Association for Constraint Programming

Annual General Meeting 2022
CP2022

J. Christopher Beck, President of the ACP

jcb@mie.utoronto.ca

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The Plan

Upcoming Events	15 min
ACP Executive & Elections	5 min
ACP Awards	5 min
ACP Finances	5 min
Constraints Journal Update	5 min
Things the EC is Working On	5 min
Open Discussion	10-20 min

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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

KU LEUVEN

CPAIOR2023

- Not yet finalized …
  - CPAIOR folks are working on it

CP2023 in Toronto!

- Conference Chair: Andre Cire

- Program Chair: Roland Yap

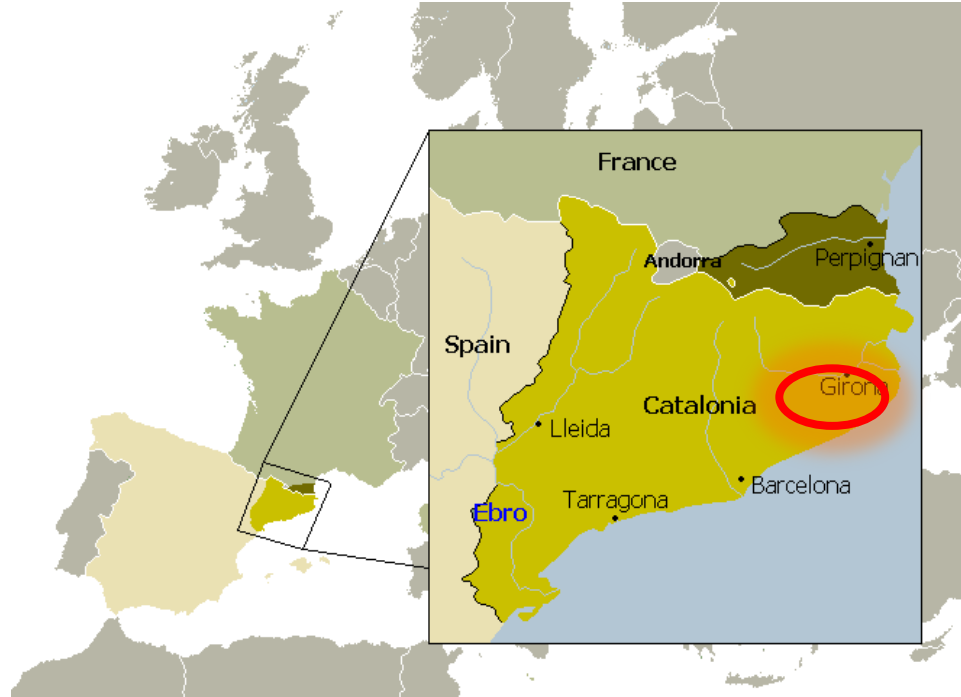- Location: University of Toronto

- 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

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Important Dates

Summer School 2023 Leuven, Belgium
early July, 2023

CPAIOR2023 Location?
Paper Submission ???
Notification ???
Conference ???

CP2023 Toronto, Canada
Paper Submission Mid March
Notification Late May
Conference Aug 27-31, 2023

CP2024 Girona, Spain
Sept 2-6, 2024

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Who is the ACP Executive?

Chris Beck
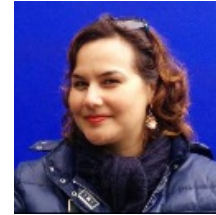President

David Bergman
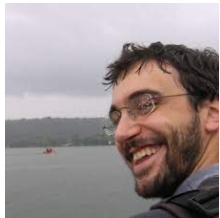Secretary

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

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Terms Ending Dec 2022

Sophie Demassey

Emmanuel Hebrard

Michele Lombardi

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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)
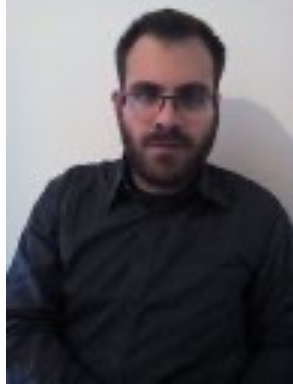
Voting is open until Aug 26.

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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
National University of Singapore

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.

ACP Distinguished Service Award

- ## Committee
  - Thomas Schiex (c), Christine Solnon, Chris Beck, David Bergman, Rina Dechter

- ## Winner


Helmut Simonis
Insight Centre for Data Analytics

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.

