

FOREWORDS OF THIS ISSUE

This issue contains a selection of papers presented at the **VII International Workshop Operations Research (IWOR)** which was held in Havana, Cuba. March 19th-23rd, 2007.

This series of Workshops is developed alternatively with the Conference on Operations Research.

The workshop is meant to be a forum for researchers and practitioners working in the various aspects of the theme fixed for each edition. In this edition it was **Mathematical Models in Economics and Biomedicine**. In general the development of optimization, statistics and supporting algorithms in the area of the theme is of interest. IWOR is not restricted to theory. Computational and practical work, implementations, novel applications of these techniques to practical problems and revealing computational studies are most welcome. The structure of the contributions was 29% of computational implementations, 24% in the area of Stochastic models, 20% was the percentage in contributions in optimization as well as in economic models. The rest were papers corresponding to related areas, mainly in applications.

The main invited lecture was

GRANGER CAUSALITY ON SPATIAL MANIFOLDS: APPLICATIONS TO NEUROIMAGING read by the well-known Cuban scientist Pedro Valdés Sosa
Of Cuban Neuroscience Center, Havana

The other invited talks were

THE COST EFFICIENCY OF GERMAN BANKS: A COMPARISON OF SFA AND DEA read by Alexander Karmann from University of Dresden

TESTING IN ACCELERATED LIFE TIME MODEL read by Hannelore Liero from Potsdam University,

A SOLUTION ALGORITHM FOR NONLINEAR MULTIOBJECTIVE OPTIMIZATION / PATH FOLLOWING WITH JUMPS read by Jurgen Guddat from Humboldt University,

The lectures presented in the workshop can be classified by region as follows: 19% of the papers were prepared by professionals from North and Central America, 46% by Europeans, 3% by Asians and 32% by Cubans. They were presented in a series of non-parallel sessions. Each lecture was of 30 minutes long. They are listed at the News section of this issue.

Two round tables took place, one on Economics and the other in Biomedicine. The discussants were distinguished specialists from universities, banks and research institutions of Cuba and Germany.

The program committee selected the papers to be presented on the basis of abstracts submitted, as described in the announcement. It proposed to consider a selection of them for being published. This issue contains the full text of a set of the final selection of them taking into account the independent criteria of three referees.

The Organizers