


Dagstuhl Seminar 26072

Best Practice for Leveraging Domain Knowledge in Real-World Optimization

8 – 13 Feb 2026

Day 1: Monday 9 Feb	
09h00 – 09h15	Introduction
09h15 – 10h30	Opening Talks: Related Events 1) CWI Research Semester Programme (Boris Naujoks) 2) Dagstuhl Seminar on Benchmarking (Thomas Bäck) 3) COST ROAR-NET (Carola Doerr)
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee Break
11h00 – 12h15	1-slide (2 minutes) Introductions Ice Breaker
12h15 – 13h30	Lunch
13h30 – 15h00	Post-it Session Perspective Talk Breakout Topics
15h00 – 15h30	Coffee Break
15h30 – 17h30	Breakout Sessions
18h00	Dinner

Day 2: Tuesday 10 Feb	
09h00 – 09h15	Daily Sync
09h15 – 10h30	Talk: Juergen Branke, "Challenges of collaborations between industry and academia" Revisit breakout topics
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee Break
11h00 – 12h15	Breakout sessions
12h15 – 14h00	Lunch
14h00 – 15h00	Talk: Carola Doerr, "What to do in absence of domain knowledge" Talk: Nikolaus Hansen, "How to Gather Domain Knowledge (with CMA-ES)"
15h00 – 15h30	Coffee Break
15h30 – 17h30	Breakout sessions Reporting from breakout sessions
18h00	Dinner

Day 3: Wednesday 11 Feb	
09h00 – 09h15	Daily Sync
09h15 – 10h30	Talk: Rodolphe Le Riche, "Including domain knowledge in Bayesian Optimization" Talk: Una-May O'Reilly, "How to use an LLM to generate EAs"
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee Break
11h00 – 12h15	Plenary writing session (please bring your laptops): Tailoring examples
12h15 – 13h00	Lunch
13h00 – 15h00	Photograph Group outing: Hike the n^2 route (Tobias)
15h00 – 15h30	Coffee and Cake 
15h30 – 17h30	Free time
18h00	Dinner

Day 4: Thursday 12 Feb	
09h00 – 09h15	Daily Sync
09h15 – 10h30	Talk: Manuel López-Ibáñez: Not Always Lollipops and Rainbows: When Real-World Optimisation Gets Messy Talk: Marcus Gallagher: Missing pieces for real-world problems Revisit breakout topics & decide on new topics
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee Break
11h00 – 12h15	Breakout sessions
12h15 – 14h00	Lunch
14h00 – 15h00	Breakout sessions
15h00 – 15h30	Coffee Break
15h30 – 17h30	Breakout sessions
18h00	Dinner

Day 5: Friday 13 Feb	
09h00 – 09h30	Daily Sync Feedback Book?
09h30 – 10h30	Breakout sessions
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee Break
11h00 – 12h15	Report back from breakout sessions Farewell
12h15 – 14h00	Lunch