

ASOR News — September-October 2012

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September Seminar

Date: Wednesday, 19 September 2012
Time: 6:00pm
Place: RMIT Access Grid Room (8.9.66)
Swanston St Melbourne

The Role of Communication in Emergency Evacuations

Felicia Eng, PhD student, University of Melbourne.
Whilst technology has advanced rapidly over the last few decades, evacuation procedures during emergencies have not kept up-to-date in making full use of these new technologies. In this talk, I will analyze the benefits of knowledge and communication to agents in a simple ring network. The measures of performance will primarily be the expected number of steps to exit the network as well as worst-case analysis. I will discuss these results and how they vary in terms of where the agents and the disruption are located, the number of nodes in the network, and of course, the level of knowledge and communication available to the agents.

October Seminar

Date: Wednesday, 17 October 2012
Time: 6:00pm
Place: RMIT Access Grid Room (8.9.66)
Swanston St Melbourne

The October seminar, which will be last regular ASOR Melbourne seminar of 2012, is scheduled to be delivered by Mark Horn (CSIRO, Sydney) and David Oliver (Dept. of Defence, Canberra), and will describe approaches to defence workforce planning that have been developed by CSIRO and DoD.

Seminars in 2013

After the October seminar and Recent Advances in November, the ASOR Melbourne Seminar Series kicks off again in February 2013 and continues monthly throughout the year. We extend an open invitation to ASOR members and friends to propose topics and speakers for our 2013 series. Please send nominations or expressions of interest to Simon Dunstall at Simon.Dunstall@csiro.au

OR related conferences in Australia

Recent Advances, presented by ASOR Melbourne Chapter. Wednesday 21 November 2012 at RMIT and University of Newcastle (via Access Grid).

XXXIII ICOR 2012: International Conference on Operations Research, Perth, Australia, December 6-7, 2012. <http://www.waset.org/conferences/2012/perth/icor/>

The 11th **Australasian Symposium on Parallel and Distributed Computing** (AusPDC 2013), Adelaide, South Australia in conjunction with Australasian Computer Science Week, 29 January – 1 February 2013. <http://auspdc.scem.uws.edu.au/>

Workshop on Data-Driven Decision Guidance and Support Systems (DGSS), to be held as part of the 28th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE 2012) in Brisbane,

Australia, on April 8-12, 2013.

<http://dgss.vse.gmu.edu/index.html>

MODSIM 2013 / ASOR 2013. Adelaide Convention Centre, December 1-6, 2013. The Theme of the conference is Adapting to Change: the multiple roles of modelling. MODSIM 2013 incorporates the 2013 ASOR Conference. <http://mssanz.org.au/modsim2013>

Young Statisticians Conference 2013

Young Statisticians Conference 2013 "Celebrating significance" aims to provide a forum for networking and the exchange of information for young and early career statisticians throughout Australia and beyond. This conference is hosted by the Statistical Society of Australia, and will be held at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, 7th-8th February 2013.

A diverse range of renowned keynote speakers have been confirmed for the conference:

- Professor Peter Hall, University of Melbourne;
- Professor Rob Hyndman, Monash University;
- Professor John Croucher, Macquarie University and
- Professor Ray Chambers, University of Wollongong.

Submissions of abstracts are invited for oral and poster presentations on a wide range of topics in both applied and theoretical statistics, including original research undertaken as part of an

Honours/PhD thesis. Prizes will be awarded for the best student oral and poster presentations:

- Best presentation \$400
- 2nd presentation \$200
- 3rd presentation \$100
- Best poster \$200
- 2nd poster \$100

In addition to the keynote and contributed presentations, the conference will feature a

careers session, keynote panel session, conference dinner and closing drinks.

Please see www.ysc2013.com or contact Susanna Cramb (SusannaCramb@cancerqld.org.au) for further details.

Recent Advances 2012

The Australian Society for Operations Research Inc (Melbourne Chapter) will hold its one day conference on "Recent Advances" in operations research on Wednesday 21 November 2012 at RMIT and University of Newcastle via Access Grid.

Recent advances is a one day forum designed to give members the opportunity to exchange ideas and promote growth and activity in the OR community. Both recent interesting and/or novel applied work along with research activities are sought for this day. This year the annual student conference will be incorporated within the recent advances program.

As in recent years, the Access Grid Rooms will be utilized in a number of locations. This includes presentations at RMIT and University of Newcastle.

The best student paper will be awarded the annual student prize.

For further information on submitting an abstract or program arrangements contact:

- Melbourne: Paul Lochert on 03 9802 4628, plochert@bigpond.net.au
- Newcastle: Olivia Smith, Olivia.smith@newcastle.edu.au

OR and Logistics Short Courses

Planning is well advanced for three logistics-oriented seminars and short courses in the week 12-16 November 2012. These will be joint events with between ASOR (Melbourne) and the Logistics Association of Australia (LAA), and will feature Lew Roberts (right), an experienced supply chain educator from the USA.



