

2015 European School of Information Theory

April 2015, The Netherlands

This proposal asks for support for the 2015 European School of Information Theory, to be held in the Netherlands in April 2015. The school is a prestigious high-profile annual event that provides a supportive environment for graduate students to learn from distinguished lecturers in the field and to present their own work for feedback and potential collaboration.

Background

The Schools of Information Theory are educational events that are organized by the IEEE Information Theory Society. For 2015 it is expected that there will be schools in Europe, North America, Latin America, East Asia, India and Australia. The number of student participants at previous European schools ranges from 55 to 80, with students from institutes throughout Europe and beyond.

The school has two main components: i) Courses by senior scientists, ii) Poster presentations by students. The goal is to provide graduate students with the opportunity to:

- Learn from distinguished lecturers in the field who will present long-format (3 hour) tutorials;
- Participate in a stimulating and inviting forum of scientists;
- Present their own work for feedback and potential collaboration.

The websites of the 2014 European School of Information Theory and 2014 North American School of Information Theory can be found at <http://www.itsoc.org/european-school-2014> and <http://www.fields.utoronto.ca/programs/scientific/13-14/infotheory/>, respectively.

Topics

Information Theory studies the transmission, processing, and use of information in many contexts; it draws from and contributes to a large number of disciplines. The areas of study of participants will include engineering, computer science, and mathematics. The types of research topics presented by students, and the tutorial areas discussed by lecturers, will span foundational theory, implementation in practice and new application areas. The topics that will be addressed by the lecturers are:

1. Network information theory
2. Machine learning and big data
3. Cyber security
4. Communication theory
5. Signal processing
6. Coding theory

Organizers

The organizing committee represents the three technical universities in the Netherlands and consists of:

- Jasper Goseling (University of Twente, chair)
- Tanya Ignatenko (Eindhoven University of Technology)
- Jos Weber (Delft University of Technology)
- Frans Willems (Eindhoven University of Technology)

An advisory committee consisting of organizers of past schools will support the organizers:

- Vitaly Skachek (organizer 2014 European School of Information Theory)
- Gerhard Kramer (coordinator schools of information theory for IT Society)

Intended Venue

The intended venue for the school is hotel NH Zandvoort, located at the cost 20 km from Schiphol airport and 25 km from the city center of Amsterdam. The reason that we have chosen this location is that it is close to a major airport and that prices are affordable.

The reason that the school is not held in university classrooms is that it is not possible to provide accommodation for all participants in a single location that is sufficiently close to the school venue. Moreover, the reduction in cost resulting from hosting at one of the universities is negligible.

Dates

We have identified two potential dates for the school:

1. Monday, April 13 – Friday, April 17, or
2. Monday, April 20 – Friday April 24.

These dates do not conflict with major conferences in the field: ITW (26 April – 1 May, Jerusalem, Israel), ISIT (14–19 June, Hong Kong), ICC (8–12 June, London, UK), Infocom (26 April – 1 May, Hong Kong), CTW (usually in second half of May or in June). Also, there are no conflicts with public holidays in the Netherlands, or with the academic calendar (e.g. exam periods) of Dutch institutes.

The final date will be chosen based on additional input we receive on potential conflicts as well as the availability of lecturers.

Budget

The expected costs, budgeted for 60 student participants, 6 lecturers and 6 (current and future) organizers, are given below.

	Number	Cost	Total
Student accommodation	60 students, 5 nights	€ 50 pp per night	€ 15,000
Lect. + org. accommodation	12 people, 5 nights	€ 90 pp per night	€ 5,400
Lecturer travel	6 lecturers	€ 500 pp	€ 3,000
Lecture room, lunch, coffee, etc.	72 participants, 5 days	€ 50 pp per day	€ 18,000
Posterboards		€ 1,000	€ 1,000
Badges, shirts, etc.	72 people	€ 10 pp	€ 720
Social event	72 people	€ 20 pp	€ 1,440
Banquet	72 people	€ 40 pp	€ 2,880
Dinner lecturers + organizers	12 people	€ 70	€ 840
			€ 45,580

The goal is to keep the costs for the participants as low as possible. Therefore, we are requesting financial support from various parties. Currently we have requested or will be requesting the following parties for a contribution:

- IEEE Benelux Chapter on Information Theory: € 1,000 (confirmed)
- Werkgemeenschap voor communicatie en informatie theorie: € 4,000 (confirmed)
- Gauss foundation: € 1,000 (confirmed)
- Eindhoven University of Technology, through EIRICT: € 2,500 (confirmed)
- Delft University of Technology: € 2,500 (requested)
- University of Twente: € 2,500 (requested)
- Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research

- ICT Labs
- EU COST Actions

Student grants

In addition to covering costs with the financial contributions of various parties a registration fee will be handled. This fee will include accommodation and lunches. However, we intend to make a significant number of student grants available. The aim is that these grants will cover the registration fee for students that would not be able to attend otherwise. In addition some travel grants will be made available. We offer supporting parties the opportunity to 'label' their contributions for student grants.

Motion

We respectfully request the same amount of support for the 2015 European School of Information Theory, as for the 2014 school, in the amount of \$20,000. This will be used to pay invited speakers, and to partially cover costs for the lecture room, lunches, etc.