IEEE Signal Processing Society
Sensor Array and Multichannel (SAM) Technical Committee
Minutes of the ICASSP'13 Meeting
Vancouver, Canada; May 28, 2013; 18:30-20:00, Pan Pacific - Ocean View 1

Present TC Members: Olivier Besson, Chong-Yung Chi, Jean-Pierre Delmas, Maria Sabrina Greco, Dominic Ho (Chair), Martin Haardt, Andreas Jakobsson, Visa Koivunen, Pascal Larzabal, Geert Leus, Marius Pesavento, Athina Petropulu, Philip Schniter, Ali Sayed, Erchin Serpedin, Shahram Shahbazpanahi, Lee Swindlehurst, Mats Viberg (Past Chair), Thomas Wong, Peter Willett, (Vice Chair) and Rui Zhang.

Present Associate Members: Aleksandar Dogandzic, Hongya Ge, Hongbin Li.

Other Guests: Charles Bouman, Monica Bugallo, Luis Castedo, Roberto Lopez Valcarce.

§1. Welcome of New TC Members and Short Introduction

- Of the 6 newly-elected SAM members, 4 were present at the meeting: Chong-Yung Chi, Philip Schniter, Kainam Wong and Rui Zhang, and they introduced themselves to the other TC members. The Chair also thanked outgoing members Biao Chen, Aleksandar Dogandzic, Erik Larsson, Hongbin Li, Sergiy Vorobyov & Abdelhak Zoubir.

§2. Report from the Chair

§2.1 Awards
- The Chair announced that 2012 was, again, a successful year for award nominations. Eight nominations were submitted and 5 were accepted. The successful award nominations are: Society Award, Best Paper Award, Young Author Best Paper Award, Signal processing Magazine Best Paper Award, and Signal Processing Magazine Best Column Award. Ali Sayed received the Technical Achievement Award and the Best Paper Award, and Athina Petropulu received the Meritorious Service Award. Two TC members Antonio De Maio and Erchin Serpedin were newly elected to be Fellow of IEEE.

§2.2 ICASSP 2013
- SAM received 216 paper submissions and 114 were accepted. The papers were distributed to 4 lecture and 7 poster sessions. Two lecture sessions are to be jointly held with SPTM.
- The Chair mentioned that the number of SAM paper submissions to ICASSP 2013 was higher than the previous year. But the percentage of SAM paper submissions relative to the total ICASSP paper submissions remains to be similar to previous year, about 6.5%. As always, a significant proportion of ICASSP papers is in the "Speech" area, hence taken amongst the remaining papers the SAM proportion is more substantial.

§2.3 SAM TC Membership
- The TC membership size is 37. Only 1 member is from industry and 3 members are female. The TC composes of 16 Fellows, 14 Senior Members, 5 Members and 2 Affiliates. Most of the TC members are from Europe (19) and United States (14); 3 are from Asia/Pacific and 1 is from Canada.

§2.4 SAM Paper Submissions
- SAM paper submissions to ICASSP and SAM Workshop have been relatively stable, with the exception of 2010 in Israel. There is some increasing trend for paper submissions to CAMSAP.

§2.5 T-SP EDICS
- The Chair informed the committee of the new T-SP EDICS. These include new SAM categories for Tensor-Based Signal Processing (SAM-TNSR) and Compressed Sensing and Sparse Modeling (SAM-CSSM); but SAM radar and sonar EDICS (SAM-RADR, SAM-SONR, and SAM-SYAS) are removed. These latter are now part of the new "Radar and Sonar" (RAS) category, with 15 sub-categories.
- Some discussion ensued. It is not clear which TC has "ownership" of these EDICS, or even if such ownership exists whether it has meanings. However, it is clear that the importance of the TCs as regards EDICS has diminished. The Chair will initiate discussions with the T-SP EIC and with SPTM.

§2.6 Changes in Award Nominations
- Starting this year, a TC cannot nominate one of its own members for an award, to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest.
- A lively discussion arose. The general feeling was that while the TC is sympathetic to the motivation behind the change, it is also true that many of the best paper and award candidates would seem to be excluded from consideration by this change. That is: TC members have been selected as TC members exactly because they are the sort of people who might be recognized; and perhaps this change would create a disincentive to become a TC member.
- It was decided to keep the current award paper candidate selection process. If the selected paper is co-authored by a TC member, SAM will find another way to nominate the paper – e.g. through another TC, by an individual/several TC members or by an area subcommittee. The Chair will engage the relevant SPS board with these concerns.

