

# Association for Constraint Programming

Annual General Meeting  
CP 2023 – August 30, 2023



David Bergman, President of the ACP  
[David.bergman@uconn.edu](mailto:David.bergman@uconn.edu)

# Agenda

<b>ACP Executive Committee (EC) Intro</b>	<b>5 min</b>
Upcoming Events	20 min
ACP Awards	5 min
ACP Finances	5 min
EC Initiatives	10 min
Constraints Journal Discussion	25 min
Open Discussion	10 min

# Executive Committee Members



**David Bergman**  
President



**Nadjib Lazaar**  
Treasurer



**Tias Guns**  
Secretary



**Hélène Verhaeghe**  
Conference  
Coordinator



**Zeynep Kiziltan**  
Diversity, Equity, &  
Inclusion Delegate



**Chris Beck**  
Member, Past  
president



**Gilles Pesant**  
Member



**Ines Lynce**  
Member

# What Do We Do? (1/2)

- Find CP organizers and chairs
- Find summer schools organizers
- Coordinate EC elections
- Oversee finances
- Sponsor events, conferences, etc.
- Colocation efforts

# What Do We Do? (2/2)

- Set up awards committees
- Publish quarterly reports
- Promote DEI
- Maintain website
- Coordinate with *Constraints* journal
- **Cultivate research connections**

# Thanks to CP2023 Organizers!

- Conference Chair
  - **Andre Cire**



- Program Chair
  - **Roland Yap**



- Local organization committee, chairs, and program committee

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# Upcoming Events

- CPAIOR 2024
- CP 2024
- CP 2025
- CP 2026





# CPAIOR 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden

**28 to 31 May 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden**

- Local Team:
  - María **Andreína** Francisco Rodríguez,
  - **Justin** Pearson, and
  - **Pierre** Flener
- Sponsorship Chair : **Thiago** Serra (Bucknell University)
- Programme Chair: **Bistra** Dilkina (University of Southern California)
- Publicity Chair: María **Andreína** Francisco Rodríguez

**28 to 31 May 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden**



Uppsala University: (new) Humanities Theatre

**28 to 31 May 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden**



Uppsala University: (new) Humanities Theatre

## Uppsala: Historic Capital of Sweden

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Sacred area and burial mounds of pre-Viking times

## Uppsala: Former Capital of Sweden

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Former royal castle

## Uppsala: College Town since 1477

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Uppsala University: Gustavianum.

## Uppsala: College Town since 1477



Rafting down the river on Walpurgis

## Conference Dinner? Fish

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## Conference Dinner? Fish

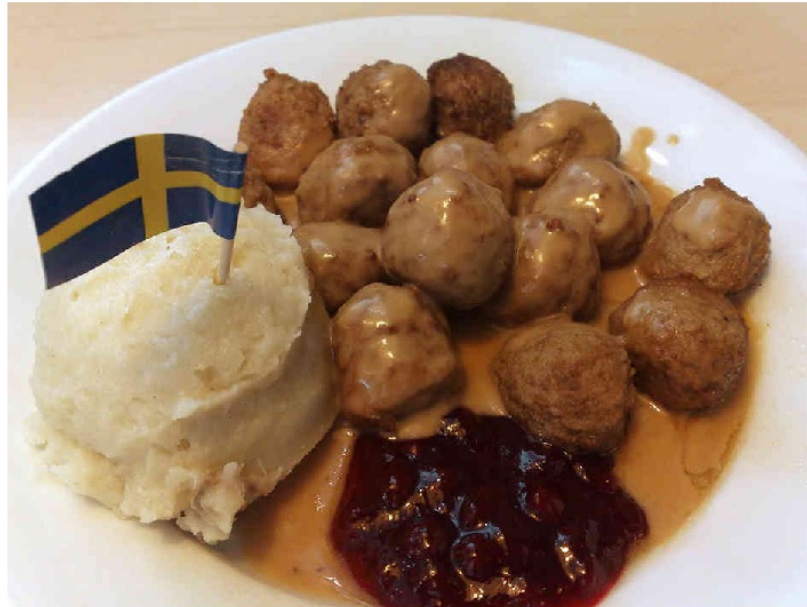
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Good news/Bad news: There is a shortage of Baltic herring, so no fermented fish.

