Update on the online lectures/instruction initiative: “IT channel”

Presentation to the IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors

October 7th 2017
Recap of Goals

Creating an online video forum for information theory and applications.

- **Expository lectures**: Expository talks of ideas from experts in the field.

- **IT hall of fame**: Repository and history of impactful ideas and people from IT.

- **Nascent research**: Talks on new ideas to foster collaboration, *e.g.*, a talk that goes with Arxiv posting.

- **New research directions**: Inviting people from within and outside IT community to talk about ideas that enable new research directions.

- **Non-academic outreach**: Create forums for interactions with industry in various domains.
Recap of ideas

Expository lectures:

- Curated (invited) talks by experts on topics. Could be either completely online or part of a presentation at a venue.
- Create a “named” lecture and perhaps honorarium to make it attractive?
- Include into this plenary talks at ISIT, ITA, ITW, Allerton etc.
- Longer tutorials and lectures from ISIT, IT schools etc.
- Create a repository so that people can learn about topics as a “one-stop” portal.

IT hall of fame:

- Create talks and “interviews” on ideas and people with historical impact.
- Not just technical but also the story behind the ideas.
- Capture the historical impact of IT on technology and society.
Recap of ideas (Contd.)

**Nascent research:**
- Enable dissemination of new ideas within IT community to enhance collaboration, *e.g.*, a talk along with Arxiv posting.
- Not strongly curated, but have a distributed model like in TCS+
- Initial effort: Shannon Channel by Salim El Rouayheb at http://www.ece.iit.edu/~salim/Shannon.html

**New research directions:**
- Curated (invited) talks by people exploring new directions.
- Also invite experts outside traditionally IT community.
- Create incentives for such talks, both within and outside IT community.

**Non-academic outreach:**
- Short forums within conferences/workshops or at Universities to attract industrial participants (online or physical presence).
- Exchange ideas from academic research and industrial research.
**Updates**

**Organizing committee:** Salim El Rouayheb, Anand Sarwate, Suhas Diggavi (initial composition, will look for more volunteers).

**Operational runs:**

- Lecture on June 13th over google hangouts for “Shannon channel” led to several issues for larger audience.
- Decided to use Webex for resolving these operational issues.
- Tested Webex functionalities Sept 12th (Matt, Anand, Suhas).
- Created ITsoc webex account for its use for IT channel.
- Will do live test of this forum in next couple of weeks with another “Shannon channel” presentation.
- Will use some money for audio equipment and Webex use.

**Curated lecture series:** Have already recruited some volunteers for this series, and will seek out more. Plan to have a few lectures before next BoG meeting.