

**CHARTER RENEWAL APPLICATION**  
SIAM Activity Group on Optimization

This CHARTER RENEWAL APPLICATION applies to the SIAM Activity Group on Optimization. The SIAM Activity Group (or SIAG) to which this renewal applies was originally formed under the aegis of SIAM on [insert date] by the SIAM Council and [insert date] by the SIAM Board of Trustees with its initial operating period beginning January 1, 1986 and ending December 31, 1988. Its charter has been renewed by the Council and Board six times thereafter, and is chartered to operate until December 31, 2006. This SIAG had 748 members as of December 31, 2005.

According to its Rules of Procedure, the objective(s) of the SIAG are to provide an environment for interaction between applied mathematicians, computer scientists, engineers, scientists, and others interested in optimization. The SIAG aims to foster the development of methods, software, and theory for optimization, and to foster the use of optimization techniques in scientific and industrial applications.

Its purposed functions were to:

- 1) Organize minisymposia at the SIAM Annual Meeting in years where there is no SIAG conference.
- 2) Organize a track of at least six minisymposia at the SIAM Annual Meeting at least once every five years. The VP for Programs and the VP at Large will coordinate the scheduling with the SIAG Chairs.

Other activities can include:

- 3) Organize a triennial SIAM Conference on optimization.
- 4) Organize special sessions at SIAM meetings, and conduct special one- or two-day meetings immediately before or after a regular SIAM meeting.
- 5) Maintain a web page or produce a newsletter for SIAG members.

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The SIAG has complemented SIAM's activities and supported its proposed functions. The answers to the questions below indicate how this was accomplished and what the officers propose as the future directions for the SIAG.

1. How is the field covered by the activity group doing? Is it growing, is the focus shifting? What have been the significant advances over the last three years?

Optimization is a healthy and active field. Areas of recent research focus include semidefinite relaxations for discrete optimization problems, second-order cone programming, global optimization of polynomial programming problems, robust optimization and stochastic programming.

2. How is the activity group doing? Is it remaining vibrant? Is the size of the SIAG stable or increasing? How is the SIAG keeping up with the changes in the field? How are the broader interests of SIAM reflected in the activities of the SIAG?

SIAG/OPT is a vibrant group with a stable membership. In recent years the SIAG's popular "Views and News" newsletter has published tutorial/survey articles on numerous topics of current research interest. The SIAG promotes SIAM's broader interests by organizing joint mini-symposia with other SIAGs as well as sessions at other meeting.

3. Please list conferences/workshops the activity group has sponsored or co-sponsored over the past three years, and give a brief (one sentence or phrase) indication of the success or problems with each.

OP05 in Stockholm, Sweden, May 15-19, 2005 had 433 paid attendees;  
OP02 in Toronto, Canada, May 20-22, 2002 had 385 paid attendees.

Both were very successful meetings; OP05 was particularly successful and came within a few attendees of being the largest Optimization meeting to date despite having a foreign location.

4. Please indicate the number of minisymposia directly organized by the activity group at the last two SIAM annual meetings. When did the SIAG last organize a tract of minisymposia at an annual meeting?

SIAM Annual Meeting 04: 2 minis

SIAM Annual Meeting 05: no minis (same year as SIAM Optimization Meeting)

SIAM CSE Meeting 05: 2 sponsored minis at sister SIAG; well received, led to joint effort at SIAM Annual Meeting 06

SIAM Annual Meeting 06: 8 sponsored minis plus 3 from SIAG/CSE ... total of 11 minis on optimization & CSE

5. Please indicate other activities sponsored by the activity group, to include newsletters, prizes and Web sites. Have each of these been active and successful?

SIAG/OPT Views and News Newsletter: one or two numbers published each year (will publish two in 2006) with numerous articles by top researchers.

SIAG/OPT Prize awarded at each SIAM Optimization meeting;

SIAG/OPT web page at <http://www-unix.mcs.anl.gov/~leyffer/siagopt/>

SIAG/OPT mailing list popular for announcements of papers, professional opportunities, software releases, etc.

6. What activities are planned and proposed for the next period of the charter? Please describe scheduled and suggested future activities in detail.

SIAM OP-08 Boston, MA: triennial conference on optimization sponsored by SIAG-OPT

Sponsored sessions at meetings of other SIAGs and SIAM annual meeting

7. How can SIAM help the activity group achieve its goals?

Encourage more collaboration between SIAGs to hold joint meetings. There might be savings possible to make this attractive to SIAGs; for example, could registration fees be reduced for two back-to-back meetings?

Allow individuals from SIAM's corporate members to join SIAG without being an individual SIAM member (this happened once last year); since SIAG membership only provides affiliation & newsletter, this seems reasonable.

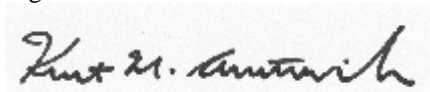
Provide professional help with web design.

8. How can the activity group help SIAM in its general role of promoting applied mathematics and computational science?

Develop new interactions with other professional societies such as the INFORMS Optimization Section and the Mathematical Programming Society.

This SIAG requests that the SIAM Council and Board of Trustees renew its charter for a three-year operating period beginning January 1, 2007.

Signed



Kurt M. Anstreicher

April 19, 2006

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