## Conference Dinner? Meat

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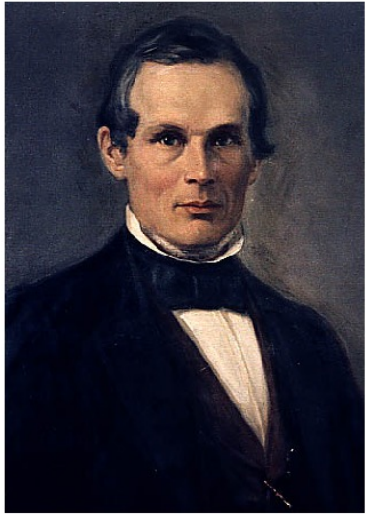
# Conference Dinner: Norrlands Nation

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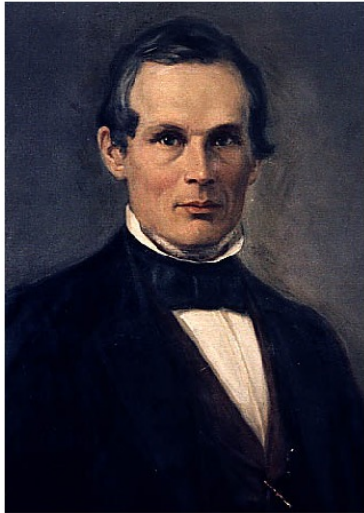
## Expected Travel Distance

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## Expected Travel Distance

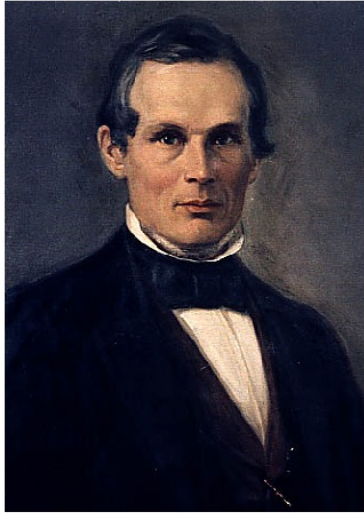
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Many gazillions of Å ...

## Expected Travel Distance

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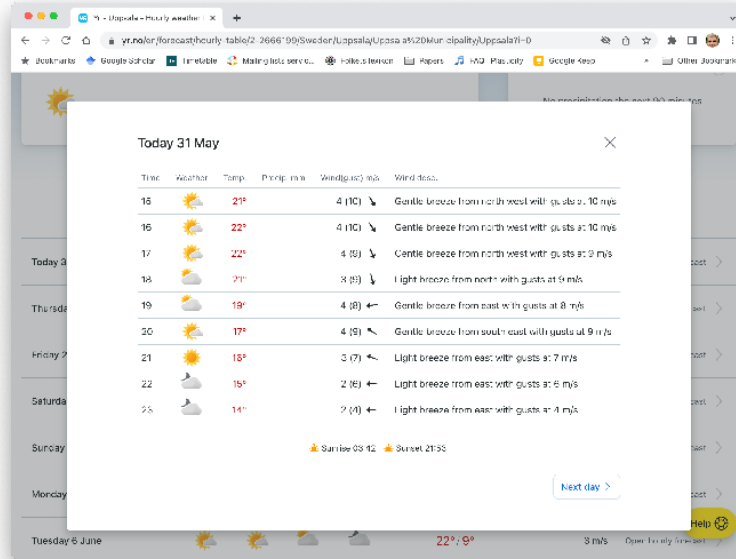
Many gazillions of Å ...

Anders Ångström, 1814 – 1874, Uppsala University



# The Weather? Beautiful!

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# Dates Again

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## **28 to 31 May 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden**

- Abstract Deadline : Nov. 28th 2023
- Full Paper Deadline: Dec 5th 2023.

Extended abstract track.

