

Minutes of SPCOM-TC Meeting at ICASSP-2009

Thursday, 23 April 2009, 7:00 - 8:30

Members attending: 15

Geert Leus, Zhi-Quan Luo, Holger Boche, Shuguang Cui, Timothy Davidson, Pierre Duhamel, Mounir Ghogho, Franz Hlawatsch, Eduard Jorswieck, Visa Koivunen, Gerald Matz, Marc Moonen, Dirk Slock, Wei Yu, Qing Zhao

Members not attending: 15

Xiaoli Ma, Daniel Palomar, Anna Scaglione, Mats Bengtsson, Robert W. Heath Jr., Erik Larsson, Athanasios Liavas, Phillip Regalia, Hamid Sadjadpour, Akbar Sayeed, Phil Schniter, Xiaodong Wang, Zhengdao Wang, Zhengyuan Xu, Luc Vandendorpe

Guest: Alex Acero (VP Technical Directions)

1. Introduction of new members:

Shuguang Cui, Athanasios Liavas, Zhi-Quan Luo, Dirk Slock, Luc Vandendorpe, Qing Zhao

2. Vote of thanks for retiring members:

David Gesbert, Constantinos Papadias, Nikos Sidiropoulos

3. TC Representation:

- Conference Board representative (Ali Sayed)
- Publications Board representative (Ali Sayed)
- Co-ordination of award nominations (Tom Luo)
- Maintenance pool of Associate Editors for SPCOM (Franz Hlawatsch)
- Industrial liaison (Visa Koivunen)
- Technical directions (Geert Leus)
- Maintenance of SPCOM homepage (Zhengdao Wang)

The SPS also asked us to forward a representative for the TWireless journal.

Anyone interested?

The SPS has a 25% representation in TWireless. The representative will serve a 4 year term. There will be some telephone meetings, and one SPS publications board meeting per year, where the representative has to provide a brief report on TWireless, and seek guidance from the board on TWireless matters. It is very likely that the representative will become chair of steering committee. Tim Davidson is already an AE for TWireless, and has kindly volunteered as SPS representative for TWireless.

4. Minutes of ICASSP'08 Meeting

The minutes can be found on the web at <http://www.signalprocessingsociety.org/technical-committees/list/spcom-tc/>.

Tom Luo moved to accept, seconded by Wei Yu, approved unanimously (by the 15 present members).

5. TC Review -- Alex Acero, Technical Directions

At ICASSP 2009 all TCs will be reviewed. The full report has been sent around.

Alex explained the review process, congratulated SPCOM for adding the word “networking” in the TC name. Any questions can be sent to Geert.

6. SP-COM related Workshops

- SPAWC-09 Perugia: Oral report by Geert Leus (268 submissions, 146 accepted; 54% acceptance; 2008 was 64% with 181 submissions; already have over 100 full registrations; city to give venue for free, but uncertainty about the availability of one room; there is a backup room; local organization on track)
- SPAWC-10 Marrakech: Oral report by Mounir Ghogho (checked dates not overlapping with other similar conferences, except perhaps ISIT; budget based on 150 registrations; hotel and diner venues are nice; accessible easily via air)
- SPAWC-11: **no candidates yet ... action item for all!!** (possible sites: San Francisco, Crete; but better if it would be held in North America; members should let Hamid know if they are interested in helping with the organization)
- SPAWC-12: Istanbul (Hakan Delic) has shown interest

7. Pool of potential Associate Editors

Franz Hlawatsch has sent around an e-mail to submit nominations for TSP Associate Editors. We will not carry out a voting procedure since this is not required by Athina Petropulu (EIC for TSP). We will sent the complete list to her and she will make the final decision.

Franz received two nominations so far. We need additional nominations,. Franz will wait 2 more weeks. Athina mentioned there are four slots open in the SPCOM area. TC members are encouraged to nominate.

8. IEEE and SP Soc. Awards - Tom + Auditor?

Will scan all TSP papers in our area, plus runner up papers.

TWireless and JSTSP papers are also welcome.

Members and others are encouraged to nominate papers independently.

