

Minutes of SPCOM-TC Meeting at ICASSP-2011

Tuesday, 24 May 2011, 18:30

Members attending: 20

Geert Leus, Zhi-Quan Luo, Tim Davidson, Paolo Banelli, Chong-Yong Chi, Mats Bengtsson, Shuguang Cui, Eduard Jorswieck, Erik Larsson, Athanasios Liavas, Gerald Matz, Daniel Palomar, Dirk Slock, Zhi Tian, Sergiy Vorobyov, Alejandro Ribeiro, Wolfgang Utschick, Matthew McKay, Luc Vandendorpe, Qing Zhao

Associate members attending: 1

Alle-Jan van der Veen

Apologies: 11

Huaiyu Dai, Amir Leshem, Geoffrey Li, Roberto Lopez-Valcarce, David Love, Xiaoli Ma, Milica Stojanovic, Hamid Sadjadpour, Akbar Sayeed, Zhengdao Wang, Wei Yu,

Guest: Ahmed Tewfik

1. Introduction of guest and new members:

The meeting began with an introduction of our guest, Ahmed Tewfik, and an introduction of the new members of the committee: Paolo Banelli, Chong-Yong Chi, Wolfgang Utschick, Milica Stojanovic, Roberto Lopez-Valcarce, Matthew McKay, Sergiy Vorobyov, Alejandro Ribeiro, David Love, Geoffrey Li

2. Vote of thanks for retiring members:

There was a formal vote of thanks for the outstanding service from the retiring members of the committee: Pierre Duhamel, Visa Koivunen, Mounir Ghogho, Holger Boche, Marc Moonen, Phil Schniter, Robert Heath, Phil Regalia and Xiaodong Wang

3. TC Representation:

- Co-ordination of paper award nominations (Tim Davidson)
- Maintenance pool of Associate Editors for SPCOM (Gerald Matz)
- Industrial liaison (Robert Cui)
- Technical directions (Tom Luo)
- membership of the TWireless Steering Committee (Robert Heath, retiring TC member)
- Maintenance of SPCOM homepage (Zhengdao Wang)
- SPCOM TC Newsletter (Roberto Lopez-Valcarce)
- IEEE WCL Steering committee (Erik Larsson)

Following a brief discussion of the roles that the members above will play, Tom Luo announced that the Society is looking at some new directions, including Smart Grid and Social Networks, and there was a suggestion that the TC may consider those as potential EDICS for ICASSP 2012.

Robert Cui said that both these areas will be discussed in the “Trends” session that he will be presenting with Robert Heath on Friday.

Action Items: Following the discussion there were two action items:

- There should be a proposal for adding these two areas to the SPCOM TC’s EDICS for ICASSP 2012. This proposal would be voted on by the TC.
- Members of the TC should encourage, propose and participate in special sessions in these and other emerging areas at conferences, including future ICASSPs

4. Minutes of ICASSP’10 Meeting

Prior to the meeting, the provisional minutes from the ICASSP 2010 meeting were placed on the TC website: <http://www.signalprocessingsociety.org/technical-committees/list/spcom-tc/> Geert Leus moved a motion that the minutes be accepted. This was seconded by Gerald Matz. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. TC Review – Ahmed Tewfik, VP of Technical Directions

As part of a regularly scheduled review of the TC, Ahmed Tewfik, the VP of Technical Directions, was a guest at the meeting to view, first hand, the operation of our TC.

For the information of new members, and as a reminder to those who were on the committee at the time, there was a brief summary of the report that followed our previous TC review (2009). That report was very positive. The final remarks listed in that report were 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 its own weaknesses and numerous solutions were pointed out to mitigate them.”

Attention was drawn to the fact that the full report is posted on the webpage of the SP Society under Technical Committees.

The focus of the discussion that followed was on methods to recruit members who are based in industry. It was mentioned that we have had some success in obtaining nominations for membership of the TC from people in industry, but it was also mentioned that those candidates tended to be less well known by members of the TC and hence were at a disadvantage when it came to the election. Tom Luo said that we have recently recruited several people from industry as Associate Members, and that these members will be encouraged to participate in the open

activities of the TC and in the reviewing of appropriate ICASSP papers. It was felt that this participation would help such candidates build a case for elected membership. Several other potential remedies were proposed, including the reservation of some membership slots for industrial members, and the use of “panels” at ICASSP as a tool to promote industrial interaction and to introduce potential candidates to members of the TC.

