Annual Meeting of the Analog Signal Processing Technical Committee of the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (ASPTC)

May 28, 2007
New Orleans, USA

Meeting Chair: Tony Chan Carusone

Attendees:

Tony Chan Carusone
Joseph Sylvester Chang
Degang Chen
William R. Eisenstadt
Ralph Etienne-Cummings
Jorge Fernandes
Igor Filanovsky
Robert Fox
Doug Frey
Randall Geiger
Roman Genov
Julio Georgiou
Maysam Ghovanloo (New member)
Georges Gielen
Viktor Gruev (New member)
Pavan Kumar Hanumolu (New member)
Ramesh Harjani
Paul Hasler
Deuk Hyoun Heo (New member)
Vadim Ivanov
Byunghoo Jung
Tor Sverre Lande
Hoi Lee
Jin Liu
Felix Lustenberger
Bradley A. Minch (New member)
Shahriar Mirabbasi
Pedram Mohseni (New member)
Shanthi Pavan
Salvatore Pennisi (New member)
Jaime Ramirez-Angulo
Fathi Salem (Non member)
Hanspeter Schmid
Wouter A. Serdijn
Jose Silva-Martinez
Sameer Sonkusale
Paul Sotiriadis (New member)
Tuna Tarim

Gabor Temes
André van Schaik

13:20 Meeting Welcome

The 2007 meeting agenda was confirmed as follows:

- Welcome
- Confirm 2007 meeting agenda & 2006 meeting minutes
- Approve 2006-2007 annual report
- Reaffirm ISCAS-2008 organization for ASP track
- Confirm chair-elect's transition to chair
- Approval of secretary's transition to chair-elect
- Nomination/approval of a new secretary/web-master
- Current status of the ASPTC membership list (Hanspeter Schmid)
- Nominations/approvals of new TC members
- ISCAS ASP special journal/transactions issue
- Other business, announcements etc.

Welcome by Tony to the annual ASPTC meeting

The meeting agenda was approved as presented to the ASPTC assembly. The 2006 meeting minutes, as posted to the ASPTC website, were confirmed. Motion moved.

The 2006-2007 ASPTC annual report, as posted to the ASPTC website, was confirmed. Motion moved.

The ASPTC representatives to the 2007-2008 TPC were confirmed univocally by the meeting attendance as follows:
- Tony Chan Carusone (Past chair)
- Felix Lustenberger (Chair)
- Hanspeter Schmid (Chair elect)

The question arose whether the Bylaws mention the automatic transfer of officers. This is not the case currently, but we may need to change this in the future.

Fathi Salem nominated Mohamad Sawan and Felix Lustenberger nominated Shariar Mirabbasi for the position of Secretary & Webmaster for the 2007-2008 ASPTC. Quick introductions were given by the candidates themselves. The voting procedure produced the following result: Shariar Mirabbasi got 16 votes, Mohamad Sawan got 12 votes; hence Shariar Mirabbasi was confirmed as the new Secretary & Webmaster for the 2007/08 term. The intention is that Shariar will serve as chair elect, chair, and then past chair in the following three years.

[P.S: after the meeting, the officers realised that Fathi Salem is not a committee member and that the nomination of Mohamad Sawan was therefore not valid. Since the vote

turned out affirmative for Shariar, no further action needs to be taken. We plan to introduce voting cards in the next meeting in order to avoid similarly embarrassing situations in the future.]

Hanspeter explained rules of bylaws concerning the conditions of adherence to the committee. Tony proposed to keep two lists in the future: an active list which comprises all the members that fulfill the conditions set in the bylaws and a passive list which combines people who do not meet the criteria of the bylaws but still want to be associated with the committee. This second list of passive members is just for information spreading. Wouter interjects that the list may get very big. Ramesh asks about the purpose of the second list. Georges thinks that the list should not be published on the web; attendees agreed with majority. Tuna asked whether people not meeting the conditions are removed automatically. Hanspeter replies that they will be removed and be informed about their removal.

Wouter asks for more participation of ASPTC members in other activities (special sessions, workshops, etc.)

