VeRoLog 2022 | Hamburg, Germany, June 12 - 15, 2022

I had the opportunity to participate in **the eighth meeting of the EURO Working Group on Vehicle Routing and Logistics Optimization,** or shortly VeRoLog 2022. This year the conference was hosted by the Kühne Logistics University (KLU) and the Helmut Schmidt University, both are located in the city of Hamburg, Germany. I was able to attend this conference thanks to the Conference Grants funded by The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC).

The EURO Working Group on Vehicle Routing and Logistics Optimization is comprised of leading researchers and practitioners from the industry interested in vehicle routing optimization and its relations to logistics. Therefore, the focus of the VeRoLog conference is on the fields of Operation Research, Machine Learning, and Transportation, which are strongly linked to my research work and interests. The conference enables the group members to exchange information about contemporary academic works, debate, and collaborate on a large scope of interesting problems and novel solutions methods.

The program of VeRoLog 2022 offered 101 academic talks organized in 11 sessions, with 30 different topics such as *Bike and Car Sharing, Exact Approaches, Machine Learning*, and many more, as well as two extended plenary talks. I have presented the paper **The Online Ride-Hailing Problem with Fairness,** written under the supervision of Prof. Michal Tzur, in the **second session addressing the Dial-a-Ride problems.** The program was highly diverse and the talks demonstrated an excellent level of research. It is worth mentioning that the social events (a guided city tour and a cruise) were also appropriately selected to suit the city of Hamburg.

I have obtained two main benefits from attending this conference. First, concerning my own research, I was exposed to related solution approaches, in particular the notion of a *consensus function* (first introduced by Bent & Van Hentenryck, 2004), which is part of the *Sample-Scenario Planning* research field. It suggests comparing different solutions and choosing the one that is most similar to the other existing solutions. In addition, I have learned that the features we use for solving our problem were found as effective in other works addressing similar problems. Finally, I observed that research tackling fairness towards customers or users of transportation services is still scarce.

Second, presenting my research has helped me improve various skills, such as standing in front of a professional audience, and handling questions from the listeners. Moreover, the preparation of the presentation has taught me how to organize the information to clearly deliver it to the audience. I am sure these skills will help me along my future way.

I would like to send my thanks to ISTRC for funding my trip to the interesting VeRoLog conference!

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Technical Details
Conference Name:
The 8th meeting of the EURO Working Group on Vehicle Routing and Logistics Optimization
Session Name: **Dial-a-Ride II**
Research Title: **The Online Ride-Hailing Problem with Fairness**
Authors: **Shachaf Ben-Gal, Prof. Michal Tzur**