

IEEE Signal Processing Society
Sensor Array and Multichannel (SAM) Technical Committee
Minutes of the ICASSP'14 Meeting
Florence Italy
May 7, 2014; 13:00-14:30

Present TC Members: Rick Blum, Monica Bugallo, Volkan Cevher, Chong-Yung Chi, Antonio De Maio, Jean Pierre Delmas, Yonina Eldar, Mounir Ghogho, Maria Sabrina Greco, Dominic K.C. Ho (Chair), Martin Haardt, Visa Koivunen, Geert Leus, Xavier Mestre, Athina Petropulu, Ali Sayed, Steven Thomas Smith, Milica Stojanovic, A. Lee Swindlehurst, Joseph Tabrikian, Ami Wiesel, Peter Willett (Vice-Chair).

Present Associate Members: Saeed Gazor, Shahram Shahbazpanahi.

Other Guests: André L.F. de Almeida, Peter Djurić, Robert Heath, Rodrigo de Lamare, Jean Yves Tourneret.

§1. Welcome of New TC Members and Short Introduction

- Of the 6 newly-elected SAM members, 3 were present at the meeting: Mónica Bugallo, Yonina Eldar & Milica Stojanovic. The chair also thanked outgoing members Andreas Jakobsson, Randolph Moses, Arye Nehorai, Shahram Shahbazpanahi, Ananthram Swami & Mats Viberg.

§2. Report from the Chair

§2.1 Awards

- The Chair announced that 2013 was, again, a successful year for award nominations. Seven nominations were submitted and 3 were successful. These were:
 - Technical Achievement Award: Y. Eldar
 - Best Paper Award: M. Herman and T. Strohmer (RAP)
 - Young Author Best Paper Award: Y. Chi (APP)
- Two nominations were made for Distinguished Lecturer and one was successful:
 - Maria Sabrina Greco
- Two SAM-TC members also received SPS awards:
 - Meritorious Service Award: Ali Sayed
 - Best Paper Award: Jian Li
- One SAM-TC member was elected Fellow of the IEEE
 - Philip Schniter
- The chair mentioned that he has prepared and submitted 5 endorsements for the 2014 round of Fellow nominations: K. Bell, O. Besson, M. Ghogho, H. Li & M. Lops.

§2.2 SAM TC Review

The SAM TC underwent its review after the TC meeting at last year's Vancouver ICASSP. These reviews happen on a three-year cycle. The overall feedback was strong. A quote from our review panel was "It is a technically strong and vibrant TC. Congratulations!" The SAM-TC was praised for its proactivity in meeting its challenges and for its success in the awards process. The committee did raise some concerns about the diversity of the SAM-TC membership (gender, region and also type of employment). The chair cited statistics showing that significant improvement has been made as regards gender (7 female members in 2014 versus 3 in 2013; there is room for improvement in the other two categories, especially our membership from Region 10 is significantly lower than the IEEE average, 10% versus 23%. See section §2.4. It was

recommended that the TC engage in a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis exercise.

§2.3 ICASSP 2014

- SAM received 222 paper submissions and 106 were accepted. The papers were distributed to 4 lecture and 7 poster sessions.
- The Chair mentioned that the number of SAM paper submissions to ICASSP 2014 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: 6.24% versus 6.42%. 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.
- The chair presented data on the geographical distribution of submitted and accepted papers.
- The chair presented data on the most popular SAM EDICS:
 - Beamforming (29)
 - Signal detection and parameter estimation (45)
 - Direction-of-arrival estimation (48)
 - Source localization, classification, and tracking (48)
 - Radar array processing (30)
 - Microphone array processing (31)

§2.4 SAM TC Membership

- The TC membership size is 37. Only 1 member is from industry (same as 2013), and 4 are from government/labs (versus 3 in 2013). As to gender, 7 members are female (versus 3 in 2013). Most of the TC members are from Europe (18) and United States (15); 4 are from Asia/Pacific and none are from Latin America nor Canada.

§2.5 SAM Paper Submissions

- The SAM Workshop to be held in La Coruna in June of 2014 has broken a record for the number of papers submitted (211).

§3. SPS Initiatives

- The Chair reported two special interest groups (SIGs) were created by SPS in 2013: Big Data and Internet of Things. Yonina Eldar reported on the first meeting of the interest group on “Big Data” at this ICASSP. A SAM-TC member asked if the TCs were informed in the formation, and the chair responded affirmatively. But some members remain concerned that members had not been consulted. Important issues are membership (who is on the committee) and whether in fact Big Data is a new area, or whether it can be addressed as part of extant SPS topical areas.
- Petar Djurić reported on a committee to change the name of the Signal Processing Society. This is still in the planning and exploration phase. A member thought we should discuss the issue here: he agrees that self-evaluation is a good idea, but (1) the process should be clear in who it is trying to appeal to and (2) the new name, if any, should be long-lasting and not be trendy.
- Ali Sayed noted that there is a new IEEE rule that all workshops must have a paper acceptance rate of 42-48%.

§4. Workshop Status

§4.1 CAMSAP 2013

- Martin Haardt gave a presentation on the technical and financial performance of the St. Martin conference, both very good.
- The IEEE profit was approximately 30%, according to the SAM-TC chair.
- There were 12 special/invited sessions.
- One initiative that seems to have worked especially well was the encouragement for the attendance of students: 30 came, and there was only one no-show. There was an expanded student awards program, travel grants, as well as reduced student registration fees.

§4.2 SAM 2014

- Monica Bugallo, one of the General Co-Chairs of the SAM Workshop, presented the interim report. As noted previously, there were 211 papers submitted of which 133 were accepted.
- There are 13 special/invited sessions, 2 tutorials and 6 plenary talks.

§4.3 CAMSAP 2015

- A proposal for CAMSAP 2015 to be held in Cancun was presented by Petar Djurić.
- A proposal for CAMSAP 2015 to be held in Curacao was presented by André de Almeida.
- There is to be an email vote between these two excellent proposals.

§4.4 SAM 2016

- A proposal for SAM 2016 to be held in Rio de Janeiro was presented by Rodrigo de Lamare.
- A proposal for SAM 2016 to be held in Chengdu was presented by Rick Blum.
- A SAM-TC member's concern about participant safety was raised about the Rio location, and a response from the proposers sought.
- A SAM-TC member's concern about help with the Chinese language was raised about the Chengdu location, and a response from the proposers sought.

§5. Discussion Topics

- As a result of the four workshop proposal presentations (none of which went over-time), there was no schedule left for discussion topics.

§6. Close of the Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 14:30 and all the agenda items were covered.