Sensory Systems

Technical Committee of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society

2010 Annual Meeting Minutes

ISCAS 2010
Date: Monday 31th May 2010
Time: 17:30 – 18:30
Room: Grand Central Station I
Disney's hotel New York – Convention Centre, Room
SSTC website: http://www.ewh.ieee.org/soc/icss/committees/sensors/sensors-tc.php

1. Approval of Agenda

The chair, Bernabé Linares-Barranco, welcomed participants at the meeting. The agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Introduction of members and officers of SSTC:

The chairman, Bernabé Linares-Barranco, opened the meeting. He welcomed all TC members and visitors.

38 people were present at the meeting including 31 TC members and 5 prospective members (of a total of 54 members, representing an attendance rate of 57%) plus 2 PhD students interested in the committee activities. The attending members, new members, and non members are listed in Appendix A.

3. New members

Tobi Delbrück invited Steve Collins, Wai-Chi Fang invited Ray Yueh_Min Huang and Henry Leung, and the chair Bernabé Linares invited Chai Wah Wu and Francisco Serra-Graells. All the invitees demonstrated their intereste in joining the committee. All new members were voted in unanimously.

4. Annual report of 2009

The annual report on the 2009 committee activities is still under construction as contributions of member activities are still welcomed to be included for the final version. Member contributions need to be submitted by June 15th.
Approval of final version will be done by e-mail.

5. Best paper award for the Sensory Systems track ISCAS 2010

Winner

Event-based color change pixel in standard CMOS
Rafael Berner and Tobi Delbrück

Honorary Mention

Event-Based 64-Channel Binaural Silicon Cochlea with Q Enhancement Mechanisms
Shih-Chii Liu, André van Schaik, Bradley Minch, Tobi Delbrück

The winners were applauded and had their photos taken with the chair that gave them their diplomas.

6. Report from the Technical Activities Meeting.

The Chair began reporting about the SSTC history and activities.
The SSTC was established in 1999. Since them the activities and number of members of the committee has grown and it is currently still growing. Nowadays the committee is composed of 54 active members plus 5 new members incorporated in this meeting.
The SSTC promoted the involvement of the TCs in the ISCAS revision process. The SSTC promoted the ISCAS Demo Track, which originated from SSTC as a special session organized by SSTC members Philipp Hälfinger and Tobi Delbrück and is now a regular session.
This year the SSTC ISCAS track has received a total of 74 submissions (12% more than last year). 35 papers were accepted (a 47% acceptance rate was imposed by ISCAS organization) and were distributed in 5 oral sessions and 2 poster sessions.
In the SSTC ISCAS track revision process 19 members acted as RCMs. They assured that each paper received between 3 to 6 revisions, coming from different institutions.
Other accomplishments achieved by the SSTC this year are:
- Their members organized 5 ISCAS special sessions
- Their members organized 1 ISCAS tutorial
- Their members organized 3 special issues in different journals
- Giacomo Indiveri and Timothy Horiuchi are launching a new journal "Frontiers in Neuromorphic Engineering" with the cooperation of other SSTC members.

Afterwards, the chair reported about the TA meeting.
The BoG feels that there are too many technical committees and encourages them to merge.
SSTC was not asked to merge with others.
The BoG questioned SSTC why is growing and encouraged it to elaborate a report on where the track field is going. Some ideas were launched as new technologies and new sensors are appearing which are enlarging the field scene. Shih-Chi Liu also mentioned that the relation between academia and industry should be reinforced. Finally, it was

decided that the officers will write a first version of the report and pass it to the other members for contributions.

The BoG also asked for redefinition of subtracks for ISCAS tracks. The number of subtracks should be reduced. The committee decided to initiate an e-mail discussion on that.

Andre Van Shaik asked if reducing the number of subtracks implies to reduce the number of RCMs. The chair answered him that currently the RCMs are not divided by subtracks. The BoG also informed that the TCs are going to be evaluated and some evaluation rules should be defined. Ideas are wellcomed.

