

Minutes of SPCOM-TC Meeting at ICASSP-2008

Thursday, 3 April 2008 11:30-13:00

Members attending (21):

Nikos Sidiropoulos, Geert Leus, Holger Boche, Pierre Duhamel, Mounir Ghogho, Robert Heath, Franz Hlawatsch, Eduard Jorswieck, Erik Larsson, Athanasios Liavas, Gerald Matz, Marc Moonen, Daniel Palomar, Phil Regalia, Akbar Sayeed, Anna Scaglione, ZhengdaoWang, Zhengyuan Xu, Qing Zhao, Constantinos Papadias, Tim Davidson

Not attending (9):

Visa Koivunen, Mats Bengtsson, Phil Schniter, David Gesbert, Wei Yu, Xiaoli Ma, Hamid Sadjadpour, Xiaodong Wang, Zhi-Quan Luo.

1. Introduction and welcome new members: The chair introduced and the TC welcomed new members: Erik Larsson, Wei Yu, Xiaoli Ma, Eduard Jorswieck, Gerald Matz

2. Vote of thanks for retiring members: The TC voted to thank retiring members for their contributions to the TC: Naofal Al-Dhahir, Helmut Boelcskei, Yingbo Hua, Ali Sayed, Bhaskar Rao

3. TC Representation:

- Conference Board representative (Nikos Sidiropoulos – *ex officio*)
- Publications Board representative (not required this year)
- Coordination of award nominations (Geert Leus)
- Maintenance pool of Associate Editors for SPCOM (Franz Hlawatsch)
- Industrial liaison (Constantinos Papadias)
- Technical directions (Nikos Sidiropoulos – *ex officio*)
- Maintenance of SPCOM homepage (<http://ewh.ieee.org/tc/spcom/> - Z. Wang)

4. Minutes of ICASSP '07 Meeting (on the web at <http://ewh.ieee.org/tc/spcom/>) were approved.

5. SPCOM TC review scheduled next year (Jan '09 – ICASSP'09): Mini TC Review Report to Alex Acero, Technical Directions Board + 1-page TC report to BoG were distributed via e-mail prior to the TC meeting.

Steps needed to ensure a smooth TC review next year were discussed – notably the need for complete workshop reports → Action item for General, Technical, Finance Chairs of SPAWC workshops (mainly before 2005) to provide relevant data.

6. Discussion and vote on proposed SPCOM TC Bylaws: Draft SPCOM TC *Bylaws* prepared by TC chair Nikos Sidiropoulos were distributed via e-mail prior to the TC meeting, and discussed face-to-face at the meeting. The chair acknowledged helpful comments on earlier drafts by Alle-Jan van der Veen, Geert Leus, and Alex Acero (VP-TD). After discussion, the proposed Bylaws were unanimously approved by the 21 TC members present.

7. Discussion and vote on proposed SPCOM TC Policies and Procedures: Draft SPCOM TC *Policies and Procedures* prepared by TC chair Nikos Sidiropoulos were distributed via e-mail prior to the TC meeting, and discussed face-to-face at the meeting. The chair acknowledged helpful comments on earlier drafts by Geert Leus and Alex Acero (VP-TD). The chair explained that the proposed Policies and Procedures are a snapshot of current SPCOM TC practices, meant to help distill and preserve “best practices”.

Discussion on how to reduce the load for paper award nominations: The Chair pointed out that the existing process for selecting paper award candidates (as detailed in the Policies and Procedures voted upon earlier) is fair and effective, yet amounts to an excessive burden on the vice-chair, who is effectively responsible for running the equivalent of a moderate-sized workshop (order of 150 papers) with two review rounds without the benefit of an electronic paper handling system. The process is also pretty heavy in terms of reviews for TC members. The chair suggested that the TC should start considering steps to be taken to provide some relief; an alternative could be to split the TC in about 8 groups of members according to technical expertise, and ask that each group come up with a single nomination for best paper award and another for young author best paper award. These nominations would then be put up for review (3 reviews each) and voting, as in the second round of the currently used process.

Anna Scaglione suggested that one option could be to split papers and then follow a process similar to NSF panels ... but face-to-face is difficult to organize. Maybe by phone or e-mail? Constantinos Papadias suggested to distribute the load of the vice-chair over a few members. Franz Hlawatsch mentioned that the current scan-review process can be fallible too, as only a single TC member looks at each paper during the initial scan-review round. Geert Leus and Nikos Sidiropoulos agreed, but noted that it would be extremely cumbersome to solicit TC reviews per paper in the initial scan-review round, and the TC also accepts paper nominations from ‘open call’ (see TC webpage) – any individual can nominate, and the nomination will undergo the second full-review round in which 3 TC reviews are solicited for each paper. The ‘open call’ process has not produced any nominations in recent years though. Akbar Sayeed suggested that maybe more people should scan a single paper? two for instance. Then we have about 10 papers each.

Nikos Sidiropoulos summarized the discussion: TC members recognize the need to revisit the issue in subsequent years; for the moment, the TC will stay with the current process, as detailed in the Policies and Procedures draft.

