Association for Constraint Programming

Annual General Meeting 2022
CP2022
## The Plan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Upcoming Events</td>
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Thanks to CP2022 Organizers!

• Conference Chairs
  – Roie Zivan & Ferdinando Fioretto

• Program Chair
  – Christine Solnon

• Local organization committee, chairs, and program committee
Upcoming Events

• Summer School 2023
• CPAIOR2023
• CP2023
• CP2024 [breaking news!]
ACP Summer School
Early July 2023

In Leuven, Belgium
By Tias Guns and team

Tentative topics:

- Explanations in constraint solving
- Constraint and preference learning
- Decision-focussed learning
CPAIOR2023

• Not yet finalized …
  – CPAIOR folks are working on it
CP2023 in Toronto!

- Conference Chair: Andre Cire
- Program Chair: Roland Yap
- Location: University of Toronto

- Dates:
  - Submission: Mid March
  - Notification: Late May
  - Conf: August 27-31, 2023

harthouse.ca/spaces/venues
CP 2024 ...

Joan Espasa Arxer
CP in Girona, Catalonia
September 2-6, 2024
CP in Girona, Catalonia
September 2-6, 2024

CONFERENCE CHAIRS
Miquel Bofill, University of Girona
Mateu Villaret, University of Girona

LOCATION
Girona is in the northeast of Catalonia, about 100 kilometers of Barcelona, near the Costa Brava and the Pyrenees.
The Old Quarter of the city is one of the most important medieval monumental ensembles of Catalonia.
CP in Girona, Catalonia
September 2-6, 2024

CONFERENCE VENUE
The University of Girona (UdG) has a
nice campus in the old town, at
walking distance from hotels and
restaurants.

The conference will take place at the
Sant Domènec Church, which is part
of the historic building of the UdG,
and adjoining classrooms.
CP in Girona, Catalonia
September 2-6, 2024

We will have Coffee Breaks and Finger Lunches at the cloister next to the rooms

Hope to see you in Girona!
CP 2025 …

[YOUR LOCATION HERE]

Talk to Emmanuel Hebrard
## Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer School 2023</td>
<td>Leuven, Belgium</td>
<td>early July, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPAIOR2023</td>
<td>Location?</td>
<td>Paper Submission: ???</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Notification: ???</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conference: ???</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP2023</td>
<td>Toronto, Canada</td>
<td>Paper Submission: Mid March</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Notification: Late May</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conference: Aug 27-31, 2023</td>
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<td>CP2024</td>
<td>Girona, Spain</td>
<td>Sept 2-6, 2024</td>
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</table>
Who is the ACP Executive?

Chris Beck
President

David Bergman
Secretary

Sophie Demassey
Treasurer

Tias Guns
Webmaster

Emmanuel Hebrard
Conference Liaison

Zeynep Kiziltan
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Delegate

Michele Lombardi

Maria Garcia de la Banda
Past President
Terms Ending Dec 2022

Sophie Demasse 
Emmanuel Hebrard 
Michele Lombardi

Thank you for all your contributions!
ACP EC Elections – on now!

Ferdinando Fioretto

Gilles Pesant

Nadjib Lazaar

Hélène Verhaege

Ines Lynce

All ACP members should have received voting instructions by email on July 19 (from helios voting)

Voting is open until Aug 26.

Elections statements: https://www.a4cp.org/node/1324
ACP Awards
ACP Doctoral Research Award

• Committee
  – Simon de Givry (c), Jimmy Lee, John Hooker

• Honorable Mention

Dimosthenis Tsouros
Efficient Methods for Constraint Acquisition
University of Western Macedonia
Supervisors: Kostas Stergiou
ACP Doctoral Research Award

• Committee
  – Simon de Givry (c), Jimmy Lee, John Hooker

• Winner
  Hélène Verhaege
  The Extensional Constraint
  Catholic University of Louvain
  Supervisors: Pierre Schaus, Christophe Lecoutre

  The work improved state-of-the-art propagation techniques for extensional constraints, a challenging topic studied during more than thirty years by the CP community.
ACP Early Career Researcher Award

• Committee
  – John Hooker (c), Claude-Guy Quimper, Guido Tack

• Winner
  Kuldeep Meel has made fundamental contributions to the problem of counting and sampling solutions of constraints by combining deep theoretical insights with the development of scalable systems. His work has had impact in satisfiability, machine learning, formal verification, and knowledge representation, and it has already seen practical application in such areas as neural network verification, power transmission network reliability, and forest fire prediction.

Kuldeep Meel
National University of Singapore
ACP Distinguished Service Award

• Committee
  – Thomas Schiex (c), Christine Solnon, Chris Beck, David Bergman, Rina Dechter

• Winner

  For his tireless work to expand the reach of constraint programming and to constantly inject his positive energy and unbiased curiosity in the CP research community. From his work as a past president of the ACP and past program chair of CP, to his continued contributions in education, outreach and industry application of CP, Helmut’s contributions to constraint programming are numerous and impactful. He even doubles as a photographer at our annual meeting.