Action Item: The discussion resulted in the following action items:

- The TC will continue to seek candidates from industry for Membership and Associate Membership.
- Members of the TC should propose panels for future ICASSPs and should coordinate with the Industry/Government subcommittee in the invitation of people from industry to participate in these panels.

6. SPS Issues

- Formation of subcommittees: It was announced that in response to the revised guidelines for TCs approved by the Society, the TC has established the following subcommittees:
Awards subcommittee: Tim Davidson, Geert Leus, Tom Luo (chair)
Newsletter subcommittee: Paolo Banelli, Roberto Lopez-Valcarce (chair)
Industry/Government subcommittee: Dirk Slock, Erik Larsson, Robert Cui (chair)
Nominations and Elections subcommittee: CY Chi, Geoffrey Li, Gerald Matz, Qing Zhao, Tim Davidson (chair)

Tom Luo also announced that Meisam Razaviyayn of the University of Minnesota has been selected as the Chair of the Student Subcommittee of the TC.

- The Society’s revised guidelines for TCs require some changes to the SPCOM TC’s Bylaws and to the SPCOM TC’s Policies and Procedures. The revised documents, with changes highlighted, were distributed to members of the TC prior to the meeting and were discussed at length.

Bylaws

In the case of the Bylaws, Luc Vandendorpe pointed out an inconsistency in Bylaw 2.2. In that Bylaw the terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair are extended automatically to that their terms can be completed, but there was no explicit statement regarding the new position of Past Chair. It was agreed that this bylaw should be amended to state that the membership of the Past Chair is also automatically extended.

A consequence of the automatic extension of the term of the Past Chair is that for the current year the TC has 31 members, contrary to the requirements of Bylaw 2.3. It was deemed that this was simply an oversight in a year of change, and it was suggested that the proposed Bylaw 2.3 remain unchanged.

Geert Leus moved a motion that the TC adopt the new Bylaws, subject to the above amendment to Bylaw 2.2. The motion was seconded by Luc Vandendorpe. The motion was carried, unanimously.

Policies and Procedures

In the discussion of the Policies and Procedures, a question was raised as to whether papers in IEEE Signal Processing Letters (SPL) were eligible for the Best Paper Award and the Young Author Best Paper Award. Alle-Jan van der Veen confirmed that they are eligible. After some discussion it was suggested that it would not be desirable to extend the scan review process to all papers in (SPL). However, it was suggested that the Vice-Chair should seek nominations of papers in SPL, and should also conduct a citation analysis in order to draw attention to eligible papers that have been highly cited. It was also suggested that the Policies and Procedures be amended to include SPL.

In the discussion, it was asked whether there was a threshold used in the citation analysis. In reply, Tim Davidson emphasized that the motivation for using the citation analysis was as a safety net. The idea was simply to draw attention to papers that had been well received by the community, but were not selected in the scan review process and were not otherwise nominated. As such, the procedure last year was for the Awards Subcommittee to look at the number of citations received by eligible papers and for that Subcommittee to select a small number of papers that are distinguished from the pack.

Sergiy Vorobyov moved a motion to adopt the Policy and Procedures document, subject to the above amendment regarding IEEE Signal Processing Letters. The motion was seconded by Robert Cui. The motion was carried, unanimously.

Action Item: In the discussion of the paper award nomination process, it was suggested that the process by which the nominated paper was chosen should be briefly described in the nomination letter. This should become standard practice.

- In a communication with the Chair, the Society requested that the process by which Technical Co-sponsorship of conferences is approved should be formalized. After some discussion it was decided that when the organizers of a conference seek Technical Co-sponsorship, each member of the TC who is on the Technical Program Committee of that conference should write a paragraph of support of Co-sponsorship. These paragraphs will then be distributed to all members of the TC, along with the request for Co-sponsorship. Members will then vote to approve or deny the request, and the result of this poll will be communicated to the applicants.

