IEEE IT Workshop Status Report:

2006-China Information Theory Workshop

Chengdu California Garden Hotel, Chengdu International Exhibition and Convention Center (CIECC), Chengdu, China, October 22 – October 26, 2006, http://sist.swjtu.edu.cn/imc/itw06/.

1. Paper submission statistics
   - ITW’06 received 306 submissions, with 286 effective submissions (excluding 16 repeated and 4 withdrawn); not including 4 plenary talks and 21 invited talks.
   - Accepted papers: 93 oral + 56 poster = 149 (93 from overseas and 56 from mainland China); acceptance ratio: 149/286 = 52.5%.

2. Technical program and invited talks (see Appendices 1-2 below)
   - Program consists of 4 plenary talks + 21 invited talks (single sessions) + 93 oral presentations (parallel sessions) + 56 posters; refer to Appendix 2 for details.
   - For 4 plenary talks, 45 minutes will be allocated; the 21 invited talks (25 minutes each) are arranged into 7 invited sessions (3 invited talks per session).
   - There are 20 parallel oral sessions (10 time slots) accommodating 13x5 + 7x4 = 93 oral presentations, each having 20 minutes.
   - There are 3 poster sessions arranged during the 3 afternoon tea breaks (16:05-18:05pm); each session has about 20 posters (total 19+19+18=56).
   - 4 plenary speakers have been confirmed; they are Sergio Benedetto, Dick Blahut, Marc Fossorier, and Ralf Koetter. The specific topics of their talks will be decided shortly.
   - 17 invited session speakers have been confirmed; see appendix 1 below.

3. Financial aspects
   - Contract has been signed with the Chengdu California Garden Hotel, and a $6.3K deposit has been paid. Extra conference rooms have been confirmed due to the addition of parallel sessions.
   - Received $12.5K financial support from Qualcomm ($7.5K, designated for sponsorship of the conference banquet) and Seagate Technology ($5K).
   - $10K has been confirmed from NSF, which will be used to support travel for U.S. participants only.
   - It was decided not to use the IEEE loan ($10K) at this stage since we have paid the hotel deposit by using the donations from Qualcomm and Seagate.
   - Provide $1K to each plenary speaker, total $4K, and waive their registration fees as well.
   - Since our financial situation is better than expected, in addition to the profit to be returned to IEEE IT society, we may provide a limited number of travel grants to students and/or participants from developing countries. However, this will be clear only after the registration deadline, i.e., Sept.10.

4. Other
   - Official approval to host the ITW’06 in Chengdu has been issued by the Chinese Government.
   - Official approval has been received from IEEE to publish conference proceedings by IEEE Press; the approved data are IEEE Catalog Number: 06EX1268; ISBN: 1-4244-0067-8; Library of Congress: 2005937120.
   - Negotiation with travel agencies for handling the Jiu Zhai Gou and other optional tours is in progress and will be finalized once the number of tour participants is known.
In summary, it is expected that we are going to have a successful ITW'06 in Chengdu!

Appendix 1: Invited speakers

Plenary Speakers

Richard Blahut (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA)  blahut@uiuc.edu
Sergio Benedetto (Politecnico di Torino, Italy)  sergio.benedetto@polito.it
Ralf Koetter (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA)  koetter@uiuc.edu
Marc Fossorier (University of Hawaii, USA)  marc@spectra.eng.hawaii.edu

Invited Sessions

Error control codes
Chair: Torleiv Klove (University of Bergen, Norway)  Torleiv.Klove@ii.uib.no
Speakers: Alexei Ashikhmin (Bell Laboratories, USA)  aea@research.bell-labs.com
Jack Wolf (University of California, San Diego, USA)  jwolf@ucsd.edu
Radinka Yorgova (University of Bergen, Norway)  Yorgova@ii.uib.no

Iterative decoding and detection techniques
Chair: Marc Fossorier (University of Hawaii, USA)  marc@spectra.eng.hawaii.edu
Speakers: Joseph Boutros (ENST, France)  boutros@enst.fr
Toshiyasu Matsushima (Waseda University, Japan)  toshi@matsu.mgmt.waseda.ac.jp

Data compression
Chair: Zhen Zhang (University of Southern California, USA)  zhang@milly.usc.edu
Speakers: En-Hui Yang (University of Waterloo, Canada)  ehyang@bbcr.uwaterloo.ca
Jun Yang (Philips Research North America, USA)  junyang@philips.com
Da-ke He (IBM, USA)  dakehe@us.ibm.com

Quantum-theoretical aspects of coding
Chair: Alexei Ashikhmin (Bell Laboratories, USA)  aea@research.bell-labs.com
Speakers: Markus Grassl (Universität Karlsruhe, Germany)  markus.grassl@gmail.com
Mitsuru Hamada (Tamagawa University, Japan)  m-hamada@lab.tamagawa.ac.jp
Andreas Winter (University of Bristol, UK)  a.j.winter@bris.ac.uk

Network coding
Chair: Emina Soljanin (Bell Laboratories, USA)  emina@lucent.com
Speakers: Tony Ephremides (Univ. of Maryland, USA)  tony@eng.umd.edu
Oyvind Ytrehus (University of Bergen, Norway)  oyvind@ii.uib.no
Rudolf Ahlswede (University of Bielefeld)  hollmann@Mathematik.Uni-Bielefeld.DE

Space-time codes, multi-user and MIMO systems
Chair: David Tse (University of California, Berkeley, USA)  dtse@eecs.berkeley.edu
Speakers: Pramod Viswanath (University of Illinois, USA)  pramodv@uiuc.edu
David Tse (University of California, Berkeley, USA)  dtse@eecs.berkeley.edu
Xiang-Gen Xia (University of Delaware, USA)  xxia@ee.udel.edu