



IEEE Signal Processing Society
Sensor Array and Multichannel (SAM) Technical Committee
Minutes of the ICASSP 2016 Meeting
Shanghai, China – Thursday March 24, 2016; 12:00-13:30
Shanghai International Convention Center / Oriental Riverside Hotel, Room 5F

Present TC Members: Chong-Yung Chi, André L.F. de Almeida, Fulvio Gini, Martin Haardt (Vice-Chair), Qian He, Dominic K.C. Ho (Past Chair), Eduard Jorswieck, Geert Leus, Jian Li, Hongbin Li, Gonzalo Mateos-Seco, Xavier Mestre, Piya Pal, Marius Pesavento, Athena Petropulo, Ami Wiesel, Peter Willett (Chair), Yimin Zhang.

Guests: Yujie Gu, Wei Liu, Peng Zhang.

§1. Welcome of New TC Members and Short Introduction

- The chair welcomed the 7 newly-elected SAM TC members Fauzia Ahmad, Waheed Bajwa, Gonzalo Mateos-Seco, Piya Pal, Qian He, Hongbin Li, and Andre de Almeida, of whom Gonzalo Mateos-Seco, Piya Pal, Qian He, Hongbin Li, and Andre de Almeida were present at the meeting.
- Moreover, Xavier Mestre, Philip Schniter, Ami Wiesel, Kainam Thomas Wong, and Chong-Yung Chi have been reelected for a second term.
- Furthermore, the chair thanked the outgoing members Maria Sabrina Greco, Yingbo Hua, Steven Thomas Smith, A. Lee Swindlehurst, Joseph Tabrikian, and Rui Zhang.
- Currently, the SAM TC has 7 female and 34 male members. Out of these members, 4 work in industry / research labs and 36 members work in academic institutions. The regional distribution is as follows: 19 R1-6, 1 R7, 13 R8, 1 R9, 5 R10.

§2. Report from the Chair

§2.1 Awards

- The Chair announced that 2016 was, again, a successful year for award nominations. The following nominations were successful. Note that the first 3 awards are awards to SAM people, although our SAM TC did not initiate the nomination process.
 - **SPS Education Award:**
 - Ali Sayed (SPS President-Elect too!), “for the writing of scholarly and influential texts in the areas of adaptive systems and statistical signal processing.”
 - **IEEE Kiyo Tomiyasu Award:**
 - Yonina Eldar, “for the development of the theory and implementation of sub-Nyquist sampling with applications to radar, communications and ultrasound.”
 - **IEEE Gustav Robert Kirchoff Award**
 - P. P. Vaidyanathan, “for fundamental contributions to digital signal processing.”

- **Young Author Best Paper Award:**
 - D. Papailiopoulos and A. Dimakis, “Interference Alignment as a Rank Constrained Rank Minimization,” *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing*, August 2012.
- **IEEE Signal Processing Letters Best Paper Award:**
 - A. Zymnis, S. Boyd, and E. Candès, “Compressed Sensing With Quantized Measurements,” *IEEE Signal Processing Letters*, vol. 17, no. 2, February 2010.
- **Best Paper Award:**
 - M. Davenport, P. Boufounos, M. Wakin, and R. Baraniuk, “Signal Processing With Compressive Measurements,” *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing*, April 2010.
- **Best ICASSP Student Paper Award:**
 - C.-L. Liu and P. P. Vaidyanathan, “Super Nested Arrays: Sparse Arrays with Less Mutual Coupling than Nested Arrays,” in *Proc. IEEE ICASSP 2016*, Shanghai, China.

§2.2 ICASSP 2015 Submissions

- SAM received 197 paper submissions and 98 were accepted. This corresponds to a 50 % acceptance rate, as the conference organizers have requested.
- Additionally, 5 Signal Processing Letters were presented in SAM sessions.
- The papers were distributed to five lecture sessions (6 papers each) and eight poster sessions with 9 to 12 papers each.
- The Chair pointed out that the percentage of SAM paper submissions to ICASSP 2015 in Brisbane (9.1 %) was unusually high, perhaps due to the concentration of SAM surveillance topics in Australia.
 - 2016: $200/2682 = 7.5 \%$
 - 2015: $212/2322 = 9.1 \%$
 - 2014: $222/3544 = 6.3 \%$
 - 2013: $216/3362 = 6.4 \%$
 - 2012: $171/2615 = 6.5 \%$

§2.3 SAM TC Archiving initiative

- According to Waheed’s suggestion, we will archive the websites of our SAM and CAMSAP workshops.
 - This is necessary since past workshops are often housed on university servers, and will be eventually removed.
 - IEEE is willing to house them. We will provide the link from the SAM TC web page.
 - Presently the CAMSAP workshops have been archived, except for CAMSAP 2007 which is lost.
 - Next, we will work on the SAM workshops.
 - Maybe the workshops of future SAM and CAMSAP workshops should already be located on this IEEE server.
- Moreover, we will list the names of our past SAM TC chairs and vice-chairs along with important past events on our web page. Maybe we can get some historic information from the minutes of the SAM TC meetings

§3. Workshop Reports

§3.1 CAMSAP 2015

- Fulvio Gini presented the final report about CAMSAP 2015 that took place in Cancun (<http://inspire.rutgers.edu/camsap2015/>), Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Hotel, from December 13 – 16, 2015.
- This excellent workshop included of 2 tutorials, 5 plenary talks, and 11 special poster sessions.
- There were about 130 attendees. Altogether 134 papers were presented including 60 regular papers and 74 invited papers.