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

Logic Games Solver

Mathieu Vavrille
Université de Nantes
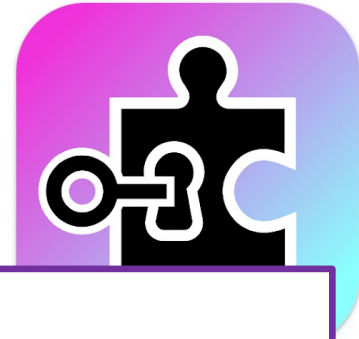
Logic Games Solver

10+
Downloads

E
Everyone ⓘ

About this app →

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, Kakuros and more, you can now find the last hint you needed.

Developer contact ⌃

✉ Email
logic.games.solver@gmail.com

🛡 Privacy policy
https://github.com/MathieuVavrille/LogicGamesSolver/blob/master/privacy_policy.md

ConGuess

Andreas Hofbauer & Alexander Felfernig
Graz University of Technology (TU Graz)

CG

Hofi Apps

5+
Downloads

E
Everyone ⓘ

About this game →

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.
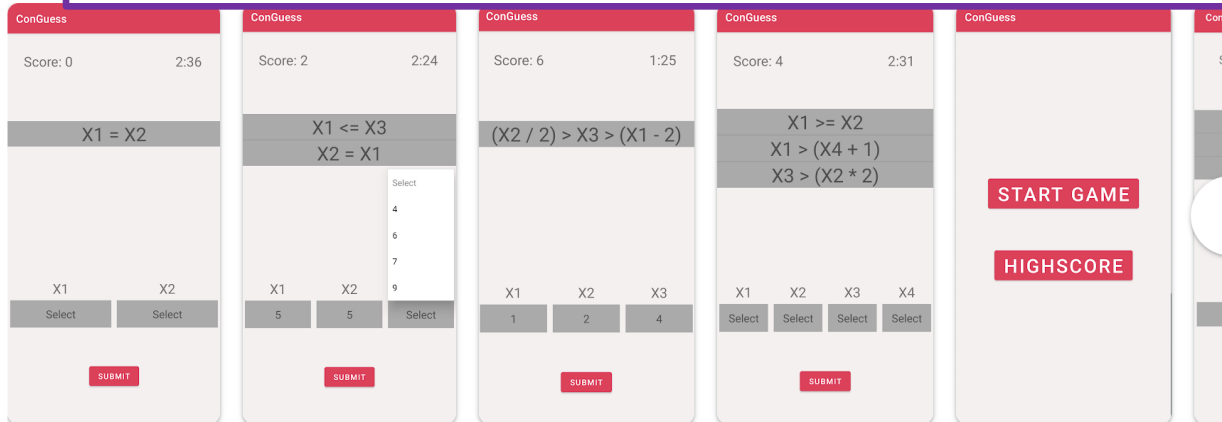The app employs a form of Artificial Intelligence called Constraint Programming for generating problems and validating the solution.

ConGuess		
Score: 0		2:36

X1 = X2

X1	X2
Select	Select

SUBMIT

ConGuess		
Score: 2		2:24

X1 <= X3
X2 = X1

Select
4
6
7
9

X1	X2	
5	5	Select

SUBMIT

ConGuess		
Score: 6		1:25

(X2 / 2) > X3 > (X1 - 2)

X1	X2	X3
1	2	4

SUBMIT

ConGuess		
Score: 4		2:31

X1 >= X2
X1 > (X4 + 1)
X3 > (X2 * 2)

X1	X2	X3	X4
Select	Select	Select	Select

SUBMIT

ConGuess

START GAME

HIGHSCORE

→

Developer contact ⌃

✉ **Email**
hofi.apps@gmail.com

🛡 **Privacy policy**
https://pages.flycricket.io/conguess/privacy.html

ACP CP App Competition

- Awards Committee decided not to award a winner
- Both entries are awarded Honorable Mentions

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ACP Finances

Treasurer's report

Last year	(CP 2021 Montpellier)	€58,099
In		
	Profit CP 2021	€4,702
	Interest 2020	€271
Out		
	Autumn School 2019 Sponsorship	€122
	CP 2021 LIPICS Proceedings	€3,600
	Summer School 2022 Sponsorhip	€7,900
	Doctoral Program 2022 Sponsorship	€2,300
	CP 2023 Sponsorship	€10,700
	Web Provider	€300
	Banking Fees	€39
End Balance	(CP 2022 Haifa)	€38,111
	CP 2019 Balance	€19,800
	Awards	€5,000
Expected		€53,000

