IEEE SPS SPCOM Technical Committee Meeting
Online, May 18, 2021

Meeting minutes

Attending TC members: Osvaldo Simeone (chair), Joakim Jaldén (past chair), David Morales, Xin Wang, Ya-Feng Liu, Christoph Studer, Laura Cottatellucci, Luca Sanguinetti, Antii Tölli, Emil Björnsson, Shaofeng Zou, Markku Juntti, Ana Pérez-Neira, Hugo Tulleberg, Rodrigo de Lamare, Elisabeth De Carvalho, Chang Tsung-Hui, Waheed Bajwaa, Meixia Tao, Mingyi Hong, Yao-Win (Peter) Hong, Tsung-Hui Chang.

TC members not present: Kaibin Huang (excused), Tareq Al-Naffouri, Itsik Bergel, Danijela Cabric, Yonina Eldar, Lutz Lampe, Lingjia Liu, Tony Quek, Jun Zhang.

Non-TC members attending: None.

Minutes written by Joakim Jaldén

1. Osvaldo Simeone presented newly elected TC members.
2. Xin Wang presented a proposal for SPAWC 2023 in Shanghai, China.
   a. Chaired by Zhi Tian and Xin Wang.
   b. TPC lead by Geert Leus and Shengli Zhou.
   c. Workshop to be held at Tongji University / Kingswell Hotel.
   d. Proposed dates of September 25-28, 2023.
   e. Regular schedule, 1 day tutorials and 3 days keynote and poser sessions.
   f. Voting to take place after TC meeting.
3. Markku Junitti and Antii Tölli presented updates to SPAWC 2022, Oulu, Finland.
   a. Presentation of the venue
      i. Posters at Hotel Lassaretti
      ii. Banquet at Maikkula Mansion
   b. To be held July 4 to July 6, directly following ISIT in Helsinik (ends July 1). No collisions with ICC, ICASSP.
   c. Deadline for all for papers February 19, 2022.
   d. Somewhat extended list of topics.
   e. Should the event be hybrid? There is a wish for providing this option, and the TC discussed the possibility of accommodating this.
   f. Current plan according to classical SPAWC format with mainly poser sessions.
   g. Considering the possibility of SPAWC talks.
4. Luca Sanguinetti presented an update to SPAWC 2021, Lucca, Italy (Online).
   a. The conference will be virtual, but possibly with a physical meeting in conjunction.
   b. Prolonged discussion about the possibility of hybrid poster sessions. Ana Pérez-Neira asked about possibility of hybrid poster session.
   c. 167 papers submitted. 83 in regular track and 84 in special session track. 497 confirmed reviews. Around 100 notified but not accepted.
   d. 14 special sessions (6 invited) with an average of 6 papers per session.
   e. Keynotes and SPAWC Talks will be live streamed.

      f.   A parallel in person workshop for people who can travel.

      g.   Keynotes made available on-demand via recording.

      h.   Fill up dipping submission of papers with added tutorials in the morning.

      i.   12 SPAWC talks of 30 minutes each.

      j.   2 Data Competitions, with awards.

5. Emil Björnsson presents the SP Cup efforts
    a. Configuring intelligent reflecting surfaces.
    b. Competing teams and data on GitHub.
    c. Winning teams fron Sri Lanka, Poland, etc.
    d. Sunday presentation scheduled at ICASSP for winning teams.

6. Osvaldo Simone presented the Chair's report
    a. TC member roster. Only 1 industry member. 6-24 female-male TC composition.
    b. Update on Advisory (e.g., past chairs) and Associate Members (currently used to get better industry representation).
    c. ICASSP statistics. Steadily reducing SPCOM share of ICASSP.
    d. SPAWC statistics are strong. Attendance of 2020 up due to online event.
    e. Award statistics. Overview Paper Award was successful.
    f. TC member Emil Björnsson received Early Career Technical Achievement Award.
    g. Integrated Sensing and Communcations (ISAC) technical working group (TWG) initiated by Tsung-Hui Chang.
        i. Special tracks, workshop, conferences
        ii. Tutorials, invited talks, industry panels.
    h. Upcoming yearly schedule.
        i. SPAWC 2021 review deadlines June 29.
        ii. DIL and DL nominations still possible.
    i. Update on of paper awards process.
    j. Membership election process.
    k. Sub-committees (see meeting presentation slides for details).
    l. Discussion point about ICASSP 2021 author rebuttal process, and TC chairs answer to requested feedback.

7. Discussion about ICASSP reviews
    a. Osvaldo presented the TC feedback regarding the ICASSP review process.
    b. The point was raised that the author rebuttals were not helpful (from the author point of view).
    c. Some TC members found the ICASSP reviews assigned to them to not be suitable for their expertise. Others had a better experience.