Bilevel Optimization Society

Number 1 - May 5, 2025

Welcome to the Bilevel Optimization Society!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the **Bilevel Optimization Society** and introduce our newly elected board. Our mission is to foster collaboration, innovation, and education in the field of bilevel optimization. As we embark on this exciting journey, we invite you to join us in building a vibrant and inclusive community.

New Website and Logo

We are proud to unveil our **new website** and **logo**! The website serves as a central hub for all resources, news, and updates about the society.

- **Visit the website**: `https://bileveloptimization.org/`

- **Explore the logo**: Our new logo represents the upper and lower levels in bilevel optimization models.

We encourage you to check the website and share your feedback. Let us make it a valuable resource for the entire community!

Committee of the Bilevel Optimization Society

We are five members in the Committee of the Bilevel Optimization Society (COBOS). Alain Zemkoho is the chair, Johannes Thürauf is the secretary, Margarida Carvalho is the treasurer, and Victor Bucarey Lopez is the webmaster.

Being the inaugural COBOS means establishing foundational elements for the society, including the webpage, membership management, and this newsletter. We anticipate this year will mark the beginning of a highly engaged and dynamic society!

Bilevel Optimization Category on Optimization Online

We are excited to share that **Optimization Online**[1] now features a dedicated **bilevel optimization category**! This is a fantastic opportunity to increase the visibility of your work.

- **How to use it**: When uploading Eprints to Optimization Online, be sure to select the **Bilevel Optimization** category.

- **Current stats**: As of May 5, 9 eprints have been uploaded under this category. Let us keep the momentum going!

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[1] `https://optimization-online.org/`

Election of the Chair-Elect

The Bilevel Optimization Society is gearing up for its first **Chair-Elect election**! This is a pivotal moment for our society, and we expect passionate and dedicated individuals to consider running for this important role. The Chair-Elect will play a key role in shaping the future of the society! As outlined in the Society's bylaws, the elected Chair-Elect will become a member of COBOS starting January 2026 and will assume the role of Chair of COBOS, and therefore of the Society, from January 2027.

The deadline for positions of statement was last April 22. The **Nomination Committee** will soon make the list of candidates available and it will organize the elections during the summer 2025.

Stay tuned for more details from the **Nomination Committee**!

Next ICBO 2026!

The ICBO (International Conference on Bilevel Optimization) is a bi-annual conference on bilevel optimization with the goal to highlight recent advances and trends in the field. The conferences will usually consist of a set of invited plenary speakers as well as of sessions of contributed talks. Its aim is to bring together junior and senior researchers in the field of bilevel optimization as well as practitioners interested in bilevel optimization.

The deadline for the call of interest was March 16th. The venue and organizers will be unveiled shortly by the **Site Selection Committee**.

Scientific Events

We are committed to promoting recent and upcoming scientific events related to bilevel optimization. If you would like to share an event with the community, do not hesitate to contact us.

One such recent event was the 18th INFORMS Computing Society (ICS) Conference held in Toronto between 14th to 16th of March, 2025, which featured a strong emphasis on bilevel optimization. A dedicated cluster, **Bilevel Optimization and Algorithmic Game Theory**, was chaired by Ivana Ljubic (ESSEC Business School) and Yasmine Beck (ESSEC Business School), and included three sessions specifically focused on bilevel optimization. These sessions attracted between 20 and 30 participants each. The presented contributions spanned both methodological developments and practical applications. Research topics included last-mile delivery logistics, network design problems, pricing strategies for electric vehicle charging stations, neural architecture search, unboundedness in bilevel models, interdiction games, restricted value function formulations, the open-source MibS solver, decision diagrams, multi-follower bilevel models, and bilevel models to handle uncertainty.

On the 24th of March, we also had the Workshop on **Bilevel Optimization and Hyperparameter Learning**, which took place at École Normale Supérieure de Lyon. The event, which featured some top experts in machine learning applications of bilevel optimization, was organized by Jordan Frecon Patracone and Mathurin Massias and saw a participation of over 50 people.

At the upcoming EUROPT 2025 - the 22nd EUROPT Conference on Advances in Continuous Optimization, taking place in Southampton from 29 June to 2 July 2025, we also have a stream on **Bilevel and Multilevel Optimization** with over 20 talks accepted for presentation.

The engagement and enthusiasm across these events reflect the growing interest in bilevel optimization. We look forward to more such events in the future!

Stay Connected

- **Website**: https://bileveloptimization.org/

- **Email**: bileveloptimizationsociety@gmail.com

Thank you for being part of the Bilevel Optimization Society.

Credits

This issue was prepared by Margarida Carvalho with contributions from Victor Bucarey, Johannes Thürauf, and Alain Zemkoho.