

SIAM Activity Group on Optimization (SIAG/OPT)

Business Meeting

June 3, 2026, 1:00–1:50 p.m.

McEwan Hall Auditorium, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

The Chair of the Activity Group, Michael Ulbrich, opened the meeting by welcoming the members in attendance and thanking them for their participation.

Michael Ulbrich then delivered a presentation addressing several matters of interest to the Activity Group. The excellent work carried out by the previous Board was acknowledged.

The various communication channels within the Activity Group, including the two SIAG/OPT websites and the SIAM Engage platform, were presented. Members were informed that both the presentation slides and the minutes of the meeting would be made available on the SIAG/OPT website.

The contributions of the current editors of *SIAG/OPT News & Views* were also acknowledged, and members were encouraged to submit news items of broader interest to SIAM News.

Michael Ulbrich announced and congratulated the SIAM Fellows of 2025 and 2026 who are members of SIAG/OPT.

Statistics from previous SIAM Conferences on Optimization were presented, and Michael Ulbrich congratulated the Organizing Committee of the current conference for the excellent scientific program, organization, and for surpassing previous participation levels.

The recipients of the three prizes associated with the Activity Group were congratulated, and appreciation was expressed to the members of the corresponding prize committees for their service.

An overview of the Activity Group membership and activities was presented. Michael Ulbrich announced that the next SIAM Conference on Optimization, scheduled for 2029, is expected to return to North America. The process of selecting the conference location has already begun in collaboration with SIAM.

Michael Ulbrich also announced scientific events planned for 2027 that may be of interest to members of the Activity Group.

The possibility of organizing online seminars or tutorials under the auspices of SIAG/OPT was discussed. Suggestions included assigning a SIAG/OPT label to carefully selected presentations within existing online seminar series and involving SIAM Fellows who are members of the Activity Group. An informal poll indicated that a substantial proportion of those present supported the initiative.

Members were informed of the importance of maintaining a visible SIAG/OPT presence at SIAM Annual Meetings. In particular, at least six minisymposia are expected to be organized by SIAG/OPT at the 2028 SIAM Annual Meeting, and Michael Ulbrich requested the support of the Activity Group in achieving this objective.

Michael Ulbrich also reported on efforts undertaken to extend the “six years from PhD rule” associated with the Early Career Prize. It was noted that SIAM seeks to achieve consistent eligibility criteria across the prizes of its Activity Groups, making modifications to this rule challenging. During the business meeting, a participant highlighted an important concern: while some SIAGs award Early Career Prizes every two years, SIAG on Optimization awards its prize every three years. As a result, the six-year eligibility window is significantly more restrictive for candidates seeking a second nomination within SIAG on Optimization. The current Board intends to continue pursuing this matter.

The dates of the 2026 SIAM Annual Meeting and the 2026 Gene Golub SIAM Summer School (G2S3) were announced, together with the timeline for the call for proposals and letters of intent for the 2027 G2S3. Michael Ulbrich encouraged the SIAG/OPT community to identify and submit strong optimization-focused topics to future G2S3 calls. The most recent G2S3 explicitly centered on optimization was held in 2023.

The meeting was then opened to questions and comments from the audience.

Concerns were raised regarding the increase in conference registration fees, and a request was made for information on the conference budget. Suzanne Weekes, Chief Executive Officer of SIAM, responded to these comments. Michael Ulbrich summarized that, for the conference budget, total revenue did not fully cover total expenses and that SIAM provided support to offset the resulting shortfall. The information will be made available on the SIAG/OPT website together with the presentation slides.

The former Program Director of SIAG/OPT, also co-Chair of the Organizing Committee of the current meeting, suggested postponing the publication of the final conference program until after authors had completed their registrations, with the aim of reducing the number of program cancellations.

A question was raised concerning visa requirements and the difficulties that participants may face in obtaining visas when selecting future conference locations.

Suzanne Weekes also encouraged Activity Group members to access SIAM journals through their institutional library subscriptions whenever possible, rather than relying on copies available through alternative repositories. Institutional librarians use usage data to assess demand and inform subscription decisions, and access through repositories such as arXiv are generally not reflected in those metrics. SIAM journal subscriptions represent

approximately 50% of the organization's revenue, making demonstrated usage an important factor in sustaining this critical resource.

Finally, Michael Ulbrich highlighted the benefits of SIAM membership, including the opportunity to nominate two student members per year, and provided the contact information of the current Board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.