

5th International Workshop on Soft Constraint (Soft-2003)



<http://www.sci.unich.it/~bista/organizing/soft2003/>

*Held in conjunction with the 9th International
Conference on Principle and Practice of
Constraint Programming (CP2003)*

September 29th, 2003

*Actons Hotel, Kinsale, County Cork,
Ireland*

Proceedings

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Preface

The International Workshop on Soft Constraints is the fifth in a series of workshops organized in conjunction with the international conference CP.

These last years, there has been a lot of effort spent on extending the classical framework of constraint networks in order to relax the crispness of constraints. New frameworks have been defined to handle fuzziness, preferences, uncertainties or costs at the constraint level itself, allowing "soft" constraints to be partially satisfied without making a solution unacceptable. This ability is indeed often needed in practice when modeling real problems and new frameworks may still be required for specific application requirements.

In these new frameworks, the central problem of satisfaction becomes a problem of finding a preferred solution according to a specific criterion induced by the soft constraints. In some cases, the specific semantics of the constraints may reduce the problem to famous problems such as eg. Max-Sat when constraints are clauses. In order to better solve such optimization problems, new properties and algorithms have been considered and still need to be developed.

The aim of this workshop is to provide a forum where researchers currently working on soft constraints can discuss their more recent ideas and developments and think together about the most promising new directions.

This year the workshop offers also two interesting invited talk in hot topics:

- Dave Cohen (Royal Holloway, University of London, UK):
Soft Constraint Islands of Tractability
- Simon N. Foley (University College Cork, Ireland):
Will soft constraints make security any easier?

Stefano Bistarelli, Javier Larrosa and Thomas Schiex

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