Treasurer's report

	€70,093
	€49,626
	€63,742
	€63,530
	€72,489
	€56,747
	€59,528
	€54,949
	€55,102
	€58,940
	€68,031
	€53,511
	€75,169
	€66,310
	€52,826
	€58,099
	€38,111
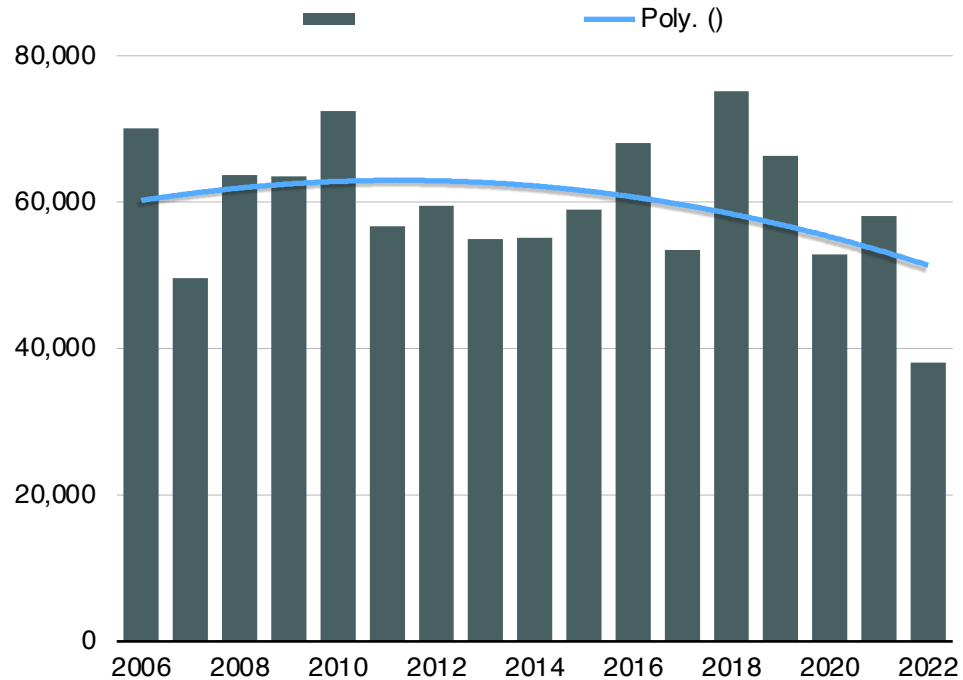
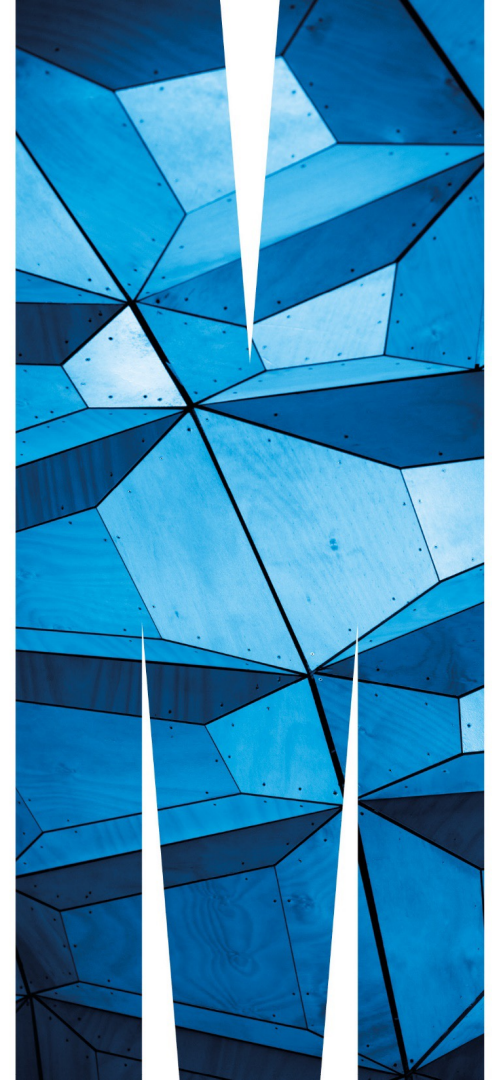We take donations: http://a4cp.org/sponsorships-donations

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

Constraints Journal

Report from EiC Mark Wallace

3rd August 2022

Status

- Two issues so far this year
  - April: 6 articles, one letter
  - July: 5 articles, an application paper and a letter
- Springer
  - (2nd) new publishing editor Teena Bedi
  - New "improved" editorial management system – SNAPP due shortly
- Submissions (2022)
  - 28 in 2022 so far
  - 3 resubmissions under review
  - 1 accept
  - 15 reject
  - 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
  - CPAIOR 2021, CP 2021, CPAIOR 2022
  - 2 extensions of CPAIOR 2021 papers in April issue
  - 1 extensions of CP 2021 papers in April issue
  - 3 extensions of CP 2021 papers in July issue

- Proposal
  - 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

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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