The Association of European Operational Research Societies

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What's new?

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Column One: Towards an European Society of OR

by Alexis Tsoukias

EURO is celebrating this year its 30th anniversary. Our association has been established the 29 of January 1975 in Brussels by 11 societies. Today it groups 29 societies and represents more than 10000 OR practitioners, teachers and researchers all around Europe.

Through its 27 EURO Working Groups hundreds of meetings have been organised in these years mobilising thousands of colleagues attending. Hundreds of young colleagues have attended the EURO Summer Institutes, perhaps the most successful instrument EURO created in its life. Our journal, EJOR, is today one of the most respected and highly quoted OR journals worldwide. We can be proud for having established a real community of the OR people in Europe.

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However, despite these achievements we have to think seriously about the future of EURO. Training is becoming an European issue calling for the establishment of new standards and new European diplomas as well as for the diffusion of pan-European long-life training. Research funding is becoming increasingly an European issue. Business, specially for SMEs is conducted at an European level and the job market for our profession is at least Europe (if not the whole world).

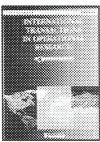
Our community is facing new challenges. Europe, despite politicians, is slowly becoming a reality in our everyday life. We need to make one step further in strengthening our community in order to be able to handle this process. We need an European Society of OR.

Creating such a society is not an easy process. The richness and vitality of our community is also due to the existence of the network of national societies with their specific activities and services. Many of these societies play a crucial role in structuring our community and offer invaluable services often far beyond their national boundaries. The establishment of an European society should not harm the national societies, but create the necessary synergy in order to increase and improve the services offered to our community and to strengthen our presence within the European Society.

The basic principle to establish is simple: an individual can only be a member of the European Society if (s)he is a member of a National Society. However, this principle is not sufficient. We have to figure out what such a society should offer to its members (newsletter, professional magazine, conferences, Job and Business opportunities, etc.), how these services are coordinated with already existing ones at a national level, how to share benefits and costs, how to structure the community.

EURO is now conducting extensive discussions with the national societies and I am visiting all of them since a year and a half in an effort to have feedback on such a perspective. However, your individual opinion is definitely important. I will be happy to receive your feedback and to share your opinions. Please do not hesitate to write me at president@euro-online.org.





The future of the European community of OR people is in our hands. Let's work it out together.

In this issue Comments or suggestions? Contact us at newsletter@euro-online.org.

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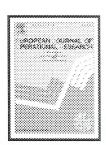
Stories: Daniel Schell since the XVII EURO conference in Budapest , five years later...

by Daniel Schell

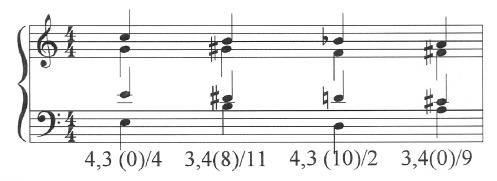
In early 2000, EURO, represented by its Secretary Philippe Van Asbroeck, asked me to compose pieces related to music and operational research. As I had already a long research project in this field, I accepted with joy. Euro commissioned me for two musical compositions. First, "The Travelling Musician" a brass quintet for the Hungarian Ensemble "Brass in the Five" directed by Peter Burget and Gergely Vajda. Then "Ten optimal studies" a set of pieces for various ensembles. These pieces were created on July 18th in Budapest.

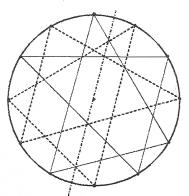
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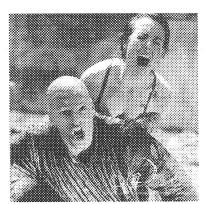
A graphical representation of optimal harmonies: the karo-s

Needless to say that my double personality of Engineer and musician is reflected in my musical thinking. It is not that I compose using maths, or that it can be felt in my music. But truly, I use daily, this method of optimal harmonies – the "karos" which I have described at the Euro conference and in my article.

I am certainly not the only composer/musician who has a mathematically oriented mind, but I have always been very curious and interested about composers, ranging from Bach to Mathias Hauer and Tom Johnson, who are allegedly "geometrical musicians". For a living and traditional example, take Indian music which I have studied it in depth since many years. I have produced and also accompanied many Indian artists for years, and it was to discover that they are actually calculating on stage. for instance, their famous triple cadence called "tihai" which they can start on any beat of the rhythmic cycle.