After this discussion, the proposed Policies and Procedures were unanimously approved by the 21 TC members present.

8. Anonymous e-voting: Nikos Sidiropoulos is working on this. Proposal for first step: each TC member creates gmail account each year, with user ID “SPCOMTC-2008-member1”; if it fails, tries “SPCOMTC-2008-member2”, etc, until an available user ID is reached. Votes are sent from this e-mail address, and contain poll-specific common key to further minimize probability of errors. In the discussion that followed, Phil Regalia suggested the possibility of using PGP. TC members present were positive about the idea of anonymous voting, however care should be exercised with respect to security issues. The Chair will follow up on this and see if a secure and reliable system can be put in place.

9. Status of SP-COM sponsored Workshops:

- SPAWC-07 Helsinki: Written report by Visa Koivunen, see summary in mini TC review report to Alex Acero.
- SPAWC-08 Recife: Oral report by Paulo Diniz <diniz@lps.ufrj.br>
Less than 200 papers submitted (about 190). Overlap with ISIT is a problem. They could not do anything about that. There is a problem with the drop of the dollar. Exchange rate dropped from 2.20 at the time the budget was prepared to 1.75 now. Still, the organizers expect to break-even. Good papers were submitted. The organizers are pushing for higher attendance by local students and professors. Ratio between attendance and submissions is expected to be higher than before.

Explanation of drop in papers: less funding for research in physical layer communications; more people go to pure-communications conferences; good SP people are taken away by other societies.

Suggested solutions: attract research in higher layers (networking); jointly organized conferences (SP-COM-CAS societies) because the number of registrations to the COM society and COM conferences is dropping; decreasing the number of conferences; avoid overlap between conferences (difficult to solve).

- SPAWC-09 Perugia: Oral report by Geert Leus: Call for papers and webpage ready; CfP circulated at the TC meeting.

9. Bids for SPAWC 2010

- Proposal material for Marrakesh 2010 was circulated prior to the TC meeting via e-mail. Mounir Ghogho presented the bid for Marrakesh 2010. General co-chairs will be Mounir ghogho and Ananthram Swami; TPC co-chairs will be Zhi-Quan Luo and Phil Regalia. After discussion the proposal was accepted unanimously.

10. Pool of potential Associate Editors

Dormant – need to revitalize. Select TC member to help. Franz Hlawatsch agreed to do this.

11. IEEE and SP Soc. Awards - Geert

Update on SPCOMTC 2007 nominations:

Best Paper Award: H. Boche, M. Schubert

Young Author Best Paper Award: A. Wiesel, Y.C. Eldar, S. Shamai

Meritorious Service: A. Swami

Technical Achievement Award: V. Poor

DL: Lang Tong

Deadlines for 2008 award nominations (Geert to coordinate nominations + selection process):

SPS:

BPA, YABPA, SPMag paper award: by Oct. 1

Education, Service, Technical achievement, Society: by Oct. 1

IEEE:

Fink prize paper, July 1, see

<http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/about/awards/sums/fink.html>

12. Reflections on ICASSP 2008

papers submitted to SPCOM TC

ICASSP02	241
ICASSP03	313
ICASSP04	368
ICASSP05	405
ICASSP06	419
ICASSP07	380 (174 accepted, or ~ 46%)
ICASSP08	283 (150 accepted, or ~ 53%)

Quality was higher than usual this year, but drop in number of submissions was very substantial. Part of it is due to the fact that WCNC runs the same week in Las Vegas, and draws largely from the same crowd as SPCOM.

ICASSP 2008 Student paper finalist:

Ad-hoc open committee appointed to select our finalist. Bhaskar Rao, David Gesbert, and Geert Leus scanned the top-rated student papers and came up with the following recommendation which was forwarded to Phil Regalia:

P3072 SOURCE CODING WITH INTERMITTENT AND DEGRADED SIDE INFORMATION AT THE DECODER, Francesca Bassi, LSS CNRS Supelec - Univ Paris-Sud, Michel Kieffer, LSS CNRS Supelec - Univ Paris-Sud, Claudio Weidmann, ftw Telecommunications Research Center Vienna

Phil Regalia informed the TC that the aforementioned nomination was successful – congratulations to the authors.

13. Cooperation with SAMTC

As agreed-upon at our ICASSP07 meeting, we organized two joint ICASSP lecture sessions with SAM this year: one on sensor networks and one on MIMO communications. After discussion it was agreed that the joint sessions turned out well, and SPCOM will continue to work with SAM in this direction.

14. Holger Boche proposed organizing

- A special issue of the Signal Processing Magazine on the topic of Signal Processing for 4G Cellular Systems;
- A panel at ICASSP 2009 on the same topic - he volunteered to help bring in industry leaders for the panel;
- Perhaps also special sessions on related topics at ICASSP2009.

These initiatives were viewed positively by TC members; Holger will send reminders and help put these together in due time.

Transcribed by Geert Leus, SPCOM TC vice-chair

Submitted by Nikos Sidiropoulos, SPCOM TC chair