Another question addressed by the BoG is the TC membership updating. They asked each TC to have a clear procedure to update its membership list. Some ideas were suggested.

- to limit a membership period to 10 years. The period could be renewable upon request.
- Membership should be annually renewed after a demonstration of interest.
- Implement a three yearly revision of active members (current procedure as defined in the TC bylaws).

The BoG asked the TCs to have a more rigorous procedure for proposing DLP candidates, maybe creating a subcommittee for DLP's nomination. The SSTC decided to create this subcommittee composed of the SSTC officers and the past and present DLPs. The chair informed that the deadline for DLPs nomination is October.

A discussion was initiated about what a DLP should represent. He/she should be not only a good speaker but also a prestigious researcher not only working in a fashionable topic but with wide experience in different topics. His/her role is to represent the prestige of the CAS society.

7. Summary of 2010 SSTC activities.

This issue was already covered in point 6, so we moved on to the next point in the agenda.

8. Various Messages

Orly informed that the Sensors Council is looking for a new representative from the CAS society.

Orly and Mona informed the SSTC about what the Sensors Council is. It is formed by 24 members of different IEEE societies, one of them coming for the IEEE CAS society. They also informed about the duties of the CAS representative.

The SSTC decided to start an e-mail discussion about the connections of SSTC with the sensors conference.

9. Discussion of 2011 Activities

A discussion on possible activities for 2011 began.

Giacomo informed about the launching of the new on-line journal "Frontiers in Neuromorphic Engineering". Submitted papers are peerly reviewed. Papers published on-line are ranked according to the number of downloads. Best ranked papers are published in the paper format journal "Frontiers in Neuroscience".

The chair strongly encouraged the SSTC members to propose special sessions for next ISCAS, specially aiming at bringing people from outside of the CAS community.

The chair asked for ideas to make the SSTC Web Page more practical and attractive. Some ideas were launched:

- Put the expertise of each person to help associate editors in the reviewer assignment process.
- Making it a wiki

The launching of special issues was also discussed. Mona explained that the procedure is to contact the journal editor in chief when a topic is identified that could be worth of a special issue. It was discussed that a special issue on joined sensors/circuits could be interesting. Another interesting activity could be to organize a special issue from the contributions of the 5 ISCAS special sessions organized by the committee this year. It was proposed that TBioCAS could be an interesting journal to propose a special issue. Tobi proposed to launch a new ISCAS track on design mistakes as it is already being done in other circuit conferences (as ISSCC). The details about time allocation, author names declaration, etc… should be further discussed. Actions should be taken to contact with next ISCAS organizers.

10. AOB

AOB.
No other business.

Appendix A

36 Members present:

Members:
1. Pamela Abshire
2. John Harris
3. Philipp Haefliger
4. Ralph Etienne-Cummings
5. Teresa Serrano-Gotarredona
6. Piotr Dudek
7. Viktor Gruev
8. Denise Wilson
9. Tobi Delbruck
10. Andrew Mason
11. Orly Yadid-Pecht
12. Shih-Chii Liu
13. Bernabe Linares-Barranco
14. Giacomo Indiveri
15. Jonathan Tapson
16. Christoph Posch
17. Amine Bermak
18. Shantanu Chakrabartty

19. Timothy Constandinou
20. Roman Genov
21. Tara J. Hamilton
22. Mohamad Sawan
23. Jie (George) Yuan
24. Chen Shoushun
25. Mona Zaghoul
26. Franco Maloberti
27. Wai-Chi Fang
28. Jenniger Blain Christen
29. Andre Van Shaik
30. Milutin Stanacevic
31. Maysam Ghovanloo

New Members:
1. Henry Leung
2. Ray Yueh-Min Huang
3. Francisco Serra-Graells
4. Steve Collins
5. Chai Wah Wu

Non Members present:
1. Raphael Berner
2. Emre Nefici