- 13 November 2012, Melbourne. **Supply Chain Strategic Sourcing and Risk Management**. A four-hour short course presented by Lew Roberts (USA) and researchers from CSIRO's OR Group. Participants will receive a copy of Lew's book "Managing Global Supply and Risk".
- 15 November 2012, Melbourne. A two-hour extended seminar on **Warehouse Organisation and Optimisation**. Presented by Lew Roberts, this will be a free event for ASOR members.
- 16 November 2012, Sydney. The Third **Freight Logistics Optimisation Workshop** (FLOW 3) featuring tutorials from Martin Savelsbergh (U. Newcastle), Lew Roberts and Gaurav Singh (CSIRO) amongst others.

Further details of these events, including registration information, will be sent to ASOR members as soon as venues and budgets are finalized.

NICTA PhD Scholarships

National ICT Australia (NICTA) is Australia's Information and Communications Technology Research Centre of Excellence. NICTA is offering scholarships for exceptional PhD students working in the priority area of Optimisation at a number of Victorian universities. NICTA offers both full and top-up scholarships on top of base scholarships at Victorian Universities, including the University of Melbourne, RMIT University and Monash University

The optimisation research group at NICTA VRL, led by Professor Pascal Van Hentenryck, at the University of Melbourne is recognised as a world-class team with pioneering contributions in fields such as constraint programming, hybrid optimisation, and planning. The group currently offers attractive PhD scholarships for high-calibre students interested in contributing to their research effort. The group focuses on grand challenges in disaster management, future energy systems, and multi-modal supply chains. Fundamental and applied research is conducted in continuous and discrete optimisation, decision making under uncertainty, simulation and 3D-visualisation, and algorithmic decision theory. Optimisation and

decision-support platforms are being developed that will bring unprecedented support for decision making in complex environments.

NICTA Optimisation Research Group homepage: <http://www.nicta.com.au/research/optimisation>

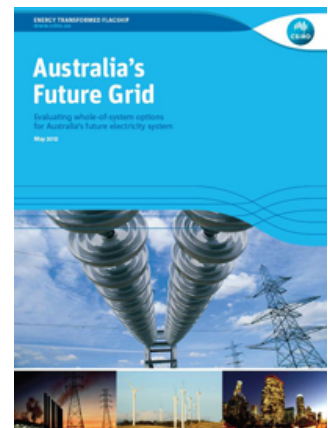
For further information please contact Pascal Van Hentenryck, Optimisation Research Group Leader: pvh@nicta.com.au

Application procedure: Please follow the instructions at http://www.nicta.com.au/education/scholarships/victoria_research_lab

Applications and questions should be directed to vrlschols@lists.nicta.com.au

Future Grid Forum

On August 28-29 the Future Grid Forum (FGF) held its first meeting in Sydney. FGF has been convened by CSIRO, is made up of 42 industry and community participants, and over the next 15-18 months will explore how Australia's future electricity system could be secure and sustainable, as well as be delivered at low overall system cost. It is expected that the Forum will help shift Australia's energy debate to a more whole-of-system perspective.



OR is playing a key role within the quantitative modelling component of the forum (and has a budget of around \$600K over the duration of the forum). Important existing models to be used are:

- CSIRO's Energy Sector Model (ESM), which was the subject of Luke Reedman's ASOR Melbourne Seminar in 2011. ESM is a partial equilibrium economic model of the electricity and transport sectors, and uses linear programming (CPLEX via GAMS) to find maximum-social-welfare or minimum-total-cost mixes of generation and transport technologies over the long term (e.g. 2012-2050).

- Roam Consulting’s 2-4-C model, which is an electricity spot market simulation tool. (<http://www.roamconsulting.com.au/>)
- CSIRO’s recently developed Transmission Network Expansion Planning (TNEP) system, which is a MIP-based multi-period network design tool that is tailored to electricity transmission and distribution system analysis, and which has a GIS-based user interface. TNEP is a variant of the CSIRO “IFAP” system that was also the subject of an ASOR Melbourne Seminar in recent years.

For more information about the Future Grid Forum, visit <http://www.csiro.au/future-grid-forum>.

Web Pages of Interest

We are affiliated with FASTS through AMSC. To keep abreast of FASTS activities, consult : www.usyd.edu.au/fast

ASOR National: www.asor.org.au

ASOR Melbourne Chapter : <http://www.melbourne.asor.org.au/>

NZ OR Society <http://www.orsnz.org.nz/>

ORS (UK): <http://www.orsoc.org.uk/>

INFORMS (US): <http://www.informs.org/>

IFORS: <http://www.ifors.org>

For the latest international news, conference and jobs details see: <http://www.ifors.org/panorama/index.html>

tutOR: <http://www.tutor.ms.unimelb.edu.au>

Committee Membership for 2012-2013

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