The Indians admire persons who have their knowledge in their brains, not in books. Needless to say that they admire and produce great chess players and mathematicians. But Indian mathematicians like Ramanujan, have their own way of producing, short, almost "mental" proofs to famous problems.

Shortly after the Euro conference, in November 2000, my opera "Hygiene de l'Assassin" was in the Botanique of Brussels.



Opera 'Hygiène de l'Assassin' Gilles Wiernik, Laure Delcampe (Courtesy Opera Royal de Wallonie)

This opera is first of a trilogy which I write on the three first books of Amélie Nothomb. It is in production by the Opera Royal de Wallonie. My collaboration with Amélie Nothomb is an exciting part of my life. I like her incisive and humoristic thoughts, and it has been a powerful incentive for my music. Working with great poets has always been a pleasure. I wrote music on texts by Verlaine, Pascale Tison, recently Dotremont and so many others.

In 2001, Elaine Chew, assistant professor at the University of California, came to Europe and visited me. Elaine is pianist and ... Operation Researcher! She has written a famous thesis on the modelisation of tonality. We had lots of subjects to talk about. Elaine plays piano wonderfully. Amongst her repertoire, many composers mathematicians.



The author playing the tap-guitar during Oratorio Ishango.

In January 2002, I toured India, with my small ensemble Karo Trio, on invitation by the ICCR, Cultural Department of the Indian Government. We gave concerts in Mumbai, Pune, Delhi. We were invited in the Benaras Hindu University, department of music, then to the Tagore University in Kolkatta.

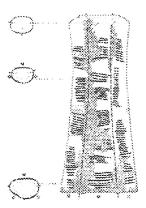
I also play and teach an instrument called the tap-guitar. One can compare it as piano playing, but on the strings of a guitar. It has 12 strings and 30 frets. So that is my Cartesian space and I use it as such for the performance of music based on the "karos". In fact, the geometric properties of these "karos" are easily mapped on the space of my instrument. Needless to say that other musicians play jazz or classical on the tap-guitar and do not know anything about karos.

In 2002 The article "Optimality in musical melodies and harmonic progressions: The Travelling musician" was published in EURO, followed by the method book "le tabla" by Daniel Schell and Sandip Banerjee. in France. This introductory

book explains the structure of the percussion playing in North India.

In 2003, due to my reputation in the field of Indian music, I was asked to participate to a large project of Oratorio with the percussionist Chris Joris, his trio, and the large Choir of Namur. The subject is the Ishango bone, a little fossil, aged 20.000 years, found in East Africa. It can be seen in the Museum of Natural History, in Brussels.

It carries, perhaps, the first signs of human intelligence and possibly, some mathematics. Indeed, there are bar stripes carved on the surface which reflect prime numbers adding to multiple of 12.





Left: A schematic view of the Ishango bone, showing the stripes (Courtesy Dirk Huylebroeck), R: Daniel with the poet Titinga Pacere from Burkina Faso.

I had long discussion with the ethno-mathematician Dirck Huylebroek on this subject. I also contacted some important poets from Africa. Amongst them, Titinga Pacere from Burkina Faso, Chirikure Chirikure from Zimbabwe and Gcina Mhlophe from South Africa. We had discussions, sometimes on telephone, sometimes life. They sent me texts and I wrote the music. In November, Oratorio Isango was created in the Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels and went then on tour in Belgium (with a concert in the University of Brussels) and France.



Oratorio Ishango: the Choir of Namur.

I continue to work on a "Karo Engine" with Ola Rinta-Koski. Ola is an engineer specialised in LISP. He has been working in Finland for Nokia but lives now in Australia. As you can remember, my first article and conference at Euro were mainly about symmetrical "Karos". Now we are studying general — not necessarily symmetrical - sets of notes. In order to study these sets/chords and their optimal connection, we are developing a new Karo Engine, written in LISP. For the moment it is being implemented and tested. A lengthy project, which brings already some interesting results and which we hope to publish soon in Euro, as the logical following of the first article.

In April 2005, Moreno Andreatta invited me to participate at the Math-Music Conference in the IRCAM, Paris. I presented a paper and ... Elaine Chew played the piano! She was, of course, presenting her project to the same conference.