7. SP-COM related Workshops

- SPAWC-11: San Francisco: Oral update by Tom Luo
Tom Luo reported that the arrangements for SPAWC 2011 are being finalized, and reminded those who are planning on attending that hotels should be booked soon. The Workshop received about 200 submissions, of which 112 were accepted. A student paper competition has been arranged, and plenary speakers identified.
- SPAWC-12: Cesme, Turkey (Hakan Delic, report by TPC chair Geert Leus)
Geert reported that the arrangements for SPAWC 2012 were proceeding smoothly. It was pointed out that the hotel is somewhat isolated from other accommodation, but that this has made for some rather interactive SPAWCs in the past.

- SPAWC-13: Toronto (Tim Davidson and Wei Yu)
Tim Davidson presented a proposal to hold SPAWC 2013 in Toronto. There was a broad discussion of the appropriate timing to hold SPAWC in Toronto, given that ICASSP 2013 would be in Vancouver in late May 2013. The outcome of that discussion was that it would not be unreasonable to have SPAWC in Toronto after ICASSP in Vancouver, but it was suggested that the end of July might be a better time than the traditional time of mid-June. Following the discussion it was suggested that Tim and Wei put together a formal proposal to be voted on by the TC.
- The results of the report from the TC subcommittee on possible changes for SPAWC were discussed. These included suggestions to:
 - i) Continue the best student paper award, selected by the TPC chairs, and seek better publicity for this.
 - ii) Introduce invited poster sessions and/or panels organized preferably by the plenary speakers or by other people appointed by the TPC chairs. The topics of these sessions and/or panels should be discussed with the TC Vice-Chair and Chair and be approved by them. The paper review will be handled by the organizers of the invited sessions.

These two points are already action items for the SPAWC 2012 committee.

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. In the past we were only dealing with TSP, but it might be a good idea to extend this to SPL and TWireless, and Wireless Communications Letters. 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 – Tim + Nomination and Elections Subcommittee

Update on SPCOM-TC 2010 nominations:

Technical achievement: **NO**

Bjorn Ottersten

Society Award: **NO**

Georgios Giannakis

Meritorious Service Award: **YES**

Nikos Sidiropoulos

Best Paper Award: **NO**

“The Equivalence of Semidefinite Relaxation MIMO Detectors for Higher-Order QAM”
Wing-Kin Ma, Chao-Cheng Su, Joakim Jaldén, Tsung-Hui Chang, and Chong-Yung Chi
IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing, vol 3, no 6, pp 1038–1052,
December 2009

Young Author Best Paper Award: **YES**

“Analytical Performance of MIMO Multichannel Beamforming in the Presence of Unequal Power Cochannel Interference and Noise”,
Liang Sun, Matthew R McKay, and Shi Jin,
IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, vol 57, no 7, pp 2721–2735, July 2009.

Magazine Best Paper Award: **NO**

Walid Saad, Zhu Han, M erouane Debbah, Are Hj rungnes, and Tamer Ba ar,
Coalitional Game Theory for Communication Networks, *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine*, September 2009

Distinguished Lecturer: **YES**

Rick Blum

At this point in the meeting, the TC paused to mark the untimely passing of Are Hj rungnes.

Deadlines for award nominations (Tim and his subcommittee 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

It was also suggested that the TC develop an abbreviated form of its paper nomination procedure to produce nominations for the Marconi best paper award for the *IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications*, in which the SP Society is a 25% stakeholder.

IEEE:

W. R. G. Baker Award: by 1 July, for more information see
<http://www.ieee.org/about/awards/recognitions/baker.html>

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

9. Reflections on ICASSP 2011

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%)
ICASSP11	355 (168 accepted, or ~ 47%)

We are not yet at the numbers of the earlier ICASSPs but we are improving. The acceptance rate remains within a healthy range.

Joint sessions

The SPCOM TC and the SAM TC joined forces in organizing two joint sessions at this ICASSP: one on sensor networks, and one on relay networks

Student paper awards:

One of our nominated student papers was picked as a winner in this year's ICASSP. **Jiaxian Pan**, for the paper co-authored with Wing-Kin Ma, entitled "*A Lagrangian dual relaxation approach to ML MIMO detection: Reinterpreting regularized lattice decoding*".

10. Upcoming TC Meetings:

Face-to-face: SPAWC-11 (26-29 June 2011, San Francisco, CA)