IEEE SPS SPCOM-TC Meeting ICASSP 2021

Online meeting

May 17, 2021

16:00-17:30 (CEST)

Updates to the TC member list

- Newly elected members
  - Yao-Win Hong, Hugo Tullberg, Antii Tolli, Xin Wang
- Members re-elected for a second term
  - Elisabeth de Carvalho, Lutz Lampe, Meixia Tao

Agenda

- Proposal for SPAWC 2023
  - Shanghai, China (GC: Zhi Tian, **Xin Wang**; HC: Georgios Giannakis; TPC: Geert Leus, Shengli Zhou)
- Update for SPAWC 2022
  - **Markku Juntti and Antti Tolli**
- Update for SPAWC 2021
  - **Luca Sanguinetti**
- Chair's report
- Discussions

SPAWC 2023 proposal

Shanghai, China

SPAWC 2022 update

Oulu, Finland

SPAWC 2021 update

Hybrid? (Lucca, Italy)

Chair's report

TC membership

- 30 Technical Committee Members, including Chair
  - 29 academia and 1 industry
  - 6 female and 24 male
  - 7 North America; 1 South America; 9 Europe; 3 Middle East; 8 Asia and Pacific

TC membership

- **Advisory Members**:
Advisory members are non-voting members appointed by the TC Chair and are in general past TC Chairs, past or current Editors-in-Chief, liaison with other communities and IEEE societies, and other past members of the TC who were particularly active. This is a small group with an advisory role to the TC and TC Chair. (Previously known as Associate Members)

- **Associate Members**:
Associate Members are non-voting members appointed by the TC Chair based on their levels of activity within the TC from the TC Affiliates category, e.g., their involvement and dedication for the review process, involvement in other activities such as data competition, workshop organization, or other activities.

TC membership

- **Current SPCOM TC Associate Members**
  - Federico Boccardi, Ofcom
  - Jakob Hoydis, Nokia Bell Labs
  - Timothy O'Shea, DeepSig
  - Onur Sahin, InterDigital
  - Yue Wang, Samsung
- Suggestions for more Associate Members, especially from the industry, are welcome!

ICASSP Statistics

ICASSP 2014 (Florence)	205 accepted out of 387 submitted + 5 SPL papers	11.6% of ICASSP
ICASSP 2015 (Brisbane)	75 accepted out of 153 submitted + 14 SPL papers	6.8% of ICASSP
ICASSP 2016 (Shanghai)	116 accepted out of 240 submitted + 9 SPL papers	9.0% of ICASSP
ICASSP 2017 (New Orleans)	72 accepted out of 146 submitted + 4 SPL papers	5.8% of ICASSP
ICASSP 2018 (Calgary)	80 accepted out of 171 submitted + 4 SPL papers	6.2% of ICASSP
ICASSP 2019 (Brighton)	71 accepted out of 153 submitted + 4 SPL papers	4.1% of ICASSP
ICASSP 2020 (Barcelona)	66 accepted out of 141 submitted + 5 SPL papers	
ICASSP 2021 (Toronto)	52 accepted out of 104 submitted + 2 SPL papers	2.8% of ICASSP

SPAWC Statistics

SPAWC 2012 (Cesme, Turkey)	119 accepted out of 171 submitted	124 attendees
SPAWC 2013 (Darmstadt, Germany)	158 accepted out of 237 submitted	184 attendees
SPAWC 2014 (Toronto, Canada)	102 accepted out of 121 submitted	132 attendees
SPAWC 2015 (Stockholm, Sweden)	140 accepted out of 207 submitted	178 attendees
SPAWC 2016 (Edinburgh, UK)	173 accepted out of 260 submitted	210 attendees
SPAWC 2017 (Sapporo, Japan)	178 accepted out of 256 submitted	268 attendees
SPAWC 2018 (Kalamata, Greece)	152 accepted out of 281 submitted	250 attendees
SPAWC 2019 (Cannes, France)	107 accepted out of 245 submitted	237 attendees
SPAWC 2020 (Atlanta, USA)	138 accepted out of 185 submitted	308 attendees

Award Nominations

- IEEE SPS Education award: Jelena Kovacevic (not successful)

- IEEE SPS Technical Achievement Award: Geert Leus (not successful)

- IEEE SPS Best Paper Award:
  - *Shen K, Yu W. Fractional programming for communication systems—Part I: Power control and beamforming. IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing. 2018 Mar 12;66(10):2616-30.* (not successful)

- IEEE SPS Young Author Best Paper Award:
  - *Y Yang, M Pesavento, A Unified Successive Pseudoconvex Approximation Framework, IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing 65 (13), 3313-3328, 2017* (not successful)