My very latest projects were, on August 17th "Egmont" on the Grand Place of Brussels, with singer-poet Dick Annegarn and on September 3, the creation of my piece "Digue" on the poem by Christian Dotremont in the Museum of Ixelles, musical theatre, performed by the students of the Conservatory of Mons.

Besides my involvement in Operational Research/music, I am currently writing the following works: "Sabotage Amoureux" on text by Amélie Nothomb, for the Opera Royal de Wallonie; "Arbre Roi" Opera for the City of Rambouillet, France. "Ishango Oratorio 2" to be sung possibly by Barbara Hendriks and produced by the VRT Orchestra and Choir. At last: An arrangement of the Violin Concerto of Paganini for the large Harmony band "Musique des Guides". (There I do not optimise the harmonies!)

Daniel Schell http://www.clickmusic.be email: info@clicmusic.be

Bibliography:

Schell Daniel, "Optimality in musical melodies and harmonic progressions: The travelling Musician", EURO 2002

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EURO Newsletter #1 (November 21, 2005)

Members: Euro Working Group Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding

by Prof. Bernard Roy

History

Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding (MCDA) can be viewed as a branch of Operational Research that emerged in the late sixties. It gave rise to an important development of concepts, theoretical results, methods and applications in many areas.

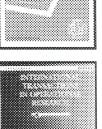
The working group was created at the initiative of Bernard Roy during the first EURO conference (Brussels, 1975); since that time, it remains one of the most active EURO Working Group (EWG).

Each year, without exception, it held two meetings.

Since its creation, the group works in French and in English: every member uses the language he knows better.

Objectives

- To contribute to the development, at a European level, of original way of thinking in the field of multicriteria decision aiding.
- To allow each member of the group to make known to others methodological, theoretical or applied results, to submit its own works and thought to the critical discussion of the group and also to solicit some collaborations.
- To develop multiple criteria decision aiding by facilitating contacts with every people interested in the subject and by stimulating continuity and progress in exchanges of works.
- To keep the group alive and open by mean of bi-annual meetings which must not be mini-conferences but real meetings favourable to exchanges and to emergence of new ideas.





Main Topics

As far as applications are concerned, they are so varied that it is difficult to give an overview of them:

- decisions in small firms, in the public sector, in the industry and in international organizations;
- banking sector, transportation, agriculture, industry, energy, raw material, regional planning, environmental topics, marketing, social equipments;
- role expected from multiple criteria models in real decision contexts.

A relative continuity in these fields of research has led to reinforce a common language and culture among a high number of the active participants of the group.

Newsletter and Web Site of the Group

A newsletter published twice a year, presently edited by José Figueira (Instituto Superior Tecnico, Departamento de Engenharia e Gestao, Office: 2N818, IST – Taguspark, Av. Prof. Dr. Cavaco Silva, 2780-990 Porto Salvo, Portugal - figueira@ist.utl.pt), is sent to all members of the group. Among others, it contains an announcement of the next meetings of the group, the main recent publications (articles, working papers, theses,...) in the field of multiple criteria decision aiding. It contains also many other information and matters of discussion.

The group as also a web site: http://www.inesc.pt/~ewgmcda

Distribution by Country

Country	Number	
France	63	
Spain	49	
Portugal	46	
Belgium	21	
Poland	20	
Italy	18	
Sweden	14	
Finland	13	
Germany	11	
Greece	11	
United Kingdom	11	
Canada	9	
Switzerland	9	
Lithuania	8	
Morocco	7	
Czech Republic	5	
Denmark	4	
Netherlands	4	
Tunisia	4	
26 other	4	
countries, gathering 32	32 359	
members		
Total	359	

