Final report on MATCH-UP 2015

MATCH-UP 2015: the 3rd International Workshop on Matching Under Preferences was held at the University of Glasgow between 16-18 April 2015. This interdisciplinary event, organised by David Manlove and Baharak Rastegari of the School of Computing Science, saw 79 delegates travel to Glasgow from 22 countries, including Australia, Canada, India, Japan, Russia and the USA, in addition to countries across Europe.

The remit of MATCH-UP is to explore matching problems with preferences from the perspective of algorithms and complexity, discrete mathematics, combinatorial optimization, game theory, mechanism design and economics, and thus a key objective is to bring together the research communities of the related areas. Previous MATCH-UP workshops took place in Reykjavík in 2008 and in Budapest in 2012.

The event was co-located with a COST Action IC1205 meeting on Computational Social Choice, which took place from 14-16 April, also organised by David Manlove and Baharak Rastegari. 72 delegates attended the COST action meeting, with 36 of those staying on for MATCH-UP.

Invited speakers at MATCH-UP included Katarína Cechlárová (PJ Šafárik University, Košice), Christine Cheng (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and Hervé Moulin (University of Glasgow), each of whom spoke for 60 minutes. 37 contributed papers were presented in 20-minute slots, with the split being approximately 17:20 between computer science and economics. Papers were reviewed by a Programme Committee comprising 20 computer scientists, economists and mathematicians working in the area of matching under preferences. There was also a 90-minute poster session, with 11 posters being presented.

MATCH-UP was originally planned to be a two-day event, but was extended to three days following an excellent response to the call for papers. This level of interest reflects the upsurge of activity in this research area in recent years. The award of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences to Al Roth and Lloyd Shapley in 2012 for their work in the area of matching under preferences was no doubt a contributing factor here.

The outcomes of the event were:

- original results being announced to the scientific community in the context of a specialised meeting where prior results and terminology could be assumed;
- opportunities for those with high-quality existing results to present them to initiate further discussion and collaboration;
- a publicly-available proceedings to enable results to be disseminated;
- an opportunity for researchers to network and build new collaborations, and in particular the bringing together of computer scientists and economists;
- strengthening of the research area and ensuring that there is continuity in the series of MATCH-UP workshops;
- a positive image of the University of Glasgow being conveyed to international visitors.

Financial support from SICSA is gratefully acknowledged. Those receiving SICSA supported places were:

- Frances Cooper (University of Glasgow, School of Computing Science)
- Iain McBride (University of Glasgow, School of Computing Science)
- Ciaran McCreesh (University of Glasgow, School of Computing Science)
- Jason Smith (University of Strathclyde, Department of Computer and Information Sciences)

In total there were 26 PhD students from the following institutions: Aarhus University, Charles University, Columbia University, Eőtvős Loránd University, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Lancaster University, Lund University (2), Stanford University, Tallinn University of Technology, Technische Universität Berlin, Università degli studi di Pavia, University of Barcelona, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow (5), University of Lausanne, University of Oxford, University of Strathclyde, University of Tokyo, University of Toronto and University Paris 1.