

**IEEE SPS SPCOM Technical Committee Meeting  
at ICASSP, Calgary, Canada, April 18, 2018**

**Meeting minutes  
Approved by the TC**

**Attending TC members:** Wei Yu (chair), Joakim Jaldén (vice chair), Min Dong, Markku Juntti, Wing-Kin Ma, Chandra Murthy, Mathini Sellathurai, Dirk Slock, Yindi Jing, Ali Tajer, Tareq Al-Naffouri, Mingyi Hong, Elisabeth De Carvalho, Byonghyo Shim,

**TC members with formal apologies:** Christoph Studer, Waheed Bajwa, Lutz Lampe, Emil Bjornson, Shi Jin, Eleftherios Karpidis, Wei Zhang, Laura Cottatellucci, Philippe Ciblat,

**TC members not attending:** Biao Chen, Bruno Clerckx, FeiFei Gao, Tony Q. S. Quek, Vasanthan Raghavan, Osvaldo Simeone, Meixia Tao.

**Non-TC members attending:** Erik Larsson (former TC chair), Urbashi Mitra (former TC member), Zhengdao Wang (presenting SPAWC 2020 proposal)

Minutes written by Joakim Jaldén.

1. Quorum was not met. No formal approval of the agenda was given.
2. Wei Yu summarized the TC membership status (see also TC meeting slides)
  - a. Vice chair election held in October 2017:
    - i. Candidates were Joakim Jaldén (current TC), Gerald Matz (past TC), and Chandra Murthy (current TC)
    - ii. Joakim Jaldén elected vice-chair for 2018
  - b. Members whose term ended in 2017:
    - i. Erik Larsson (past-chair)
    - ii. Yindi Jing, Wing-Kin Ma, Urbashi Mitra, Michael Rabbat, Alejandro Ribero, Rui Zhang
  - c. Members re-elected to serve 2018-2020:
    - i. Yindi Jing and Wing-Kin Ma
  - d. Newly elected members to serve 2018-2020:
    - i. 32 candidates stood for election
    - ii. Elisabeth de Carvalho, Meixia Tao, Lutz Lampe, Ali Tajer, and Dirk Slock were elected as new members
  - e. Diversity metrics, current TC
    - i. 6 female members, 2 industry members
    - ii. 9 North America (4 in Canada), 11 Europe, 1 Middle East, 8 Asia Pacific
3. Wei Yu presented TC subcommittees for 2018
  - a. Nominations and elections subcommittee
    - i. Wei Zhang (chair)
    - ii. Mathini Sellathurani
    - iii. Biao Chen
  - b. Awards subcommittee
    - i. Joakim Jaldén (chair),

- ii. Wei Yu
    - iii. Wing-Kin (Ken) Ma
    - iv. Min Dong
  - c. Marconi award subcommittee
    - i. Bruno Clercx (chair)
    - ii. Yindi Jing
    - iii. Shi Jin
  - d. Industry/government subcommittee
    - i. Eleftherios Karpidid (chair)
    - ii. Raghavan Vasanth
  - e. Newsletter subcommittee
    - i. Chandra Murthy (chair)
    - ii. Waheed U. Bajwa (IEEE SPS visibility representative)
  - f. Education subcommittee (responsible for SP cup proposal)
    - i. Emil Björnsson (chair)
    - ii. Christopher Studer
  - g. Geographical representatives
    - i. Lutz Lampe (Canada/US/Americas)
    - ii. Phillipe Ciblat (Europe)
    - iii. Tony Quek (Asia Pacific)
4. Wei Yu presented TC representation on IEEE boards
- a. IEEE SPS Technical Directions board (W. Yu)
  - b. IEEE SPS Awards Board (U. Mitra and E. G. Larsson)
  - c. IEEE SPS Fellow Reference Committee (Z.-Q. Luo, U. Mitra)
  - d. Steering committee of IEEE Trans. Wireless Comm. (U. Mitra)
  - e. Steering committee of IEEE Trans. Mobile Computing (T. Davidson)
  - f. Steering committee for IEEE Wireless Commun. Letters (D. Love)
  - g. Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Wireless Comm. Letters (W. Zhang)
  - h. RFID Council: (Feifei Gao)
  - i. SPS Technical Directions Board (to be attended by W. Yu).
5. Wei Yu presented TC chair's report
- a. The TC made the following nominations
    - i. IEEE SPS Society Award: Yonina Eldar, (not successful)
    - ii. IEEE SPS Technical Achievement Award: Geoffrey Ye Li, (not successful)
    - iii. IEEE SPS Best Paper Award: (no nomination, see discussion below)
    - iv. IEEE SPS Young Author Best Paper Award: Morteza Mardani, Gonzalo Mateos and Georgios B. Giannakis, "Subspace Learning and Imputation for Streaming Big Data Matrices and Tensor", IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, vol. 63, no. 10, pp. 2663-77, May 15, 2015. (successful)
    - v. IEEE SPS Magazine Best Paper Award: W. Saad, Z. Han, M. Debbah, A. Hjørungnes and T. Basar, "Coalitional game theory for communication networks," in IEEE Signal Processing Magazine, vol. 26, no. 5, pp. 77-97, Sept. 2009. (not successful)
    - vi. IEEE SPS Magazine Best Column Award: R. Faragher, "Understanding the Basis of the Kalman Filter Via a Simple and Intuitive Derivation"

