

INFORMS CONFERENCE ENRE SESSION

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A Personal Story



Forestry



Mining



Salmon Industry



Forestry

- Divided in 4 phases
 - US Forest Service (1972 1990). Berkeley
 - Chilean Forest Industry (1988-...)
 - Methodological Research
 - Forest Fires

US Forest Service

- How I got and stayed there
 - My boss Daniel Navon, developer of the first LP system widely used
- How Congress led to use of LP
 - Environmental problems with Sierra Club
 - Developed Mixed-Integer Programming Model to include road building (Mel Kirby)
 - Used by several regions n the 10-year planning cycle in the 1980's
 - ¼ time from 1074 to 1990 (Research Engineer UC Berkeley, IEOR, Grants USFS.





Chilean Forest Firms

- Developed systems used by multiple firms
- Work with Rafael Epstein, who still directs this work
- Daily Truck Transportation (ASICAM)
 - Simulation with heuristics
 - Reduced costs 15 -25%
 - Also used in Brazil, Argentina, South Africa
 - Mondi (South Africa) Logistics Prize 1994

Other systems



Short term harvesting Define supply in specific logs for 45-day demands LP with Column Generation Machine Location and access roads (PLANEX)

GIS-MIP Heuristics

Won the EDELMAN PRIZE 1998

ASICAM and PLANEX are still in use





Tactical Planning and road building

Methodological Research

- Some of the areas, central to many researchers
- MIP models for planning and tactical planning
 - with Monique Guignard.
- Models for machine location and road building
 - Plant location plus network flows with fixed costs
 - Tabu worked well
- Spatial planning to:
 - Protect wildlife, scenery environment,
 - ADJACENCY, OLD GROWTH .
 - Difficult combinatorial problems
 - Collaboration includes J.P. Vielma, Rafael Epstein, Francisco Barahora, Dave Ryan, Felipe Caro, Isabel Martins, Richard Church, Rodolfo Carvajal.



Methodological Research

- Forest Supply chain
 - How to integrate different actors in forest production:
 - Harvesting, transport to plants, processing in plants
 - Work with Mikael Rönnqvist, Sophie D'Amours, Juan Troncoso.



Stochastic Programming

- Uncertainty in Markets (Price), Future timber yields, climate change
- Chance constrained programming in the 90s (Jorge Vera)
- Scenario trees in the 2000s
 - Uncertainty reflected as scenarios
 - · Values of parameters in each period
 - Maximize expected objective, such that solution is feasible under all scenarios
 - Well known non anticipativity constraints.
 - Difficult to solve with many scenarios: Progressive hedging, decomposition heuristic approach).
 - Generating scenarios also a challenge
- Collaboration include Monique Guignard, Antonio Alonso, Laureano Escudero, Roger Wets, David Woodruff, Jean Piere Watson, Cristobal Pais, Jaime Carrasco, Jordi Garcia, Eduardo Alvarez, Martin Quinteros, J. Bachmatiuk, Ignacio Rios, Sandor Toth.

Protection of wildlife species



- How to invest resources to purchase land and implement protection measures.
- Collaboration with ecologist in Spain (Virgilio Hermoso).
- Introduce OR algorithms
- OTHER PROBLEMS
- Multicriteria (Environmental protection, Carbon Emissions, Economic Goals)
 - Collaborators include Eduardo Alvarez, Salgado-Rojas, Juan Pablo Cavada
- Hierarchical Planning
- Cost of environmental measures
 - Collaboration Include Carlos Romero, Diaz-Balteiro.

State Of The Art Papers

- Multiple on different areas,.
- Collaborators include Bruce Bare, Dave Martell, Carlos Romero, Alan Murray, Richard Church, Monique Guignard, Eldon Gunn.
- Handbook in OR in natural resources :
 - Agriculture (Carlos Romero)
 - Fisheries (Trond Bjorndal)
 - Mining, Forestry (Rafael Epstein, Andres Weintraub)



Forest Fires

- Line of work intense last 5 years
- It is a mayor problem, specially given climate change
- Work with David Martel since 2005
- Later also David Woodruff, Cristobal Pais, Jaime Carrasco
- Developed fire spread simulator CELL2FIRE
- Good simulators (Canada, US) used to fight fires in progress



Our Work, Fuel management

- Uncertainty in ignition-spread. Ignition can be random (lightning) or due to human action.
- Spread depends on weather (wind, moisture, temperature), cover (trees, grass...), topography (slope...)
- How to manage forest so that when fire occurs, minimize damage.
- In particular when human lives are threatened. (Wildland Urban Interface)

Simulator CELL2FIRE

- It is a cell-based fire spread simulator
- Fast (parallel runs)

Real fire



Machine learning to predict ignitions

• Heuristics, optimization (MIP), Reinforcement learning.



Model KPI: WUI Concepción



A ROC Curve: AUC is the probability of the model making a correct classification. (97.8%)

B

Confusion matrix: shows the number of correct clasifications per class

Wildfire occurrence: WUI Concepción





Areas around roads and around cities have a higher probability of fire occurrence



A Team from multiple disciplines





Mining

- Long Range planning . Rafael Epstein
- Now MIP models given advances in hardware and software
- Mine divided into blocks 30x30x30 meters.



Underground and Open pit

El Teniente



Chuquicamata



- Overall, 100 million dollars savings 2010.
- Collaboration with Alexandra Newman



Salmon Industry

- Use Math programming to the logistics of the Salmon Farming Industry
- Two problems: Maritime and terrestrial
- MIP
 - Not very good due to time discretization
- Greedy heuristics work very well

The Salmon Logistics chain

• How to get from the eggs to fillet?





Conclusions

- Or in natural resources has been successful
- Changed nature of decision making in forestry, mining
- Led to important methodological research
- Incorporate new technologies: GIS, GPS, Satellite Information, Lidar, Drones, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence (machine learning, reinforcement learning)