Heuristics for Mathematical Optimization

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Timetable: 20 hours. Class meets every Tuesday and Wednesday from 14:00 to 16:00. First lecture on February 26th, 2019. Room: DEI/D meeting room, Dept. of Information Engineering, DEI/D Building, 1st floor.

Course requirements:

- Moderate programming skills (on a language of choice)

- Basics in linear/integer programming.

Examination and grading: Final programming project.

SSD: Information Engineering

Aim: Make the students familiar with the most common mathematical heuristic approaches to solve mathematical/combinatorial optimization problems. This includes general strategies like local search, genetic algorithms and heuristics based on mathematical models.

Course contents:

- Mathematical optimization problems (intro).
- Heuristics vs exact methods for optimization (intro).
- General principle of heuristic design (diversification, intensification, randomization).
- Local search-based approaches.
- Genetic/population based approaches.
- The subMIP paradigm.

- Applications to selected combinatorial optimization problems: TSP, QAP, facility location, scheduling.

References:

- 1. Gendreau, Potvin Handbook of Metaheuristics, 2010
- 2. Marti, Pardalos, Resende Handbook of Heuristics, 2018