- Donald G. Fink Overview Paper Award:
  - *Robert W. Heath, Nuria González-Prelcic, Sundeep Rangan, Wonil Roh, and Akbar M. Sayeed "An Overview of Signal Processing Techniques for Millimeter Wave MIMO Systems" IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing, No. 3, Vol. 10, April 2016. [successful]*

- Sustained Impact Award:
  - *S. A. Vorobyov, A. B. Gershman and Zhi-Quan Luo, "Robust adaptive beamforming using worst-case performance optimization: a solution to the signal mismatch problem," in IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, vol. 51, no. 2, pp. 313-324, Feb. 2003* (not successful)

- IEEE Marconi Prize Paper Award in Wireless Communications:
  - *No nomination*

Award Winners

- 2020 Pierre-Simon Laplace Early Career Technical Achievement Award:
  - *Emil Björnson, For contributions to signal processing for communications and research reproducibility*

Integrated Sensing and Communication (ISAC) Technical Working Ground (TWG)

- Chair: Tsung-Hui Chang

- Activities:
  - Special tracks, workshops, and the international conference
  - Tutorials, invited talks, and industry panels
  - Research Library and Best Readings
  - Datasets, competitions, and reproducible research
  - Standardization

Upcoming schedule for 2021-2022

- SPAWC 2021 reviews – deadline Jun 29

- SPAWC 2021 – September 27-30

- Distinguished Industry Lecturer and Distinguished Lecturer – May 31 (internal May 10)

- Best paper awards – September 1
  - Process starts soon! Expect scan review requests…

- Membership elections – Mid November (Please nominate)

- ICASSP 2022 reviews – November, December

- SPAWC 2022 reviews – Spring 2022

Paper award process

- For BPA and YABPA scan review work is ongoing:
  - Awards subcommittee creates initial list of candidate papers
  - Scan review around 10 papers: yes/ no + justification if yes (by end of June)
  - Anonymous award-level reviews
  - Multiple rounds of voting by TC members (August)
- Take some time to browse - *signalprocessingsociety.org/get-involved/awards-submit-award-nomination*
  - TC can nominate for all awards, and suggestions are appreciated

Membership election

- 5 open positions to start in 2022
  - At most 2 sitting members can be re-elected

- Members ending their first term
  - Danijela, Yonina, Ana

- Members ending their second term
  - Waheed, Markku

- Election of a new vice-chair (any existing or past member can be elected)

Formation of sub-committees

- Nominations and elections subcommittee:
  - Osvaldo Simeone (chair), Joakim Jalden, Meixia Tao, 1 more member
- Awards subcommittee:
  - Joakim Jaldén (chair), Osvaldo Simeone, 2 more members
- Marconi award subcommittee (February 2022 deadline):
  - Rodrigo de Lamare, 1 more member
- Education subcommittee:
  - Emil Bjornson, Christoph Studer
- Newsletter & outreach subcommittee:
  - volunteers?

For the technical directions board (TDB)

1. What was the TCs overall impression of the addition of the author rebuttal process for ICASSP 2021?

The TC chairs feel that the addition is generally welcome, but, as detailed at the next point, the implementation of the process should be improved for it to be beneficial. It may also take a few years for the community to get used to the new requirements on reviewers.

2. What worked well with the rebuttal process?

The authors seem to have generally appreciated the opportunity to respond to reviews, and we found the rebuttals to be by and large informative and detailed.

For the technical directions board (TDB)

3. What could be improved, or what specific suggestions do you have to make it better?

1) Reviewer feedback: The document outlining the new process talks about giving the reviewers the opportunity to change their reviews based on the authors' rebuttal. However, to the best of our understanding, this step was not implemented, or at least not adequately communicated to the reviewers or the TC chairs. We have checked the welcome email to reviewers, and indeed it does not mention this possibility. We think that, without involving the original reviewers, it is difficult for the TC chairs to weight the reviewers' arguments against the authors' rebuttal.

2) Communication: Communication to the reviewers, authors, and TCs should be improved. We don't think that authors understood who would be reading their rebuttals and how the rebuttals would be used, and as TC chairs we did not quite know how to use the rebuttals.

For the technical directions board (TDB)

4. What concrete suggestions do you have for improving the ICASSP review process overall?

In addition to the two points above, we believe that:

1) It would be useful to significantly reduce the processing time between the closing of submissions to the start of the review, in order to allow more time for reviews and decisions.

2) An email should be sent to the reviewers after papers are assigned in order to inform the reviewers about their assignments and about deadlines. This year, more than usual, many reviewers missed that the review process had started.

Discussions