[Lecture Notes], in IEEE Signal Processing Magazine, vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 128-132, Sept. 2012. (successful)

- b. The following TC present and past members are distinguished lecturers
  - i. Geert Leus (successfully nominated by the TC for this year)
  - ii. Wing-Kin (Ken) Ma (current TC member)
  - iii. Rick Blum (former TC member)
  - iv. Athina P. Petropulu (successfully nominated by the TC from last year)
  - v. Thomas Marzetta (Industrial speaker, successfully nominated by the TC for this year)
- c. Awards winners and IEEE Fellows among TC members
  - i. Donald G. Fink Overview Paper Award: Lu Lu, Geoffrey Ye Li, A. Lee Swindlehurst, Alexei Ashikhmin, Rui Zhang: “An Overview of Massive MIMO: Benefits and Challenges”, IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing, Volume 8, No. 5, October 2014
  - ii. IEEE SPS Best Paper Award: Foad Sohrabi, Wei Yu: “Hybrid Digital and Analog Beamforming Design for Large-Scale Antenna Arrays”, IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing, Volume 10, No. 3, April 2016
  - iii. IEEE SPS Young Author Best Paper Award: Jie Xu, Liang Liu, (Co-Author: Rui Zhang), “Multiuser MISO Beamforming for Simultaneous Wireless Information and Power Transfer”, IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, Volume 62, No. 18, September 2014
  - iv. IEEE FELLOW Class of 2017: Tony Q.S. Quek (current TC member), Mounir Ghogho, Weifeng Su, Sergiy Vorobyov (past TC members).
- d. ICASSP statistics (refer to slides for past statistics)
  - i. 6.2% of papers at ICASSP2018 are in SPCOM track
  - ii. A brief discussion was held regarding if the relatively low SPCOM submission rate was a cause for concern? It is possible that a number of papers that falls in the SPCOM scope was submitted to MMSP and SAM tracks. Author selection of tracks outside of the TC’s influence.
- e. SPAWC statistics (see slides for past statistics)
  - i. SPAWC is doing very well. This years SPAWC has seen a record number of 281 submitted papers.
- f. Global SIP 2018 participation by TC (see slides for past participation)
  - i. Z.Q. Luo and M. Hong are co-organizing Distributed Resource Allocation and Learning.
  - ii. SPCOM related symposia: Green Communications (Zhi Ding), 5G Satellite Network, Intelligent Vehicle Communication, mmWave, Network Security (Yingbo Hua)
- g. TC Tasks ahead
  - i. February 15, 2018: Nominations for the Marconi award (passed, no submission this year)
  - ii. **April 20, 2018:** SPAWC Paper Reviews and Decisions (TPC Co-Chairs of SPAWC) – Note: EDAS gives April 21 deadline.
  - iii. May 31, 2018: Nominations for Distinguished Lecturers (Responsibility: TC chair, Awards subcommittee)

