

Communication Theory Technical Committee (CTTC)
ICC 2006
Tuesday, June 13, 2006

DETAILED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:45 PM
Andrea Goldsmith, Vice-Chair, conducting

A. Goldsmith mentioned Marvin Simon's medical condition and circulated a book for attendees to sign and wish him well.

1) Announcements

1-a) The CTTC Awards Committee has been formed and is chaired by A. Goldsmith with 4 committee members. Awards will be given at CT Symposium at ICC and Globecom, starting at this conference and going forward.

1-b) Recipients of the CTTC Service Award:
Robert Lucky, Jack Salz, and Don Schilling.
Citation: "for your vision in initiating the communication theory workshop and your long-standing service and contributions to the communication theory community."

1-c) Recipients of Best Paper Award:
"Iterative Network and Channel Decoding for the Two-Way Relay Channel," Christoph Hausl and Joachim Hagenauer.
Honorable Mention: "Trapping Sets in Irregular LDPC Code Ensembles," Olgica Milencovic, Emina Soljanin, and Philip Whiting

1-d) A. Goldsmith summarized the purpose of the 6 parts of the Policies & Procedures Document, namely, to provide a form of institutional memory for future TPCs for issues such as reviewing papers, timelines, common pitfalls, etc. Also, the CTTC will go back to ComSoc to recommend that other ComSoc committees form their own such documents. She then opened the floor to comments and suggestions.

- + D. Taylor recommended the 6 separate documents be merged into a single document, the less documents the better. Also, the document should have a full list of contacts for IEEE and ComSoc, and links to other documents, such as plagiarism policies.
- + E. Ayanoglu would like to suggest an alternative to the averaging process currently used to rank papers in the Symposium.
- + S. Galli said that the average score AND the span of the min and max score could be combined somehow to produce a final rank of the paper. E. Ayanoglu said his idea was along these lines. This might reduce the problem, brought up by D. Taylor, of 3 very positive reviews and 1 very negative review and the paper gets rejected under the current scheme.
- + Some committee members expressed concern that some authors have 10-12 papers at the conference. The discussion concluded that not much can be done since, for example, an advisor can have many students with papers at the conference.
- + M. Chiani brought up the idea of having double-blind reviews in the symposium. There was some consensus that even though the authors' identity can often be guessed, it seems that double-blind reviews might help less-known authors, who do not get the preferential treatment that can sometimes be enjoyed by well-known authors.

No action items resulted from the above discussions.

2) Conference Symposia Reports

2-a) ICC 2006, S. Benedetto was delayed by another meeting and was not able to give a report.

2-b) Globecom 2006 (H. Jafarkhani) The committee will meet tomorrow to discuss the papers. 265 papers were submitted, 108 will be accepted. Each paper received 3 reviews. A first draft of the list of accepted papers has already been prepared. This will be reviewed in the meeting tomorrow.

2-c) ICC 2007 (P. McLane) TPC has 48 members, correspondence with these members will begin shortly. The EDAS web page is now active. The TPC has been told by the conference organizing committee to get 3 TPC reviews for each paper PLUS 3 reviews outside the TPC. Their goal is to get 1 TPC review for each paper plus 3 other reviews (4 in total). The TPC was considering whether to have one invited talk (just a talk, not an invited paper). This would take up one slot for a talk in the symposium.
He opened this topic for discussion. D. Taylor pointed out that ComSoc policy is against invited papers at conferences. A. Goldsmith called for all votes in favor of an invited talk at the

symposium: 0 votes were counted. As a result, no vote was taken against. The attendees were reminded of the scheduling conflict between ICC'07 and ISIT'07.

2-d) Globecom 2007 (S. Ulukus) Still forming TPC, the goal is 50-60 committee members, volunteers are invited to step forward.

2-e) ICC 2008 will be held in Beijing. A. Goldsmith reminded the attendees that potential volunteers can visit the CTTC volunteer web page.

3) CTW Reports

3-a) CTW 2006 (A. Goldsmith and J. Andrews) The location was great. There were 80+ attendees. There were panel discussions each afternoon, which was a new feature. There was a strong information theory and networking emphasis to the presentations. This topic was opened for discussion, but no detailed discussion ensued, other than the mention of minor complaints that were received. J. Andrews mentioned that, based on the experience of CTW'05, they were very aggressive about the budget and also very aggressive about publicity. Both efforts were ruled a success.

3-b) CTW 2007 (J. Zhang) Will be held in Sedona Arizona, May 20-23. The organizing committee was wondering if there was sufficient interest in 3 full days of sessions instead of 2-1/2 days. Votes in favor of 3 full days: 8, votes against 3 full days: 3. A. Goldsmith requested J. Zhang put together a paragraph regarding this issue and give it to the CTTC for e-mail distribution to the committee at large for further comment.

Attendance: 49

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.