

Meeting Minutes for SPCOM-TC Meeting at ICASSP-2010

Thursday, 18 April 2010, 7:00 - 8:30

Members attending: 13

Geert Leus, Zhi-Quan Luo, Timothy Davidson, Robert W. Heath Jr., Eduard Jorswieck, Visa Koivunen, Erik Larsson, Amir Leshem, Gerald Matz, Daniel Palomar, Phillip Regalia, Dirk Slock, Zhi Tian

Did not attend: 17

Luc Vandendorpe, Xiaodong Wang, Qing Zhao, Holger Boche, Marc Moonen, Mats Bengtsson, Shuguang Cui, Huaiyu Dai, Mounir Ghogho, Athanasios Liavas, Xiaoli Ma, Hamid Sadjadpour, Akbar Sayeed, Phil Schniter, Zhengdao Wang, Wei Yu, Pierre Duhamel

Guest: Ananthram Swami

1. Introduction of new members:

Huaiyu Dai, Amir Leshem, and Zhi (Gerry) Tian

2. Vote of thanks for retiring members:

Franz Hlawatsch, Anna Scaglione, and Zhengyuan (Daniel) Xu

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 (**Gerald Matz**)
- Industrial liaison (Visa Koivunen)
- Technical directions (Geert Leus)
- Maintenance of SPCOM homepage (Zhengdao Wang)

4. Minutes of ICASSP'09 Meeting

Tom Luo moved to approve the minutes of ICASSP'09 TC meeting, seconded by Phil Regalia. The minutes were approved unanimously. The meeting minutes is placed on the web at <http://www.signalprocessingsociety.org/technical-committees/list/spcom-tc/>

5. TC Review -- Alex Acero, Technical Directions

Our TC review from last year was very positive. The final remarks listed in the report are as follows:

“REVIEW COMMITTEE REMARKS REGARDING THE TC:

- Very nice written extensive report; it demonstrates that the TC is in a very good shape.
- Ties to industry do exist, but can be tightened and extended.

REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TC:

- Try to improve relations with industry, for instance by electing TC members from industrial organizations. Up to now, no TC member is directly employed by industry.
- Get in closer touch with TWC (see E.3).

In general, SPCOM is aware of their weaknesses and numerous solutions were pointed out to mitigate them.”

The full report has been posted on the webpage of the SP Society under Technical Committees.

Geert Leus has recently contacted the EiC of TWC to see if they are interested in a list of AE nominations. The TWC EiC declined and suggested possible considerations in future. There is also an issue of whether TWC papers can be considered for paper awards by SPS, since SPS seems to give its awards to papers published in journals solely sponsored by SPS. This will be discussed during the Awards Board.

It was suggested that Geert Leus also contacts the EiC of JSTSP to suggest or coordinate some special issues for SPCOM related topics.

Tim Davidson was recommended last year by our TPC and invited by Jose Moura (the former SPS president) as a representative in the TWC steering committee. However, the by-laws of the TWC on the steering committee seem to suggest that Tim’s appointment might not have been consistent with the by-laws (only one representative is allowed from SPS, while currently Zhi Ding, an SPS representative, is already serving as the chair of the TWC steering committee). The details of Tim’s appointment are still being discussed between the SPS and Comsoc.

6. SPS Issues

- Changes in TC bylaws

Two significant changes to the TC bylaws this year. First, the new role of Past Chair is created. So a TC chair will continue to serve for one more year after his/her term expires as the Past Chair so as to ensure a smooth transition. Second, TC operations will be made more transparent and open. Affiliated members may be allowed to attend the TC meetings held in one of its sponsored workshops. Currently there seems to be significant interest in the SPCOM affiliated memberships. Since room capacity and logistics do not permit, we did not let affiliated members join this year’s TC meeting at ICASSP (the bylaws only suggests opening up the TC meetings at workshops, not ICASSPs).

- The SPS wants to strengthen the technical co-sponsorship process.

The committee had a brief discussion on the quality of its co-sponsored conferences. The current procedure is that once the TC chair receives a request, the TC chair will make a judgment on the suitability of sponsorship by our TC. If the TC chair deems it not suitable, an email is sent to the committee to seek comments with a suggestion to decline sponsorship. If no major objections, the request is declined. On the other hand, if the request is deemed appropriate by the TC chair, a voting procedure within the SPCOM TC will be conducted to approve the co-sponsorship.

In general, the committee felt that we should be more careful with technical co-sponsorships, and make sure that some of the SPCOM TC members serve on the conference TPCs that we co-sponsor in order to ensure good technical quality.

Geert Leus reminded the committee that a conference being co-sponsored by SPCOM one year does not mean it will or should be co-sponsored again next year.

7. SP-COM related Workshops

- SPAWC-09: Perugia: Oral report by Geert Leus

The conference was held successfully with many submissions and large attendance. The workshop is trying to wrap up the finances and send a final report to the SPS. However, the SPS has decided to audit SPAWC 2009 (even though its total budget was less than \$100,000, a threshold above which would trigger automatic audit from the SPS). The workshop had an 8% profit, but that might be reduced after auditing expenses.