§3.2 SAM 2016

- Martin Haardt presented a report about SAM 2016 (sam2016.cetuc.puc-rio.br) to be held at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio).
- The workshop will take place from July 10 – 13, 2016, about a month before the 2016 Summer Olympic Games when Rio will offer plenty of cultural activities and festivities, which will make SAM 2016 a memorable experience.
- There will be four tutorials (on Sunday, July 10, 2016), five plenary talks (Stephen P. Boyd, P. P. Vaidyanathan, A. Lee Swindlehurst, Hélio Librantz, and Bhaskar Rao), 15 special sessions as well as several regular sessions.
- We have received 130 invited submissions for the special sessions as well as 84 additional regular and invited submissions.
- The deadline for the reviews is on **April 20, 2016**.

§3.3 CAMSAP 2017

- André de Almeida presented a report about CAMSAP 2017 (<http://www.cs.huji.ac.il/conferences/CAMSAP17/>) to be held in Curacao, Dutch Antilles, from December 10 – 13, 2017. The web site is already operational.
- The workshop will take place in the Curacao Marriott Beach Resort and Emerald Casino Hotel, which is close to the capital Willemstad. Note that Willemstad is a UNESCO World Heritage city.
- The Local Arrangement Chairs Geert Leus and Robert Heath were also involved in the organization of the IEEE Communication Theory Workshop (CTW) 2014 that took place in the same venue (Marriott Hotel) in Curacao and received really good feedback by the attendees.

§4. Proposal for SAM 2018

- A proposal for SAM 2018 to be held in Sheffield was presented by Wei Liu.
- There will be an e-mail vote on this proposal within the next month.

§5. Subcommittees

- The subcommittees of the SAM TC have the following members:
 - **Technical Directions** ([Petropulu](#), J. Li, Wong)
 - **Awards** ([DeMaio](#), Leus, Eldar)
 - **Nominations and Elections** ([Gini](#), Jorswieck, Zhang)
 - **Workshops** ([Bugallo](#), Cevher, de Almeida)

- **Webmaster** (Ghogho, Bajwa)
- **Newsletter** (Pesavento, Mecklenbrauker, H. Li)
- **Membership** (Delmas, Pal)
- **Industry/Government** (Himed, Krout, Samson-See)
- **Education** (Wiesel, Stojanovic, Vo)
- **Student** (TBA, Schniter)
- (underline means chair)

§6. Interaction with AASP-TC

- Some interaction of our TC with the AASP-TC has been requested by the AASP-TC due to some commonality in interests, especially in microphone array topical area.
- IEEE SPS does encourage cooperation among its TCs.
- Near-term proposal:
 - SAM and AASP organize special session in microphone array processing for ICASSP 2017 ... and possibly beyond.
- Medium-term initiative:
 - SAM may co-sponsor HSCMA (Hands-Free Communication and Microphone Arrays) Workshop.
 - Workshop is every 2-3 years.
 - Not financially sponsored by IEEE.
- Long-term thoughts:
 - AASP might be interested in co-sponsorship of SAM

§7. Awards Procedures

- Note that we did not have time to cover this agenda item in the SAM TC meeting due to time constraints.
- According to SPS Policy 5.7 (accepted wording) “TC/SIG’s may not nominate a current elected member of their own TC/SIG for an award. However, current elected members of a TC/SIG may participate as individual nominators for other members of the same TC/SIG.”
- The bottom line is:
 - A TC may make nominations for paper- and personal awards that do not involve (current!) TC members
 - A TC may not make nominations for paper- and personal awards that do not involve current TC members, but
 - a TC may nominate or endorse members of other TCs
 - an individual TC member can nominate or endorse another member of that TC
- We decided to:
 - Include all candidates in the pool of award nominations that the TC will consider.
 - If the TC’s selection happens to involve a TC member then the TC Chair will solicit an individual nomination
 - If so, a second non-member selection be pursued.
 - This last was not a concern in the past year.

§8. Discussion Topics

- Acceptance rate at workshops:

- IEEE has contacted Chair Willett in regards to the acceptance rate of submitted manuscripts at SAM workshops.
- According to SPS documents, the nominal acceptance rate is 45%, with an “absolute cap” of 50% (dates from 5/30/13).
- Our response has been that our workshops have a large proportion of invited papers in special sessions.
- Our response could also be that our workshops attract a large proportion of senior SAM persons, and hence an acceptance rate that would apply to a large untargeted conference such as ICASSP are inapplicable. However, this was not mentioned.
- In January 2016, Rodrigo de Lamare has modified the Organising Committee of SAM 2016. He will send a short explanation to the SAM TC.

§9. Close of the Meeting

- We plan to have the next SAM TC meeting during SAM 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. Hopefully most of our members will be able to participate in this meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 13:30.