- iv. September 1, 2018: Nominations for Paper Awards: BPA, YABPA, MBPA, LBPA, OPA, SIPA (Responsibility: TC Vice-Chair, Awards subcommittee)
  - v. Nominations for Society Award, Technical Achievement Award (Responsibility: TC Chair, Awards subcommittee)
  - vi. November 15, 2018: Membership election completed (Responsibility: Elections and nominations subcommittee)
  - vii. November – December 2018: ICASSP Paper Reviews and Decisions (Responsibility: TC-chair)
  - viii. February 15, 2019: Nominations for the Marconi award (Responsibility: Marconi subcommittee)
6. Chandra Murthy initiated a brief discussion on if the TC could take measures to be more successful in awards nominations. Input from Erik Larsson and Urbashi Mitra suggest the TC is already very successful relative to its size.
  7. Wei Yu presented report from SPAWC 2017
    - a. Very successful (268 attendees). See separate slides for additional information.
  8. Urbashi Mitra presented update from SPAWC 2018. See separate slides for details.
    - a. Organization working on simplifying travel options for attendees.
    - b. Introduction of broader focus areas, especially in connection to plenary talks.
    - c. Some issues with bookings and payments with non-European credit cards are being handled. Recommendation given to book early. Hotels may fill up early and there are limited AirBnB-type options in the area.
    - d. Some out of scope papers submitted, but generally not of high quality so this issue may be of limited importance.
    - e. The workshop will introduce invited thematic short oral presentations, a first for SPAWC. These will not overlap with regular poster sessions.
    - f. The city of Kalamata will sponsor a reception with a talk by Theodosios Tassios on Technologies of Ancient Greek, which will be open to the public.
    - g. TC members have been active in proposing special sessions. The organizing committee has made an effort to engage the Greek research community.
    - h. A brief discussion was held on if the decision for the workshop to run 2 half days and 2 full days was out of the ordinary or not.
  9. Urbashi Mitra informed on other matters related to the SPS
    - a. IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications is seeking a new EiC. There are good candidates, although the April 23 deadline for nominations is still open. Nominations can be sent to U. Mitra by email.
    - b. U. Mitra informed the TC on SPS representation in the selection of the Marconi award. SPS has a 25% stake in the award, but the impression is that this is not apparent in the decision process. There is a need to find a SPS representative to replace Mitra at the end of 2018, preferably with someone who regularly attend Globecom and ICC where the steering committee meetings take place. TC may have a role in suggesting such a candidate.
    - c. Information was given on the process of electing Fellows. The reference letters are not seen by the SPS Fellow Reference Committee, but only at the IEEE level. The endorsement letters are important at the SPS level. The SPS decisions are based primarily on the nominee's standing in the community

and impact. There is a need to improve diversity in terms of region, gender, and academia/industry. The impact is measured in relation to the community that candidate works in.

- d. The Awards Board sees many more nominations for the young author best paper awards than for the best paper awards. This needs to be taken into account in the awards nomination process. The sustained impact award is available for past papers. The SPS may change its bylaws to allow papers in majority owned and not only solely owned journals to be eligible for paper awards.

10. Wei Yu presented update form SPAWC 2019

- a. The planning is on track. See separate slides for detail.
- b. The cost of staying at the workshop hotel (Novotel) is raised as a concern.

11. Zhengdao Wang presented Georgia Tech, Atlanta, proposal for SPAWC 2020

- a. No vote due to lack of quorum.
- b. Additional information is available in separate slides.
- c. The TC pointed out the need for adding another TPC co-chair to handle load, and to supplement the TC with additional reviewers when forming the TPC.
- d. Suggestion to look at 2018 for the outcome of the thematic talks. There was a brief discussion on the addition of external reviewers for the TC, but consensus seems to be that this is necessary for a manageable work-load.
- e. Date is planned for June 20-24. Extending to 4 days?

12. Joakim Jaldén led a discussion on the awards nomination process

- a. Motivation is to find a better balance between the number of papers given full awards level reviews (leading to high workload) and guarding against the possibility of not identifying a suitable awards nominee
- b. Wei Yu suggested to carefully craft a message as input to scan review in order to reach a suitable number of papers given an award level review.
- c. A new aim could be for having 50% of the TC suggesting a paper in the scan review. This would strike a balance in terms of having a sufficient number of papers and not overloading the TC.
- d. Further input can be sent to J. Jaldén as chair of the awards subcommittee.

13. Wei Yu led a discussion of the member election process

- a. Motivation is to avoid using endorsement votes for breaking (common) ties between candidates. See meeting slides for additional input.
- b. Wei Yu proposed to allow fractional votes to reduce chance of ties, and for allowing more flexibility.
- c. Erik Larsson proposed that each member rank all candidates, to allow for pairwise comparisons between candidates.
- d. There was a brief discussion on if last year's ties that were broken by endorsement votes was the norm or an outlier.
- e. There was a general agreement among those that spoke that endorsement votes should ideally not be used to break ties.
- f. Due to time constraints, the discussion and an eventual decision will be continued over email.