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Mathematical Optimization — Theory and Applications

The XIIIth International Conference under this title took place in Eisenach, GDR, on November 16—20, 1987. The conference was organized by the Technical University of Ilmenau and local organizing committee was chaired by Prof. K.-H. Elster. The site of the conference was this time hotel "Stadt Eisenach", where also most of participants were accomodated.

The organizing committee was really successful in preparation of very attractive scientific program providing also partial support to several invited speakers. Altogether over 130 scientists from 15 countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, FRG, France, GDR, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Vietnam, USSR, Yugoslavia) attended this important scientific event. More than 70 of them were from abroad. Numerous delegations were those of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. Such an interest of well-known scientists we wish also to organizers of future meetings of this kind.

The conference schedule assumed mostly two sections only with 20—30 minutes for each presentation. This resulted in a quite busy program. As great portion of contributions discussed actual and important topics. Many participants have very often to solve the dilema which of two parallel presentations to prefer. It was convenient that organizers managed to publish conference proceedings in advance and to distribute them among participants upon their registration. Although the proceedings included only 4-page extended abstracts of contributions, arrived in time to be incorporated to the volume, this was appreciated as sufficient source of additional information.

There were no clearly distinguished, area-oriented topics. However, more attention was paid to the following problems: nondifferentiable optimization, duality, semi-infinite programming, optimal control of discrete-time and continuous-time systems, stochastic programming, multiobjective optimization, engineering applications of optimization. Two trends were really apparent — development of nondifferentiable optimization (concepts, algorithms, applications) and sophisticated computer-aided implementations of optimization techniques (design, modelling, decision support). Needless to say that these trends show many interconnections, as real-world engineering applications often require nondifferentiable formulation of the respective optimization problems. Further impuls to the development of this area is growing access to enough compatible and efficient computer equipment having PC standarts, so that more and more engineering people are interested to use optimization methodology and algorithms.

All participants had the opportunity to take part in a social evening and to attend a special concert in historical "Bachhaus" including a guided tour. As also meals were available in the conference site, there was plenty of time to many informal contacts and discussion which contributed to promote mutual understanding. It is a nice duty at least in this way to express best congratulations to Prof. Elster and the organizing committee for the devoted effort when preparing and running the conference, for the support provided and for the friendship and hospitality all of us enjoyed during the stay in Eisenach. Let us hope to meet again on the occasion of the next such conference, which became a good tradition.

Jaroslav Doležal

13th IFIP Conference on System Modelling and Optimization

The 13th IFIP Conference on System Modelling and Optimization took place in Tokyo, Japan, from August 31 to September 4, 1987. Organizing Committee worked hard for about two years to guarantee a smooth course of this important scientific event sponsored biannually by the IFIP Technical Committee 7 (TC-7). The site of the Conference was located at modern Chuo University having all necessary facilities. It is a pleasant duty to say that continuous devoted effort of Prof. Iri (chairman) and Dr. Yajima (secretary) highly contributed to the final success of the Conference.

The scientific program was carefully prepared. The international Program Committee consisted of 20 well-known scientists from 17 countries. Special attention was devoted to the nomination of invited speakers. It was a pity that some of them were unable to come despite of the support of the organizers. Altogether 7 invited plenary talks (10 planned) were delivered dealing with combinatorial optimization, structural optimization, stochastic distributed systems, projected gradient-methods, optimal control of discrete-time systems, etc. In four parallel sessions 103 contributed papers (25 cancelled) were discussed covering all traditional topics of the Conference including control, estimation and optimization theory, as well as applications in energy and transport systems, forestry and ecology. Attention was also paid to parallel computing.

Presented papers were carefully reviewed by section chairpersons and other nominated referees. Selected contributed papers together with all invited talks will be published by Springer-Verlag during 1988 in the form of Conference Proceedings.

The Conference was attended by 178 scientists (78 overseas) from 28 countries. Organizers with famous Japan hospitality have arranged also interesting social program for all participants and accompanying persons. Besides the sightseeing tour to Tokyo most important monuments and national music night, the official conference dinner in beautiful Japan-style restaurant was impressive experience.

As usual, also the annual meeting of TC-7 was held during the conference. The main point of its program was the final approval of Technical University Leipzig, GDR, to organize the next 14th IFIP Conference in Leipzig, on July 3—7, 1989. As Chairman of the Conference was appointed Prof. H.-J. Sebastian. This location will certainly give opportunity to more pronounced participation of scientists from Europe.

It is possible to conclude that the 13th Conference was successful from both, scientific and social point of view. The conference enabled a broad exchange of results and experience in the scheduled topics. Nevertheless, it contributed to promote scientific knowledge and mutual understanding. And also for such opportunity one has to thank to Japan organizers. Finally, the author of this contribution would like to acknowledge generous support of local organizing committee to be able to come to Tokyo and to deliver the invited talk.

Jaroslav Doležal