October 1 is the deadline for submissions.

Dirk Slock will be the auditor.

Update on SPCOM-TC 2008 nominations:

Technical Achievement

BPA

YABPA

Harry Van Trees

Wei Yu and Tian Lan

Animashree Anandkumar

Our SA nomination for Georgios Giannakis and the SP Magazine BPA for Gastpar, Vetterli, and Dragotti were not successful. But our other three nominations went through. Congratulations!!

Deadlines for award nominations (Tom to coordinate nominations + selection process):

SPS:

BPA, YABPA, SP Magazine BCA and BPA: by Oct. 1 to Michael Zoltowski
Education, Service, Technical Achievement, Society: by Oct. 1 to Michael Zoltowski

IEEE:

Donald G. Fink Prize Paper Award: by July 1, for more information see
<http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/about/awards/sums/fink.html>

We explored possible alternative voting procedures which can provide more privacy; but the current email voting scheme still seems to be the most balanced at this point.

9. Reflections on ICASSP 2009

	# papers submitted to SPCOM TC
ICASSP03	320
ICASSP04	360
ICASSP05	408
ICASSP06	420
ICASSP07	380 (174 accepted, or ~ 46%)
ICASSP08	283 (150 accepted, or ~ 53%)
ICASSP09	293 (133 accepted, or ~ 45%)

We did not fully recover from last year's drop but it is going into the right direction again.

Is there an underlying trend? What's the reason? Has the TC name change result in a meaningful change? We need to scan the papers to see if more networking papers were submitted. We need to promote SP work in the networking layer. There is a plan to get 2010 SPAWC plenary speakers in the networking area. The 2009 SPAWC organization also has two plenary speakers in the networking area.

It was felt that our area is still very active. Perhaps many small specialized conferences are attracting papers away from ICASSP/SPAWC, such as information theory and cognitive radio conferences. Cognitive radio is not an Edics right now, resource allocation should be added to Edics list?

Alex mentioned similar situation in Speech area in the past. Society added new edics to reflect changes, which has made a big difference. Alex suggests to form a subcommittee to track the changes, and study the need to change/add Edics.

After ICASSP, Geert is to send an email and act as chair for the subcommittee after ICASSP.

Thematic Symposia

As an experiment, this ICASSP tried to organize a new form of technical program called Thematic Symposia, grouping different types of sessions (plenary talks, tutorials, special sessions, regular lecture/poster sessions, panels) that cover some common theme. Every Thematic Symposium is further assigned a so-called Overview Talk Session consisting of 3 talks of about 40 minutes each. **How do we feel about this system?**

The committee feels good about the symposia. A question is whether we can repeat this next year. Thematic symposia seem a good opportunity to advertise new directions, Edics, and to attract new submissions/interests. We need to plan ahead, because it requires a lot of work.

Our TC is involved in two such symposia this year, which is a good score considering the fact that only four symposia have been accepted. The two Thematic Symposia are listed below and more info can be found on the ICASSP website:

“Signal Processing for 4G Wireless Communications”
Holger Boche (SPCOM-TC) and Geert Leus (SPCOM-TC)

“Network Distributed Signal Processing”
Kristine Bell (SAM-TC), Geert Leus (SPCOM-TC), and Ali Sayed (SPTM-TC)

Student paper SPCOM-TC nominations (we could nominate 1 to 3 candidates):

Since the request for paper award nominations was send out late, Geert selected the two papers with the best review scores.

P2645: “Distributed Optimization in an Energy-constrained network using a Digital Communication Scheme,” Alireza Razavi, Zhi-Quan Luo, University of Minnesota.

P2733: “Joint Source/Relay Precoder Design in Amplify-and-Forward Relay Systems: A Geometric Mean Decomposition Approach,” Fan-Shuo Tseng, Wen-Rong Wu, National Chiao-Tung University.

The first paper was disqualified since the first author could not leave the US, whereas the second did not win in his area.

10. Upcoming TC Meetings:

Face-to-face: SPAWC-09 (21-24 June 2009, Perugia)

11. Other business

No. Meeting is adjourned at 8:15am.