

# Minutes of the SIAG ACDA Business meeting

1 June 2023, Seattle WA

The meeting had extremely strong attendance with 35+ participants including SIAM leadership (Suzanne Wilkes, Sven Leyffer, James Nagy, and Richard Moore).

## **Topic: Introduction**

The meeting started with Blair Sullivan's presentation of the statistics about the SIAG ACDA members. She noted that the SIAG could improve its connection with industrial partners to see the number of its non-academic members increase. Some statistics were skewed by missing information in member profiles. The SIAG in particular and SIAM in general use anonymized membership information such as position (academic, government, industry), department (CS, Math, others) to guide its actions and decisions. Perhaps the SIAG could ask its members to add those information to their membership profiles, if this is not an inconvenience.

## **Topic: ACDA23 PC Report**

Next, David Shmoys, ACDA 2023 conference co-chair, gave information about this year's conference. He outlined the double-blind policy as well as how submissions were reviewed by the PC. In total, the PC received 48 submissions for archival papers, of which 21 were accepted. There were 12 additional submissions for presentation without proceedings, of which 6 were accepted and 16 poster submissions, of which 10 were accepted.

## **Topic: Forms of Submission**

A discussion about the form of submissions for proceeding papers and contributed presentations (CP) ensued. This year both submission categories were up to 10 pages.

- **Against 10p CP** : Bruce Hendrickson has noted that a 10 page submission could be a barrier to entry for many people who want to join.
- **For 10p CP**: We have only so many slots for presentations; it would be very hard to judge quality with only 2 pages. So in order to maintain the quality of the presented material, we need full papers (although the CFP asked for at most 10p).
- **Against 10p**: traditional SIAM minisymposia are with short abstracts and shorter presentations. So perhaps we can have two sorts of presentations (long~30 mins, for the proceedings papers, and short ~15 mins for the minisymposium). Sivan Toledo has noted that the traditional minisymposia approach had also its advantage of bringing people in to increase participation.

*Side discussion:* Having two parallel tracks (one for proceeding papers, one for CPs) may allow meeting more people. Sven Leyffer reminded that two parallel sessions should be correctly timed to allow people switch between the talks. It was noted that this has to be decided well in advance of the conference for SIAM to arrange the logistics (there are not always additional

rooms to meet the needs on the spot). Alex Pothen noted that we could extend the conference length (one more day) before going to parallel.

- **Against 10p CP:** John Gilbert noted that not all disciplines that the SIAG touches have the same publication practice. Having a 2p submission could allow those not interested in publication to come and present as well.
- **For? 10p CP:** Andrea Walther noted that full paper presentations were of higher quality in general; so not sure about 2p submissions.

*Suggestion:* Alex also raised the point that we may need a rebuttal phase, as different communities within ACDA expect different things from a paper. A rebuttal may help authors to get heard. We could not discuss this topic in length as time was running short.

*Suggestion:* James Nagy suggested that posters and poster blitz when carefully implemented were very helpful (to increase interaction, networking and participation). Maybe just after an attractive invited talk. Also maybe ask senior people to do a few posters.

#### **Topic: ACDA23 Awards**

Finally, the Best Paper Award was announced, going to the paper “Small Searchable K-Spectra via Subset Rank Queries on the Spectral Burrows-Wheeler Transform” by Jarno N. Alanko, Simon J. Puglisi, & Jaakko Vuhtoniemi.

John Berry then presented the finalists for the best student presentation: Jannick Borowitz, Shangdi Yu, Xiaojun Dong, and Hunter McCoy. The awardee of the best student presentation was announced as Jannick Borowitz.

*Note:* This information was not posted anywhere. We said maybe we need a place to post it, so that the people who were recognized could easily show for it.

John Berry also applauded the PC and the poster selection committee for their work.

#### **Topic: Other SIAG Activities**

Blair Sullivan resumed, discussing the Early Career prize and encouraged people to nominate for the next one. Sivan Toledo and Alex Pothen noted that the award criteria need to carefully articulate excellence and relevance to SIAG and SIAM.

There were a few words about online seminars. There is a committee to search for speakers. The committee rotates and gets new members. Members are encouraged to get involved. There is a question of how many talks—3 or 4 per school year?

Blair then covered ACDA affiliated workshops and minisymposia to come.

James Nagy has encouraged the SIAG to think about GGSSS (Gene Golub SIAM Summer school) proposal as a very effective means to engage the next generation.

**Topic: 2025 ACDA conference**

2025 conference alternatives are discussed. After which we want to hold the conference every year. If we want to co-locate with a SIAM conference, 2025 alternatives are pronounced as AN25 in Montreal in July and CSE25 in Fort Worth, TX.

- Members asked if the co-location was a must? Richard Moore noted that not really but co-location helps logistics. ACDA is a small conference as of now. Europe could be a possibility to hold the conference at a university. SIAM officers note that SIAM started getting more control of conferences in Europe.
- Pros and cons of allocating with other big conferences are discussed. John Gilbert suggested that we can run a full conference every other year within a co-location scheme and the other years smaller ones.
- Someone in the audience said that the structure could be according to the co-location.
- Co-locating with the biggest SIAM conferences (CSE and AN) is a trouble (Andrea told).
- Prashant Pandey, David Shmoys, and Blair Sullivan voiced that a co-location with SODA in parallel to Alenex could be an option. Sivan Toledo reminded that there would be a confusion about sending to Alenex or to ACDA.
- Lenore Cohen also named SIAM DM as a potential co-location option. There is an issue of even versus odd years here. Richard Moore acknowledged the possibility and will be working with the officers.
- SIAM Optimization sounded a good group to stick to for having a set of more or less fixed dates, as moving from one co-locating conference to another requires changing the dates which is not great. However Suzanne Wilkes and Richard Moore noted that SIAM OP was held every three years.
- John Berry, John Gilbert, and others noted that TCS conferences or in particular SODA were not the way to go, as there is potential of being a secondary to those. David Shmoys noted that it is the job of the PC to formulate the CFP and handle the evaluations of the submissions to avoid that danger.