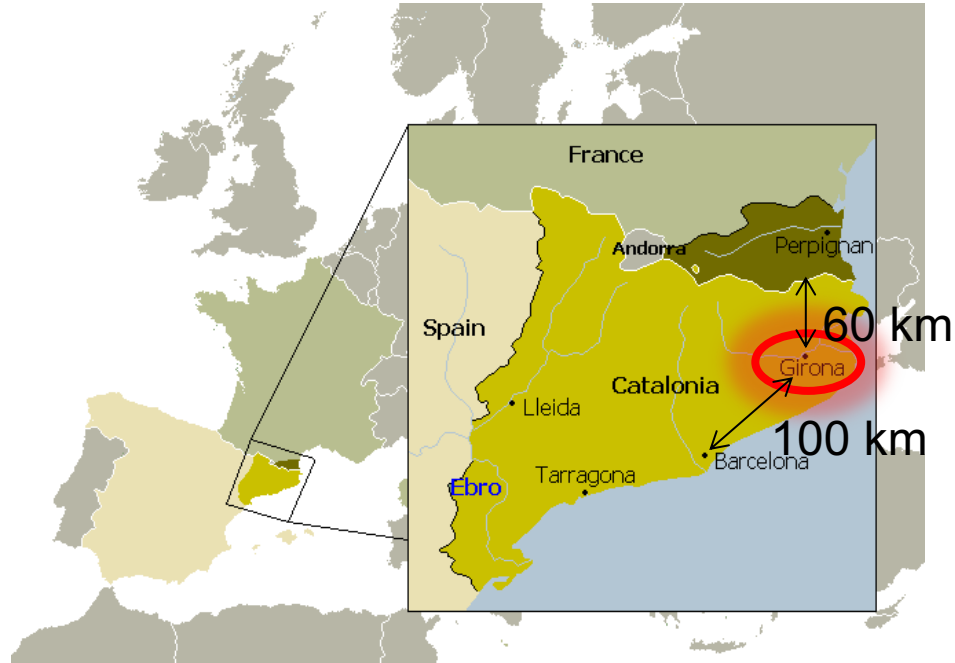
Vi ses i Uppsala!



CP in Girona, Catalonia (Spain)  
September 2-6 (Monday-Friday) 2024



# CP in Girona, Catalonia September 2-6, 2024



# CP in Girona, Catalonia

## September 2-6, 2024



### **PC CHAIR**

Paul Shaw, IBM France

### **CONFERENCE CHAIRS**

Miquel Bofill, University of Girona

Mateu Villaret, University of Girona

### **LOCATION**

Girona was founded by the romans as Gerunda in the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.

# CP in Girona, Catalonia

## September 2-6, 2024



### **LOCATION**

Girona is a city on a human scale (100,000 inhabitants) with all the charm of a larger city.

Girona is a popular destination for tourists, and film productions have used it as a filming location (e.g., *Game of Thrones*, and *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*).

# CP in Girona, Catalonia

## September 2-6, 2024



The Old Quarter of the city is one of the most important medieval monumental ensembles of Catalonia.

The Jewish Quarter is one of the most interesting, emblematic areas in the city of Girona, both in terms of architecture and history.

# 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 in an adjoining chapel and classrooms.



# CP in Girona, Catalonia

## September 2-6, 2024

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



# CP in Girona, Catalonia

## September 2-6, 2024



### **STUDENT ACCOMMODATION**

Affordable accommodation is pre-reserved for students at the Monastery of Sant Daniel (Benedictine nuns)

15 min walk from the venue

# CP in Girona, Catalonia

## September 2-6, 2024

### **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

#### **By car**

The road network around Girona, which follows the ancient Roman roads, includes the main national motorways, connecting with France and the rest of the principality with the motorways AP-7 and A-2.

#### **By train**

Girona also has a good rail network, with medium-distance regional trains and high speed trains (AVANT) connecting it with the city of Barcelona in 38 minutes. Likewise, the AVE line connects Girona with different cities in Spain and Europe.

# CP in Girona, Catalonia

## September 2-6, 2024

### **By air**

#### **Girona - Costa Brava Airport**

Girona - Costa Brava Airport is located just 13 kilometers from Girona city, counting on regular bus and taxi service to the city center. There are many direct flights to Girona from Europe. However, the frequency is quite low.

#### **Barcelona Airport**

In the absence of flights to Girona Airport (or excessively time-consuming), traveling to Girona through Barcelona Airport is a good option.

Reaching Girona from Barcelona Airport is easy. Terminal 2 of Barcelona Airport counts on a train station (line R2), that directly brings you to Barcelona Sants train station. From Barcelona Sants, high-speed rail can be taken to Girona train station, which takes about 38 min.