Helmut Simonis
Insight Centre for Data Analytics
ACP CP App Competition

• Organizer
  – Eugene Freuder

• Committee
  – Zeynep Kiziltan, Helmut Simonis, Mark Wallace

• Entrants
  – 4 submission: 2 disqualified due to not being on Google Play
Tired of being stuck on a logic game, not able to find the last hint you need to finally finish it? This app is made for you. By employing a form of Artificial Intelligence called Constraint Programming, this app solves even the hardest logic games. No more unfinished Sudokus, Kakuro and more, you can now find the last hint you needed.
In ConGuess you have to solve as many Constraint Satisfaction Problems as possible. You have to assign a valid value to each of the shown variables s.t. all of the constraints are satisfied. The app employs a form of Artificial Intelligence called Constraint Programming for generating problems and validating the solution.
ACP CP App Competition

• Awards Committee decided not to award a winner
• Both entries are awarded Honorable Mentions
# The Plan

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ACP Finances
# Treasurer’s report

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Last year</th>
<th>(CP 2021 Montpellier)</th>
<th>€58,099</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit CP 2021</td>
<td>€4,702</td>
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<td>Interest 2020</td>
<td>€271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn School 2019 Sponsorship</td>
<td>€122</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP 2021 LIPICS Proceedings</td>
<td>€3,600</td>
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<td>Summer School 2022 Sponsorship</td>
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<td>Doctoral Program 2022 Sponsorship</td>
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<td>CP 2023 Sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Provider</td>
<td>€300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banking Fees</td>
<td>€39</td>
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<tr>
<td>End Balance</td>
<td>(CP 2022 Haifa)</td>
<td>€38,111</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP 2019 Balance</td>
<td>€19,800</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>€5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected</td>
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<td>€53,000</td>
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We take donations: http://a4cp.org/sponsorships-donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>€70,093</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>€49,626</td>
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<tr>
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<td>€63,742</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>€63,530</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>€72,489</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>€69,102</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>€59,528</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>€54,949</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>€55,102</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>€58,940</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>€68,031</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>€53,511</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>€75,169</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>€66,310</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>€52,826</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>€58,099</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>€58,111</td>
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Finances

• With CP2021 profit: €53K
  – Goal of ~ €50K in bank to keep non-profit status
• But we have certainly been spending money
  – This is the rainy day, we’ve been saving for
  – Hopefully situation closer to normal in 2023
Status

• Two issues so far this year
  o April: 6 articles, one letter
  o July: 5 articles, an application paper and a letter

• Springer
  o (2nd) new publishing editor Teena Bedi
  o New “improved” editorial management system – SNAPP due shortly

• Submissions (2022)
  o 28 in 2022 so far
  o 3 resubmissions under review
  o 1 accept
  o 15 reject
  o 9 under review
Constraint Statistics (2021)

• Impact factor (2021): 0.583
• Five year impact factor (2021): 1.591
• Submission to first decision (median): 30 days
• Downloads (2021): 21,216
Soliciting Papers

• Requesting conference authors for Constraints submissions
  o CPAIOR 2021, CP 2021, CPAIOR 2022
  o 2 extensions of CPAIOR 2021 papers in April issue
  o 1 extensions of CP 2021 papers in April issue
  o 3 extensions of CP 2021 papers in July issue

• Proposal
  o All papers accepted for Constraints should be eligible for presentation at CP
Plans

• Papers surveying links between CP and MIP, Metaheuristics, Machine Learning
  o After initial discussions with author groups, nothing submitted

• Special Issues
  o Energy - Explored with Los Alamos National Lab and Monash
  o Energy – too much MIP

• Supporting videos
  o Springer concerned about:
    ▪ making this mandatory “What if the authors have paucity of time and concerns in creating video”
    ▪ “following up with the authors to share their video will be overwhelming for the publishing team of Springer”
Things the EC is Working On
What Do We Do?

• Finding CP organizers and chairs
• Find summer schools organizers
• Finding people to run in elections
• Overseeing finances
• Sponsoring events (e.g., competitions)
• Colocation efforts
What Do We Do?

• Setting up awards committees
• Quarterly reports
• Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
• Website
• Coordination with Constraints journal
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

- DEI Chair, CP2022: Andrea Rendl
- DEI Delegate on ACP EC: Zeynep Kiziltan
- First CP DEI Friday morning
  - Panel: Noa Agmon, Luis Quesada, Helene Verhaege
  - Co-chairs: Maria Garcia de la Banda, Chris Beck
Finances

• Goal: ~ €50K for emergencies and float

• Challenges
  – Expensive (in-person) conferences reduce participation/accessibility
  – Conferences getting more expensive
  – ACP money has to come from somewhere (i.e., conference fees)
Discussion
Seed Topics

• Any of the things that the ACP EC does?
• Should we try to co-locate with other small AI confs?
• Online conferences
  – More accessible?
  – Always remote access? Sometimes only online or in-person?
• Ideas for growing the community?
• Conference vs. journal publications?
  – What is important to us?
• Other things you want to talk about