Last and Future meetings

Number	Location	Date	Organizers
50th	Cerisy-la-Salle, France	28/9-2/10/1999	D. Bouyssou, B. Roy, A. Tsoukiàs, D. Vanderpooten
51st	Madrid, Spain	30-31/03/2000	G. Fernandez-Barberis, J. Montero, C. Escribano Rodenas, J. Gonzales Pachoon
52nd	Vilnius, Lithuania	29-30/10/2000	H. Pranevichius, L. Sakalauskas, E. Zavadskas, A. Kaklauskas
53rd	Athens, Greece	29-30/03/2001	D. Diakoulaki
54th	Durbuy, Belgium	4-5/10/2001	M. Roubens, Ph. Vincke
55th	Leipzig, Germany	14-15/03/2002	M. Dreschler, F. Rauschmayer
56th	Coimbra, Portugal	3-4/10/2002	C. Hengeller Antunes, J. Clímaco, J. Figueira
57th	Viterbo, Italy	27-28/03/2003	A. Scarelli, L. Venzi
58th	Moscow, Russia	9-10/10/2003	A. Petrovsky
59th	Brest, France	29-30/04/2004	J.P. Barthélémy, Ph. Lenca
60th	Tilburg, The Netherlands	14-15/10/2004	B. Van de Walle
61st	Luxembourg, Luxemburg	10-11/03/2005	R. Bisdorff, J.L. Marichal
62nd	Borlänge, Sweden	22-23/09/2005	S.O. Larsson
63rd	Porto, Portugal	30-31/03/2006	M. Matos, J. Pinho de Sousa
64th	Larissa, Greece	Autumn 2006	N. Matsatsinis, P. Ypsilantis, G. Samaras

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Special edition of JORS: OR in Government

The Journal of the Operational Research Society is planning a special issue on OR in Government for publication in Summer 2006. The intention is to include papers covering all aspects of the subject, for example: constructive criticisms of Government OR from external consultants, case studies, suggested applications of theoretical developments to Government OR, and studies comparing and contrasting applications of techniques to different Government issues or in different countries.



Papers from practitioners in Governments throughout the world are particularly welcome, but a full range of perspectives is needed. Guest editors for this issue are Hiroko Plant (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs), Jane Parkin (Department of Work and Pensions) and Tony O'Connor (Cabinet Office); enquiries should be addressed to Hiroko or Jane in the first instance.

Deadline for submission of full papers is Monday 2 January 2006. These should be uploaded to the JORS system in the normal way, after which they will be subject to the usual independent refereeing process.

Contact details for the co-editors are: Hiroko Plant Peel House 2 Marsham St London SW1P 4DF Hiroko.plant3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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New extended deadline for all papers at INCOM'06: November 15, 2005

Dear colleagues,

Under the sponsorship of IFORS, EURO, IFAC, IFIP, IEEE, IMS (and other co-sponsorships), specific tracks and sessions on operational research are announced at INCOM'06. Please see our web site http://www.emse.fr/incom06/program.html

New extended deadline for all papers at INCOM'06: November 15, 2005

15 international journals are associated with INCOM06 for publication of Special Issues and selection of papers for regular issues (http://www.emse.fr/incom06/publication.html). In the field of operation research you will find for instance "European Journal of Operational Research" and "Computers & Operations Research". Therefore, you and other authors of INCOM06 will have an exceptional dissemination of your work.

The symposium INCOM'2006 has created three scientific prizes:

- Young Author Prize
- Application Papers Prize
- Track Papers Prize

This should help promote promising young scientists.

Keywords

Metaheuristics and Soft Computing in Industrial Applications, Scheduling for Modern Manufacturing, Logistics and Supply Chains, Supply Networks Design and Management, Combinatorial Optimisation for Production Systems Design, Novel Models and Approaches for Semiconductor Manufacturing, Transportation and Logistics, Cyclic Scheduling, Scheduling under uncertainty, Dynamic Lot Sizing, Simulation in Logistics, Value-Chain Optimisation using Constraint Programming, Supply Chains in Aeronautic Industry, Inventory Control, Revenue Management & Dynamic Pricing, Forecasting in Logistics of Production and Inventory, Locational analysis.

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Special Session at 14th International Symposium on Inventories: Demand Forecasting for Inventory Management

August 21-25, 2006 Budapest, Hungary

Many inventory systems cater for uncertain demand. The inventory parameters in these systems require estimates of the demand and forecast error distributions. The two stages of these systems, forecasting and stock control, are often examined independently. Most studies tend to look at demand forecasting as if this were an end in itself, or at stock control models as if there

were no preceding stages of computation. Nevertheless, it is important to understand the interaction between demand forecasting and inventory control, since the performance of the inventory system is not only determined by the two components separately.