CP in Girona, Catalonia  
September 2-6, 2024

**Hope to see you in Girona next year!**

# CP 2025

- Glasgow, Scotland, UK
  - Conference Chairs: **Ciaran McCreesh** and **Blair Archibald**
  - Program Chair: **Maria Garcia de la Banda**

# CP 2026

- Lisbon, Portugal
  - Part of FLOC 2026
  - Had to make the decision very early
    - Main pro: Lots of other communities
    - Main con: A bit less flexibility

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Things the EC is Working On	10 min
Constraints Journal Discussion	25 min
Open Discussion	10 min



# ACP Doctoral Research Award

- Committee
  - David Bergman (c), Ozgur Akgun, H el ene Verhaeghe
- Honorable Mention



**Gustav Bj rdal**

**From Declarative Models to Local Search**

# ACP Doctoral Research Award

- Committee
  - David Bergman (c), Ozgur Akgun, H el ene Verhaeghe
- Winner

**Stephan Gocht**



**Certifying Correctness for Combinatorial Algorithms:  
by Using Pseudo-Boolean Reasoning**

*Stephan Gocht receives the ACP Doctoral Research Award for lifting proof logging and certification to pseudo-Boolean reasoning and applying it to subgraph algorithms in combinatorial optimization and constraint programming in general.*

# ACP Early Career Researcher Award

- Committee
  - Tias Guns (c), Maria Garcia de la Banda, Laurent Michel
- Winner

## Ciaran McCreesh



*Ciaran McCreesh receives the ACP Early Career Award for ongoing contributions to subgraph isomorphism algorithms, always with a strong CP angle to it, and the development of the Glasgow Subgraph Solver; as well as his recent developments in proof logging systems, and the new proof logging Glasgow Constraint Solver.*

# ACP Research Excellence Award

- Committee
  - Tias Guns (c), Jean-Charles Regin, Peter Stuckey, Roland Yap, David Bergman



## Mats Carlsson

*For his fundamental contribution to CP, in advancing the state of the art in both theory and implementation. Mats is the main author of SICStus Prolog and its foundational clp(FD) constraint solver. He has developed optimization algorithms for a broad scope of topics, including industrial scheduling, sports scheduling, configuration, DNA sequencing, and frequency allocation.*

# Agenda

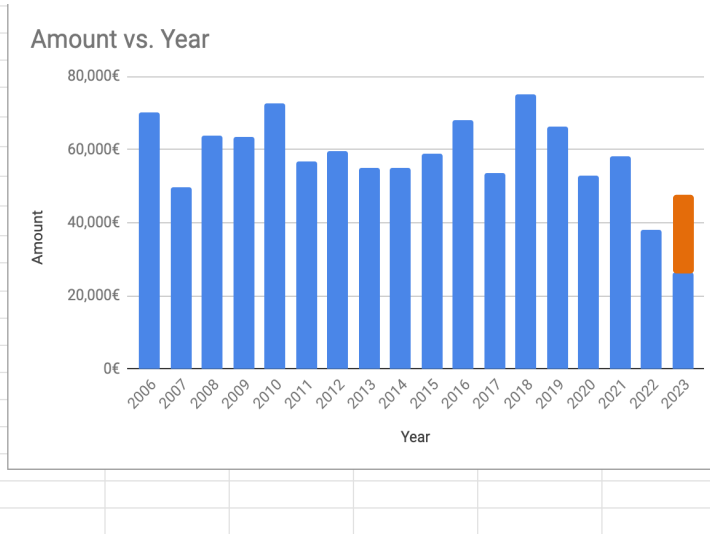
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# Financial goals and challenges

- Goal: ~ €50K for emergencies and float
- Challenges
  - Expensive (in-person) conferences reduce participation/accessibility
  - ACP money has to come from somewhere (i.e., conference fees, donations, sponsorship)

# Financial update

Year	Amount
2006	70,093€
2007	49,626€
2008	63,742€
2009	63,530€
2010	72,489€
2011	56,747€
2012	59,528€
2013	54,949€
2014	55,102€
2015	58,940€
2016	68,031€
2017	53,511€
2018	75,169€
2019	66,310€
2020	52,826€
2021	58,099€
2022	38,111€
2023	31,343€
	<b>€47,843</b>



Last year	(CP 2022 Haifa)	38,111.00
In		
	Interest 2021	€482
Finalized transactions		
	CP23 sponsorship - COSLING	€300
	CP23 sponsorship - IBM France	€1,750
	CP23 sponsorship - CoEnzyme	€3,000
	CP 2022 awards	-€2,000
	CP 2023 Sponsorship	-€10,000
	Web Provider	-€200
	Banking Fees	-€100
<b>End Balance</b>	<b>(CP 2023 Toronto)</b>	<b>€31,343</b>
Ongoing		
	CP23 sponsorship - Google Research	€1,000
	Website Update	-€2,000
	CP 2023 Summer School	-€4,000
	LIPICS: proceedings CP'23	-€2,500
	CPAIOR sponsorship	-€2,000
	AIJ dotation	€10,000
	Profit CP 2019	€16,000
<b>Expected</b>		<b>€47,843</b>

We take donations: <http://a4cp.org/sponsorships-donations>

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# Promote CP



Aug 28, 2023 5:09 PM

[Robert Fourer](#)

In the upcoming Fall 2023 issue, **OR/MS Today** will publish an updated survey and directory of optimization software. Participants in the previous survey (2021) have already been sent instructions for filling out the online questionnaire for the 2023 edition. If you would like to add your software to the survey (or need another copy of this year's invitation), please write to Kara Tucker ([ktucker@informs.org](mailto:ktucker@informs.org)) for instructions.