§3. Workshop Status

§3.1 SAM 2012
- Hongbin Li, one of the General Co-Chairs of the SAM Workshop, presented the final report.

§3.2 CAMSAP 2013
- Aleksandar Dogandzic, one of the General Co-Chairs of the CAMSAP Workshop, presented the interim report.

§3.3 SAM 2014
- A proposal for SAM 2014 to be held in A Coruña (Spain) was presented by Monica Bugallo and Luis Castedo.
- A proposal for SAM 2014 to be held in Arlington VA was presented by the SAM Chairs on behalf of proposing general chairs John Tague and Arye Nehorai.
- The committee members were impressed by both proposals, but voted (16-Yes, 1-No, 4-Abstain) to approve the former (Spain). From the comments made, the committee were very positively impressed by the concreteness of the Spain proposal, and also felt that a US venue (in 2012) might well be followed by a non-US venue in 2014.
- The committee strongly encouraged the Arlington team to propose again in 2016.

§3.4 CAMSAP 2015
- At present there is no proposal for CAMSAP 2015. There was some concern on the committee that the traditional CAMSAP dates are very close to the (new) GlobalSIP dates, both in December.
- The Chair will attempt to encourage a CAMSAP 2015 proposal from interested members and affiliates.

§4. Discussion Topics

§4.1 Technical Directions Board (TDB)
- The Chair reported on his meeting with the SPS TDB.
- The TDB suggested that SAM-TC (as other TCs) investigate possible technologies that can be developed as IEEE Standards which could attract interests from industry for adoption.
- The TDB is interested in standardizing a common procedure for all TCs in selecting papers for award nominations. The SAM TC will provide the current paper selection process to the TDB for consideration.
- The TDB encouraged participation in the (new) GlobalSIP conference, to be held December in Texas this year. GlobalSIP is to be an "umbrella" conference (with some resemblance to the SPIE conference, although markedly different according to an IEEE model) in which units (such as SAM-TC) foster and manage conference tracks. The current timetable suggests that the 2013 iteration is too soon; however, the following year may be an appropriate target for consideration, should there be no proposal for the workshops under SAM such as CAMSAP2015.

§4.2 Signal Processing Cup
- This is a new initiative, whose objective is to provide graduate and undergraduate students an opportunity to form teams to solve a challenging and interesting real-world problem in signal processing. Charles Bouman (Chair of the Technical Directions Board) was present at the meeting and provided some background information.
- The competition will be run annually. Three teams will be invited to present their works at ICASSP and will be awarded prizes. Each TC can submit one proposal, which should include some details of a challenging problem, the assessment criteria, and any required data. Proposal Deadline: 26-July.
- The Education subcommittee will take charge of this for SAM-TC, and the Chair will follow up with them.

§4.3 TC Competition
- This is a program for researchers, graduate students, and engineers to focus and work on recognized challenges. Its goals are to identify new topics that will broaden the scope and energize or re-energize Technical Committees, encourage our members to explore these topics, and attract new members outside the SP community to the Technical Committees and Society.
- The proposal deadline: third week of October.
- In 2012, four TCs submitted proposals and three accepted: MMSP, SL, BISP. A fourth from SPCOM was not, due to scope.
- SPS will award up to $6k per effort. Costs are to set up the challenge problem (data presentation, website building, possible travel).
- The Technical Directions subcommittee will take charge of this for SAM-TC. It is recommended that they consider reaching out to industrial affiliates. The Chair will follow up with them.

§4.4 Signal Processing Magazine Special Issue Topics
- The Signal Processing Magazine (SPM) Editorial Board has encouraged different TCs to develop and submit proposals for special issue topics. It was noted that very few topics in the planned SPM issues are from SAM. The Chair encouraged SAM members to submit proposals.

§4.4 Jobs Marketplace
- This is a nice feature of the SPS SAM-TC website and those of all TCs. It is a nice way to advertise openings that might be of interest to members.
- There has been little participation from SAM-TC. Some other TCs take heavy advantage of the opportunity.
- Post-doctoral positions are an obvious candidate.

§4.5 Membership
- It was suggested (Petropulu) that we should urge recently-graduated PhDs to become affiliate/associate members.
- This will encourage SAM-TC membership and perhaps rejuvenate the research area.

§5. Close of the Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 20:40 and all the agenda items were covered.