The following new ASPTC members were confirmed by the committee, all without dissent:
- Maysam Ghovanloo (nominated by Mohamad Sawan)
- Viktor Gruev (nominated by Julius Georgiou)
- Pavan Kumar Hanumolu (nominated by Shanti Pavan)
- Deuk Hyoun Heo (nominated by Gabor Temes)
- Bradley A. Minch (nominated by Paul Hasler)
- Pedram Mohseni (nominated by Mohamad Sawan)
- Salvatore Pennisi (nominated by Hanspeter Schmid)
- Paul Sotiriadis (nominated by Ralph Etienne-Cummings)

Tony wanted to nominate Anas Hamoui who was absent due to surgery. This is not possible according to the bylaws but he is cordially invited to attend the meeting in 2008 and get elected at that time.

[P.S: the officers got feedback after the meeting that there was no real discussion about the qualification of the candidates for the committee. In order to have a better idea on this side, we will solicit proposals of potential candidates in advance of the next general meeting and will distribute this information as meeting preparation.]

Hanspeter prepared a member list to be checked and to be completed. This list was passed around and will serve as proof of participation.

Tuna explained the story around special issues in TCAS-I/Kluwer for ASP papers. 2005: Kluwer edition. 2006: TCAS-I together with other ISCAS papers. 2007: try to do it again in TCAS-I. Guest editorial board: Tuna and Hanspeter. Send proposals directly to them.

Announcements by Tony (last minute information from morning CAS meeting):

- Open column in CAS Magazine. Tutorial type of article to stimulate new research fields.
- Special sessions for ISCAS 2008 are solicited (including live demonstrations)
- IEEE Expert Now: online courses. Should be a practical value to members (paying service). Contact for proposals through ASPTC chair.
- Technology Surveys in electronic form (formerly IEEE Press Books). Wouter adds that there will be 3 issues per year for the whole CAS.
- Technical Notes: on IEEEXplore for subscribers: entry point into new field
- Bulletins for CASS electronic newsletter
- CAS multi-conference: several smallish workshops co-located at the same place. Georges tells that this could also be an existing workshop which will be regrouped in such a stimulating environment.

RFTC proposal brought forward by Tony. Opinions mentioned during the following discussion were:
- Rob: asks about the number of existing TCs: currently there are 18; large number!
- Hanspeter: size alone is not a good reason to split the TC up.
- Wouter: CASCOM papers were the initial issue because papers where shifted from the CASCOM track to the ASP track very late in the process. No need any more from that perspective.
- Randy: Analog was a small group 15 years ago. Loss of focus?
- Doug: RF should stay in Analog. Against predictions, analog did not go away
- Tuna: ambiguity in terms of choice of tracks is solved by review committee.
- Tony: when we look for new members, just think to include RF people!
- Doug: RF is much more than analog front-end electronics. It also includes base-band signal processing, etc. which is out of the focus of ASPTC.

The absence of strong points in favour of a new RFTC tells that we should leave it for the time being as it is: keep RF within ASPTC. This general consensus was agreed on by the meeting attendees.

Tony brought up the point that sometimes something is "endorsed by ASPTC". Ramesh requests that members of the committee are informed about all endorsements. Wouter points out that these endorsements are rarely required but highly expected. Furthermore, he thinks that the group doing the endorsements should be well defined. Tony suggested that this group should be the officers of the ASPTC. Tuna thinks that endorsements having larger implications should be discussed more broadly. This was supported by the audience.

Tony informs about a general IEEE initiative to encourage "reproducible research". One example in this direction could be the proposal to create "meaningful test cases" for a given application. This includes also online reference (code listings, precise measurement setups, …) if it is not possible to be included in, e.g., a short paper/publication The discussion produced the following arguments:
- Hanspeter: how about throwing up several 10-1000k$ to do such a verification if chip fabrication is implied?
- Ramesh asked about benchmarks.

- Tuna: main reason for this is to tell the community also what is not working.
- Randy: state-of-the-art has to be cited together why it works a given way.
- Ramesh thinks that the benchmark is a good idea (e.g. against standard channel definition, etc.)
- Wouter: Yannis Tsividis has proposed exactly this approach for filters. Good examples are good for young people.
- Andre van Schaik: this could be a good proposal for a technical note.
- Ramesh: these papers could be put on the website.
- Hanspeter: a good paper should be accompanied by a critic of why it is a good paper.
- Jose Silva: TCAS gives feedback much too late…
- Wouter/Tuna: BOG is taking action with this issue; requirement for editor in chief is to handle efficiently with backlog.

The attendees thank Tony for the great work he did in 2006/07

14:25 Meeting adjourned

Meeting minutes: taken and compiled by Felix Lustenberger
New Orleans, 05/31/2007