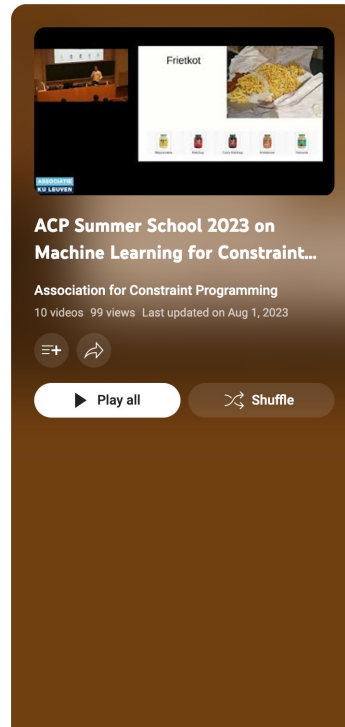
Surveys such as this provide a valuable service to the *OR/MS Today* readership, which includes upward of 30,000 operations researchers, high-end analytics professionals, business managers and C-level executives. At the same time, surveys give developers an opportunity to provide key information about their software to an interested audience. Both open-source and commercial packages are welcome, and all listings are free.

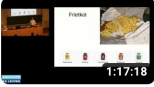

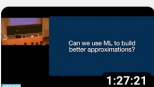

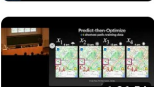


The deadline for submissions is this Friday, September 1, but an extension to next week can be requested.

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Robert Fourer  
AMPL Optimization Inc.  
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# Making stronger digital content

- Updating website (both back-end and front-end)
- ACP YouTube channel
- ACP summer school recordings are available (playlist)



- 1  ACP Summer School 2023: "Intro to Constraint Programming" by Tias Guns  
Association for Constraint Programming • 86 views • 4 weeks ago
- 2  ACP Summer School 2023: "Introduction to Machine Learning" by Hendrik Blockeel  
Association for Constraint Programming • 48 views • 4 weeks ago
- 3  ACP Summer School 2023: "End-to-end Constrained Optimization Learning" by Ferdinando Fioretto  
Association for Constraint Programming • 30 views • 4 weeks ago
- 4  ACP Summer School 2023: "Getting the Best out of your Constraint Solver" by Lars Kotthoff  
Association for Constraint Programming • 57 views • 4 weeks ago
- 5  ACP Summer School 2023: "Predict-then-optimize" by Elias Khalil  
Association for Constraint Programming • 54 views • 4 weeks ago
- 6  ACP Summer School 2023: "Deep Learning & Combinatorial Optimization" by Wouter Kool  
Association for Constraint Programming • 50 views • 4 weeks ago
- 7  ACP Summer School 2023: "Rambling Away from Decision-Focused Learning" by Michele Lombardi  
Association for Constraint Programming • 32 views • 4 weeks ago

# Teaching Constraint Programming

- Create a comprehensive repository of teaching materials for constraint programming
- We can leverage existing material
  - Online material
  - Existing university courses
  - Etc.
- Helmut Simonis has tentatively agree to spearhead an effort to consolidate material and expand
  - Workshop at CP 2023: <https://hsimonis.github.io/WTCP2023/>
  - Survey still open: <https://forms.gle/v54HUsbSXcyHmfME9?>
  - [helmut.simonis@insight-centre.org](mailto:helmut.simonis@insight-centre.org)
- I nominate Jimmy Lee to join the effort 😊



# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

## **Positions**

- DEI Delegate on ACP EC: Zeynep Kiziltan
- DEI Chairs, CP 2023: Maria Andreina Francisco Rodriguez and Andrea Re

## **Efforts**

- DEI Event at Conference
- Two surveys: (1) CP Diversity and (2) CP Equity and Inclusion
- DEI Scholarship winner: Sévérine Fetgo
- Pronoun options on badges

# Let's collaborate!

- Only ~16% of attendees from CP 2019 are here today
- Let's make next year ~90%!

