

Optimization and Electrical Energy

Continuous optimization in Brazil began a process of steady development in the eighties, almost exclusively concentrated in the Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo areas. During the last two decades these research groups became strong and well connected to the international community, while several smaller groups bloomed in all regions of the Country. By the turn of the century there was good diversity in research lines, including theory, algorithms and applications, but the community was scattered in the Country with no appropriate discussion forum. Cohesion in this community was then sought with the organization of Brazilian workshops on continuous optimization, which began as small and exclusively national events. The last two workshops, in 2002 and 2004, mark a new phase in the area: they were jointly organized by the Millennium Institute and local committees, becoming now well attended international meetings. The Millennium Institute has also promoted post-doctoral programs and regional meetings, thus playing an important role in the global progress of Optimization in Brazil. Another key aspect of the importance of the Millennium Institute for the recent sharp development of Optimization in Brazil was its encompassing support to the Centers in Development, that includes the Federal University of Paraná, as well as the Federal Universities of Piauí in the North-Eastern and Goiás in the Center-West, regions where scientific development is much needed. Remarkably, good level meetings are planned for the Centers in Paraná and Goiás in the near future.