We are organising a special session on demand forecasting for inventory management in the forthcoming 14th International Symposium on Inventories, August 2006, and we would like to invite theoretical and/or empirical contributions that consider this interface. If you wish to present a paper in this special session, please send us an extended abstract (400-500 words) before March 15, 2006. Decisions regarding acceptance will be made (in consultation with the ISIR executive committee) by April 30, 2006. Abstracts can be submitted as an attachment via e-mail to either Aris Syntetos or John Boylan (see details below), copying also to ISIR (info@isir.hu). We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Professor John E. Boylan (Buckinghamshire Chilterns Univ. Coll.) e-mail: john.boylan@bcuc.ac.uk tel. no: + 44 (0) 14194 60 51 30

Dr Aris A. Syntetos (University of Salford, UK) e-mail: a.syntetos@salford.ac.uk tel. no: + 44 (0) 161 295 58 04

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APMOD 2006

Madrid, SPAIN 19-21/6/2006

Email:<u>apmod2006@bayes.escet.urjc.es</u> apmod2006@iit.icai.upcomillas.es

Web: http://www.apmod.org.uk/

APMOD 2006 is the eighth in the series of successful events. APMOD91, the first in this series took place in 1991 at Brunel University (UK) and the second in Budapest (Hungary) in 1993. The third event was back at Brunel University (UK) in 1995 and the fourth in Limassol (Cyprus), in 1998. APMOD was held again at Brunel University (UK) in 2000. In 2002 took place in Varenna (Italy) and in 2004 was held again at Brunel University (UK). This series of events complements the triennial Mathematical Programming Symposia and has built up a good tradition for disseminating research results of this community. Contributions from all over the world are invited and solicited. The symposium is thus set out to attract specialists with different backgrounds such as academic researchers, industrial research workers and software developers.

APMOD conference is focused on theory and applications of operational research with emphasis in mathematical programming. The main solution algorithms will be for LP, IP, QP, SP and combinatorial optimisation. The modelling applications are taken from the most recent developments in a variety of areas: finance, health, supply chain, utility sector, etc. including streams devoted to web-based optimisation and modelling. Contributions on other operational research topics are also welcome. Related to the practical operational research, a one-day workshop prior to the start of the conference has been organised.

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EURO Doctoral Dissertation Award (EDDA 2006)

The EDDA (EURO Doctoral Dissertation Award), a new EURO instrument, will now be awarded each time a EURO-K conference takes place. It will be awarded for the second time at the closing session of the EURO-2006 conference (Iceland-Reykjavik-July 2-5, 2006). As no EURO-K conference took place in 2005, on this occasion the purpose is to identify the best PhD. thesis defended in the EURO countries during the last two years. (For more information see: http://www.euro-online.org/display.php?page=edda1&). Only applications transmitted by EURO National OR societies will be considered.

The jury appointed by EURO consist of Jean-Pierre Brans, Chairman, jpbrans@vub.ac.be

José Figueira, Pierre Hansen, Jaap Spronk, Maurice Shutler

The deadline for submitting applications will be January, 15, 2006. In order to facilitate the circulation of the contributions between the members of the jury, we ask you to send, as far as possible, only electronic versions to the following address: jpbrans@vub.ac.be

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Call For Papers EURO XXI Conference - OR and Strategy

EURO XXI - The 21ST European Conference on Operational Research Reykjavik, Iceland July 2nd to 5th 2006

The OR and Strategy Stream

The stream will be concerned with issues relating to strategy and strategic development/planning at all organisational levels. It is intended that the stream will provide the opportunity for networking with people interested in the subject of strategy and related areas, as well as receiving an update on what is currently going on in the field. In particular, contributions in the following areas are welcomed:

- The contribution of Operational Research to strategy and strategic
- Current practice of strategic development/planning
- The use of models / methods to support strategy development

Interested in presenting a paper?

Each "paper" at the EURO XXI conference will be allocated a time slot of maximum 30 minutes; this will consist of a presentation of maximum length 20 minutes, plus 5-10 minutes for questions/discussion (i.e. it is not a requirement to produce a written paper). If you have some ideas and would like to discuss them before committing to a paper, please contact the stream organisers (details below).

Abstract Submission Instructions

Please contact the organisers of the 'OR and Strategy' Stream:

Maureen Meadows and Frances O'Brien Warwick Business School. University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, UK Tel: +44 (0) 2476 524491 / 522095

Fax: +44 (0) 2476 524539

e-mail: maureen.meadows@wbs.ac.uk or frances.o'brien@wbs.ac.uk

Your submission should contain the following items:

- 1. Paper Title
- 2. Abstract (200 words maximum, written in English, no mathematical symbols, graphs or tables)
- 3. Author(s) name(s), organisation and full contact details. Please indicate who will be presenting the paper at the conference.

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