It was mentioned that the SPAWC 2008 in Finland was also audited.

- SPAWC-10: Marrakech: Oral report by Ananthram Swami

There are five distinguished plenary speakers. \$15K industrial support has been identified. Another \$14K is being finalized, which could be used for student travel support. There will be a best student paper competition in this year's SPAWC.

The number of paper submissions to this year's SPAWC is decreased significantly (from about 300 in 2009 to about 200 this year). There may be a number of reasons for this drop: timing conflicts with other similar conferences (ISIT, CIP, CROWNCOM, EUSIP). Geert mentioned that IEEE is working on a system to ensure or minimize conflicts of IEEE conference dates. This year's SPAWC location may also be a reason. It was noted that there is a large number of submissions from France. Also, less than half of the SPCOM TC members submitted to this year's SPAWC.

The quality of submissions seems to be bi-modal, either good or poor.

- SPAWC-11: San Francisco: Oral report by Geert Leus

Hamid is negotiating with the Marriot Hotel at Fishman's Wharf in SF. No contract has been signed yet. Robert Heath suggests we do not sign a hotel contract, since there are many good hotels in a big city like SF. Geert Leus mentioned that the workshop may be able to get a break on conference room rental, coffee breaks etc if we have a contract with a hotel.

- Shown interest for future SPAWCs: Turkey (Hakan Delic), Crete (Athanasios Liavas), Brugge (Luc Vandendorpe)

More details to come from the potential hosts.

- Results from TC subcommittee on possible changes for SPAWC

A subcommittee has been established to discuss possible changes to SPAWC in order to improve its quality and attendance. The outcome is that SPAWC should always include a student best paper award, and that there should be invited poster sessions (chaired by the plenary speakers or any other person appointed by the TPC). We will vote on this option to change SPAWC after ICASSP.

8. Pool of potential Associate Editors

Gerald Matz has taken over this task from Franz Hlawatsch. Gerald will shortly send out an e-mail to submit nominations for Associate Editors. Geert contacted SPL and TSP to see if they need help with the identification of AEs. SPL has indicated a need. In the past we were only dealing with TSP, but it might be a good idea to extend this to SPL and TWC, although TWC was not interested at this point. We will not carry out a voting procedure and simply let the respective EICs decide, unless they request a score from us.

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

Update on SPCOM-TC 2009 nominations:

Technical achievement: **YES**

Alan S. Willsky

Society Award: **NO**

Vincent Poor

Meritorious Service Award: **NO**

Nikos Sidiropoulos

Best Paper Award: **YES**

Zhi-Quan Luo and Shuzhong Zhang, Dynamic Spectrum Management: Complexity and Duality, IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing, February 2008.

Young Author Best Paper Award: **NO**

Gesualdo Scutari, Sergio Barbarossa, and Loreto Pescosolido, Distributed decision through self-synchronizing sensor networks in the presence of propagation delays and asymmetric channels, IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, April 2008.

Magazine Best Paper Award: **NO**

David Gesbert, Marios Kountouris, Robert W. Heath Jr., Chan-Byoung Chae, and Thomas Salzer, From Single User to Multiuser Communications: Shifting the MIMO Paradigm, September 2007.

Distinguished Lecturer: **YES**

Venu Veeravalli

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

For BPA and YBPA we will also get a few nominations from TWireless that we can take into account in our procedure.

The committee felt that we should scan papers from JSTSP this year as there are several special issues related to SPCOM.

Dirk Slock noted that some of this year's Best Papers were published quite some time ago (e.g., 2004). Geert stated that the SPS rule says any SP journal paper published in the last five years are eligible. Currently our screening process focuses primarily on papers published in the previous year, although any person can nominate any SP journal paper (published within the last five years) for consideration by the SPCOM TC. There was some discussion on nominating papers not just from the past year, but also papers from the previous years. Tom Luo suggests looking among the papers that were selected as finalists by the SPCOM TC from the last 2-3 years. Tim Davidson volunteered to generate a list of most cited TSP/JSTSP papers in the last five years for our consideration. It was felt that we should use such a list to help identify some good papers that the TC might have missed in the past.

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>

9. Reflections on ICASSP 2010

	# 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%)
ICASSP10	297 (142 accepted, or ~ 48%)

We are not yet at the numbers of the earlier ICASSPs but we are improving. The acceptance rate is a bit higher because we were given more slots.

Joint sessions

The SPCOM TC and the SAM TC joined forces in organizing two joint sessions at this ICASSP: SPCOM-L2 Distributed Estimation in Sensor Networks
SAM-P6 Sensor Networks I: localization and Cooperative Communication.

Student paper awards:

Prior to the conference, Geert Leus asked the ICASSP2010 technical chair John Hansen about the issue. But there was no indication that the conference would run a student paper competition this year, mostly due to the lack of financial contributions. The committee felt that even just an award certificate without monetary reward would have been nice for the aspiring students.

10. Upcoming TC Meetings:

Face-to-face: SPAWC-10 (20-23 June 2010, Marrakech, Morocco)