

2009 SPEd TC Meeting Minutes

The Signal Processing in Education (SPEd) technical committee (TC) of the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) met on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 from 7:00 am until 8:40 am in Taipei, Taiwan, during the 2009 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP).

Attendance included 8 of the 21 SPEd TC members as well as 6 invited persons. Two additional members participated through teleconference.

List of participants:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Welch, Thad B.	member
Gan, Woon Seng	member
Jones, Douglas	member
Burrus, Sidney	member
Yoder, Mark A.	member
Hansen, John H. L.	member
Spanias, Andreas	member
Saint-Nom, Roxana	member
Padgett, Wayne T.	member in conference call
Longley, Lester	member in conference call
Claypool, Joel	guest, Morgan+Claypool Publishers
Shearman, Sam	guest, National Instruments
Johnson, Mike	guest, professor
Gilfillan, Andrew	guest, Prentice Hall
Acero, Alex	guest, TBD Chair

(7:02 am) Roxana Saint-Nom called the meeting to order.

Thad Welch volunteered to record meeting minutes.

Agenda items

1. 2008-2009 activities and duties related with them (Roxana Saint-Nom)

a) Elections

A list including our December ballot results was presented.

- C. Sidney Burrus (Rice University) Term (Jan 2008 – Dec 2010) - NEW
- Woon-Seng Gan (Nanyang Technological University) Term (Jan 2008 – Dec 2010) - NEW
- Roger Green (North Dakota State University) Term (Jan 2008 – Dec 2010)
- Wayne Padgett (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology) Term (Jan 2008 – Dec 2010)
- Doug Williams (Georgia Institute of Technology) Term (Jan 2008 – Dec 2010)
- Mark Yoder (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology) Term (Jan 2008 – Dec 2010)

Dr. Burrus joined the Innovation and Growth Subcommittee.

b) Awards and DLs nominations

We only had one nomination of a DL (Roxana). This should be improved next time. We must also nominate an Education Award candidate.

Dr. Gan and Dr. Hansen expressed their willingness to join the Awards subcommittee to help improve its performance.

c) Edics

As we don't have publications, we should reedit our EDICS (Andreas said we had one at the SP Letters). This is a task for the Publications Subcommittee.

d) Bylaws

We approved our bylaws, which are posted at the webpage.

e) Connexions project

During the past year, 3 of our members served at the Lensing Oversight Committee. We expect to involve the whole Education TC this time.

f) Webpage

Our Webpage was enhanced and updated, under SPS Website. We need contributions of each subcommittee to keep it up to date. We should have a link to the ICASSP 09 videotaped tutorials and overview presentations.

2. Connexions Project Proposal (Doug Jones)

a) Background

Doug Jones talked about Connexions project, which provides open source education materials including a strong base in the SP area. Al Hero suggested phases for the SPS to contribute to the project

- LOC (Lensing Oversight Committee), to get process goals
- Transition to SPS Education TC responsibility and program growth
- Transition to the IEEE wide program

We are currently addressing the second phase.

b) Comments (Doug, Sid, Alex, Roxana)

Materials that are in the Connexions source can be recommended for lensing. Our TC would review the material (this is not a blind review). Evaluator names will be posted. Material could be translated. Modules do not need to be unique. One of the goals is to build a large body of information. Most reviews would come from SPED TC. Sid passed around a few Connexions books in hardcopy. This is an historic opportunity in the history of SPS. There was unanimous support at the Society level for this program. If it is not in our TC, then who would do this?

c) Motion and voting

LOC suggested motion was read by Doug Jones (see appendix). It was seconded by Mark Yoder. Roxana asked members to vote. All 7 members present and 2 in conference call accepted the motion.

We will form a new subcommittee on this project, which will include all members that want to participate.

3. Subcommittee's reports and plans

a) Awards (Thad)

There is a strong need to promote nominations. We should ask for a list of past Education recipient awards. (The subcommittee should address Debbie Blazek).

There was a discussion about Fellow nominations. We should promote nominations, but we shouldn't endorse them.

b) Innovation and Growth (Mark)

No update

c) Conference (Wayne, Conference call)

No ICASSP 2009 numbers. Roxana said there were only 9 (decreasing). SPED Workshop on January 2009 got 27 papers. There were 2 plenary speakers.

We should search for next Workshop Technical Chair, in Sedona, Arizona. Lina Karam is General Chair.

We should keep records of every conference numbers and the list of volunteers for these tasks.

d) Industrial liaison (Roxana)

Jon Thorn made contact with industry standing committee. They mapped out a few short term plans. Roxana met (after the meeting) John McElvain to start activities together. Andreas will be the link, given he is member of both committees and Jon will be develop the initiatives.

The other subcommittees had no representation.

4. Alex Acero's comments

There is strong interest that SPed TC explores Wikipedia potential to disseminate SP Education. TAD staff has published short, factual articles for societies that formerly did not have a Wikipedia presence. To see our society's article, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IEEE_Signal_Processing_Society
Professors may use Wikipedia as a starting point for assignments, to make SP more visible.
Connexions should look to Wikipedia references.
The publishing subcommittee may go on with the idea.

