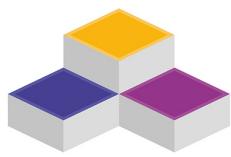# Bilevel Optimization Society

Number 2 - January 7, 2026

Season's Reflections

As 2025 draws to a close, we take a moment to look back on what has been an exciting first year for the **Bilevel Optimization Society (BOS)**.

Since our official launch earlier this year, the society has made significant progress in building the foundations of a vibrant and collaborative community. We established our online presence through the creation of the official BOS website, launched a membership management system, and initiated our communication channels, including this very newsletter.

The past months have also seen important milestones: the successful election of our first **Chair-Elect**, the selection of the host institutions for the next **International Conference on Bilevel Optimization (ICBO 2026)**, and the formation of a committee to organize the inaugural **BOS Webinar Series**.

Setting up a new scientific society is never a trivial task. It requires both structure and vision. We are proud of what has been achieved collectively during this first year and are excited to continue expanding our activities in the coming one. Thank you for being part of this growing and engaged community!

Chair-Elect

We are pleased to announce that Ted Ralphs has been elected as the next Chair-Elect of the Bilevel Optimization Society. The Chair-Elect serves as a key member of the **Committee of the Bilevel Optimization Society (COBOS)**, working alongside the Chair and other officers to shape the strategic direction of the society. According to the bylaws, the Chair-Elect will start in January 2026 and assume the role of Chair beginning in January 2027.

A message from the Chair-Elect

Greetings BOS members! I am the incoming chair-elect of the BOS and I wanted to take this chance to introduce myself and thank you for joining the BOS! I'm honored to be entrusted with the responsibility of carrying forward the mission of the BOS over the next couple of years. I've been blown away by the amount of interest there has been so far and I'm genuinely excited to see where this goes.

For a little about me, I am a Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Lehigh University, where I have been on the faculty for 25 years. My research considers various topics related to discrete optimization, but a primary focus over the past 20 years has been on theory and methodology related to various multi-stage/multilevel and multiobjective discrete optimization problems. Tackling these challenging problem classes requires a common set of theoretical, methodological, and computational tools focused on analyzing parametric classes of discrete optimization problems. My interest is in the development of those kinds of tools.

Bilevel optimization is an extremely broad topic and the community reflects that. Our membership overlaps many other communities that coexist under the broad

umbrella of "optimization." Bilevel optimization includes both discrete and continuous; stochastic and robust; multiobjective, multistage, and multilevel; and more. For the next couple of years, my focus will be on leading the effort to build this community. I am committed to understanding what the BOS can and should be for its members, many of whom already belong to those overlapping societies and communities. I want the BOS to be more than just the organization behind "yet another" conference series. I want to know what you want from the BOS and what needs of the community BOS is uniquely positioned to satisfy. What should be our reason to exist?

I envision the BOS as a "big tent" organization and I invite everyone to participate, starting with the first ever conference sponsored by the BOS, the International Conference on Bilevel Optimization 2026 in Pittsburgh, August 2-5! I'll be looking forward to seeing you there!

All the best,
Ted Ralphs
Incoming Chair-Elect, Bilevel Optimization Society

Welcome to ICBO 2026!

International Conference on Bilevel Optimization (ICBO) 2026
Dates: 2–5 August 2026
Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Hosts: University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) & Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)
Conference Co-Chairs: Bo Zeng (Pitt), Ramteen Sioshansi (CMU)

We are pleased to welcome the global optimization community to ICBO 2026. This year's conference is jointly hosted by the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. Bringing ICBO to Pittsburgh reflects the city's longstanding commitment to research, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Bo Zeng
University of Pittsburgh, Co-Chair

Ramteen Sioshansi
Carnegie Mellon University, Co-Chair

Conference Overview

ICBO 2026 will begin with a full-day tutorial/summer school covering both methodological and applied subfields in bilevel optimization. The subsequent three days will feature the main scientific program, including **plenary talks, thematic sessions, contributed presentations**, and **poster sessions**.

As bilevel optimization becomes increasingly central to developments in machine learning, energy systems, logistics, game theory, and data-driven decision-making, ICBO 2026 provides an important venue for exchanging ideas, forming collaborations, and presenting new research. **Abstract submissions open January 1, 2026**. Further details will follow.

Experience Pittsburgh

Participants will have the chance to explore Pittsburgh, a city known for its transformation from industrial hub to center of technology, culture, and education. With its iconic bridges, three rivers, and views from Mount Washington, Pittsburgh offers a memorable setting for both professional and social exchange. The nearby neighborhoods surrounding Pitt and CMU provide access to museums, riverfront trails, and a diverse food scene.

We look forward to your participation and to welcoming you to Pittsburgh for ICBO 2026.

BOS Webinar

To strengthen the connections within our community and to foster collaboration, the Bilevel Optimization Society is launching the **BOS Webinar Series** in April 2026. This new initiative will feature bi-weekly online talks by leading experts and emerging researchers in bilevel optimization, providing a platform for sharing ideas, recent results, and open questions. Topics of interest include theoretical, computational, and applied aspects of bilevel optimization.

The series will be coordinated by Kuang Bai, Yasmine Beck, and Nagisa Sugishita, who will oversee the format, speaker selection, and scheduling.

Kuang Bai holds a full professorship at Hunan University since 2025. He completed his PhD at the University of Victoria in 2020. Then he served as a Research Assistant Professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 2020 to 2024. His research interests lie in the fields of variational analysis and its application to optimality theory of bilevel optimization programs.

Yasmine Beck is a postdoctoral researcher at ESSEC Business School since November 2024. Before joining ESSEC, she was a research and teaching assistant at Trier University, where she completed her PhD in December 2024. Her research interests lie at the intersection of (mixed-integer) bilevel optimization and optimization under uncertainty, with a focus on robust optimization.

Nagisa Sugishita is a postdoctoral fellow at HEC Montréal since March 2025. He completed his PhD at the University of Edinburgh in September 2022. His research interests range from applying bilevel programming to the development of sustainable and equitable transportation systems to studying the computational complexity of bilevel optimization.

The first webinar is planned for **April 14, 2026**, at **4 pm (CET)** and will be held on Zoom. Further details will be announced soon. We look forward to seeing many of you online as we continue to grow the BOS community and share exciting advances in bilevel optimization!

Credits

This issue was prepared by Margarida Carvalho with contributions from Victor Bucarey, Johannes Thürauf, Alain Zemkoho, Ted Ralphs, Bo Zeng, Ramteen Sioshansi, Yasmine Beck, Kuang Bai and Nagisa Sugishita.