discussions during the breaks.

The workshop provided, at no cost for each participant, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for both Thursday 28 and Friday 29 of November, one ticket to the conference dinner on Thursday, and one ticket to the social activity. We look forward to the 7th Workshop, to be held at Chongqing Normal University.

Organising committee

1. Andrew Stranieri (University of Ballarat)
2. Zhiyou Wu (Chair, University of Ballarat)
3. Musa Mammadov (University of Ballarat)
4. Julien Ugon (University of Ballarat)

Email: g.pinedavillavicencio@federation.edu.au



5. David Yost (University of Ballarat)
6. Regina Burachik (University of South Australia)
7. Guillermo Pineda-Villavicencio (Secretary and Treasurer, University of Ballarat)
8. Vera Roshchina (University of Ballarat)

Social activities

The social activities consisted of a buffet dinner on 28 November at the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council and a day trip to the Grampians National Park on Saturday 30 November.

Delegate feedback

We did not conduct a comprehensive feedback survey, but informal discussions suggested it was a useful forum for both learning about a broad spectrum of recent developments, and providing a springboard for future collaboration. One delegate, Associate Professor Sanming Zhou (University of Melbourne), wrote afterwards 'It was a nice workshop that I enjoyed very much'.