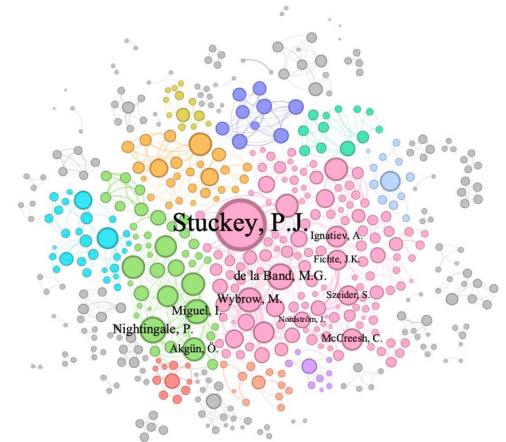
## Challenge for Next Year – CP+1!



- Publish at CP2024 with a **new** collaborator who is here at CP 2023
- Get a free shirt with the **CP+1** logo!

## Author network (1)

- 243 papers by 501 authors
  - 11 (4.5%) papers written by a single author
  - 7 (1.4%) authors did not co-write with others
  - 3.4 authors per paper on average
- Low density (0.008)
  - suggests opportunity for new collaboration patterns



# Ideas for future conference

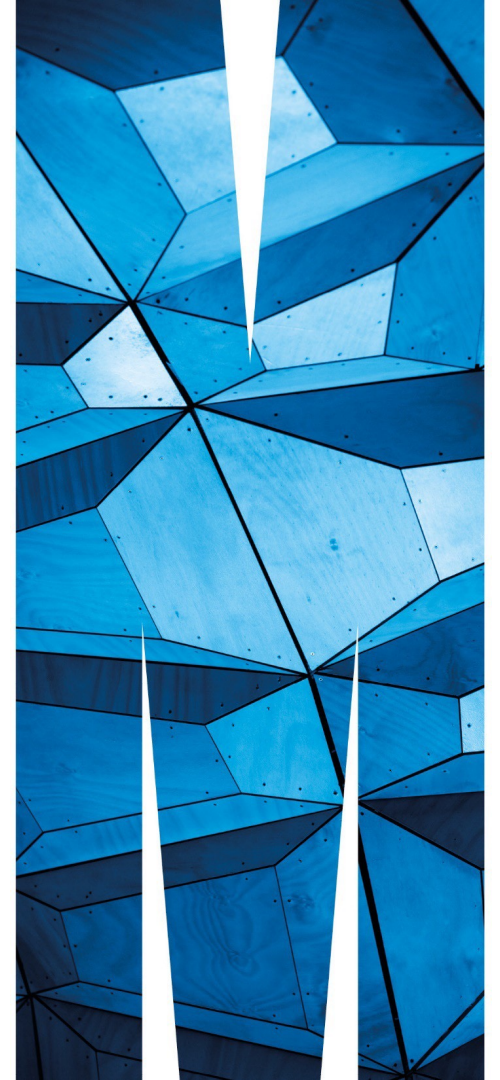
- “Second track”
  - Posters or talks from papers on the border
- SAT, AI conference Fast Tracks
  - If rejected, we can review and consider
- We welcome any and all suggestions

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# Constraints Journal

Report from EiC Mark Wallace





# Constraints Journal Statistics

- 2021
  - 3 papers
- 2022
  - 3 issues, 17 papers published
- 2023
  - 8 papers published thus far
- Performance Snapshot:
  - Activity in Last 12 Months: ~100 submissions
  - Submission Types: 10 PhD abstracts, 50 summary rejects
  - Review Article Absence: No review articles submitted
  - Social Media Presence: No noteworthy updates

# Challenges

- Majority of Submissions: Solicited from authors of accepted CP and CPAIOR papers
- Many submissions to other AI journals
  - AIJ, JAIR
- Commitment from CP community
  - Authors, editors, reviewers
- Perceived by some to be insular

# Path forward

- Continue Journal
    - Requires strong dedication from everyone
  - Emphasize other directions
    - What can we do?
- Note: We aren't making any decisions today; simply want comments / thoughts from CP community

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# Other Topics

- Ideas for growing the community?
  - Summer school had 91 participants!
  - We have great attendance from doctoral students (40% of attendees). Why are you here? What excites the research community?
- What can we do differently that would excite the community?
- What is CP's role in the AI / OR world?
- Other things!