5. Recommendations (Roxana)

We should participate in the next Workshop in Arizona.
We should start collaboration with IEEE Education Society (Sid Burrus volunteered).
We should recover our SP Letters EDICS.
We should nominate DLs and awards candidates, we should promote Fellow nominations
We have to begin the search for our next TC Chair. (Wayne was nominated by Lester)

(8:40 am) TC business concluded and Roxana Saint-Nom ended the meeting.

APPENDIX

IEEE SPS Open Source and Open Access Lensing of Educational Materials

A Proposal to Signal Processing Education Committee

A. O. Hero, D. L. Jones, R. G. Baraniuk
30 March 2009

Background

The IEEE Signal Processing Society has long been interested in fulfilling its educational mission and expanding its visibility and outreach, especially to students and instructors, practitioners in industry, and the global developing world. At the June 2007 IEEE Board Series, the IEEE Executive Committee resolved to promote IEEE's open-access-friendly policy and to conduct a series of experiments in the open access arena. After a period of planning during the summer of 2007, the past-President (Hero) of the IEEE Signal Processing Society proposed an experiment within SPS to develop a quality-evaluated corpus of open-access educational signal processing content.

The objective of the project is to develop a first-of-its-kind open-access education collaboration between two leaders: the IEEE, the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology, and Connexions, one of the most-used open-access educational resources on the Web. The benefits for the IEEE include extending its education footprint, enhancing its global outreach, and offering IEEE members new opportunities to both teach and learn. The benefits for Connexions include access to the IEEE's large pool of talented authors, the prestige IEEE will bring to those authors, and validation of Connexions' peer review lenses.

While Phase I of this pilot project was limited to the Connexions platform, future phases of the project could be broadened to include other content hosting platforms, e.g., Scholarpedia.

The project was planned to take place in three phases:

- Phase I: Ad Hoc Lensing Oversight Committee (LOC) is launched and oversees pilot project;
- Phase II: Pilot project transitioned to a permanent standing committee; within SPS.
- Phase III: Template for Phase II is shared to launch similar projects in other areas of IEEE, e.g., other Societies/Councils, Sections/Chapters, Educational Activities Board.

Phase I of the experiment was approved by the Society's Board of Governors in September 2007.

Phase I of the experiment involved creating an IEEE Signal Processing "lens" for Connexions that points to IEEE SPS certified content in the Connexions repository. An IEEE-SPS Lensing Oversight Committee (LOC) was established to oversee the submission, review, and certification process. The LOC is currently a SPS Board of Governors Ad Hoc Committee whose term ends at the end of 2009. The LOC is chaired by the President-elect and consists of a dozen or so members who serve as an editorial and evaluation board. Running the project from a temporary ad hoc committee was a natural first step the early stages of the project. In the longer term we believe that these lensing activities should be transitioned to a dedicated standing committee of the Signal Processing Society. As the reviewed corpus approaches critical mass, we believe that now is the time to make the transition to Phase II.

The Proposal

Our proposal is to transition this project to the SPS Signal Processing Education Committee. The SPED Committee is the natural home for an open access educational project such as this one. No other body within SPS has more expertise or experience in relevant areas such as electronic publication, curriculum, open access, and educational outreach. There is no SPS group that is as capable of raising the profile of SP Education through certification of open-source educational materials. Furthermore, from an administrative perspective, many of the members of the current LOC were drawn from the SPED committee, guaranteeing some continuity through the transition.

The proposal is to start the Phase II transition to SPED as soon as possible, with the transition being completed by the end of 2009. During the transition the LOC would be enlarged to include interested members of SPED. The Ad Hoc Committee would then morph into a permanent committee in January 2010. Like the current ad hoc LOC, the permanent LOC would be chaired by a person from SPED who would act as Editor in Chief; the rest of the committee would act as an editorial board for the lensing process. Members of the permanent LOC could be exclusively from SPED, or the committee might expand to include outsiders at the discretion of SPED. If SPED accepts this proposal, then the permanent LOC would have to be approved by the SPS Board of Governors.

Proposed Timetable

March 2009: Proposal sent to SPED committee.

April 2009: Proposal presented at SPED meeting at ICASSP by members of the current ad hoc LOC. SPED votes on the following motion:

Motion: the SPED agrees to assume the responsibilities of overseeing and evolving the SPS lensing process for educational materials starting in January 2010. Furthermore, SPED appoints persons XX, YY, ZZ as representatives to the Ad Hoc LOC for the duration of the transition period.

May 2009: If the motion is successful then the ad hoc LOC meets by teleconference to put together a detailed transition plan.

September 2009: Detailed transition plan is finalized and adopted by LOC/SPED. This will include items like the proposed chair of the permanent committee, a proposed board of editors, method and term of appointment, building a reviewer base, possible expansion of SPED, reporting requirements, staff assistance, budget, broadening the hosting platforms beyond Connexions, etc.

October 2009: Proposal for SPED-led Phase II is presented to SPS Board of Governors.

January 2010: Phase II transition complete.
