TECHNICAL CHAIR'S OVERVIEW

For this year's 36th edition of ICASSP, we received 2946 submissions, which is probably an all-time high: it represents an increase of 5% over last year and 12% over two years ago. The overall acceptance rate was 49%. Distributed over the various technical areas, as covered by the Signal Processing Society Technical Committees (TCs), the submission statistics are as follows:

Technical Area	TC Code	Submitted Papers	Accepted Papers
Speech Processing (SLTC)	SP	582	281
Spoken Language Processing (SLTC)	SLP	109	55
Image, Video and Multidimensional Signal Processing	IVMSP	429	198
Signal Processing Theory and Methods	SPTM	421	201
Signal Processing for Communications and Networking	SPCOM	355	168
Sensor Array and Multi-channel Signal Processing	SAM	217	110
Audio and Acoustic Signal Processing	AASP	261	132
Machine Learning for Signal Processing	MLSP	165	82
Bio Imaging and Signal Processing	BISP	126	67
Multimedia Signal Processing	MMSP	85	42
Information Forensics and Security	IFS	62	28
Design and Implementation of Signal Processing Systems	DISPS	75	40
Industry Technology Track	ITT	45	26
Signal Processing Education	SPED	14	8

The reviews were coordinated by the Technical Program Committee, whose members are listed on the next page and generally consist of the TC Chairs and Vice-Chairs. In total, 1504 reviewers provided 9612 reviews. The majority of papers received 3 or 4 reviews, and 3% of papers had only 2 reviews. Several TCs also had a "meta-review", where a TC member summarized and consolidated the available reviews.

The accepted papers were organized into 168 technical sessions: 60 oral sessions and 108 poster sessions. We emphasize here that the paper review process is conducted before paper assignments, and therefore the decision whether a paper goes into an oral or a poster session is entirely based on session planning, such that the technical content of sessions is as focused as possible. At ICASSP, the quality of accepted papers is not used to determine whether work is presented in oral or poster form; the sessions are equally prestigious.

Seen by IEEE region, the distribution of submitted papers is as follows:

USA	701
Canada	116
Europe, Middle East, Africa	1236
South-America	48
Asia, Australia	914

Likewise, the top-10 by number of submissions per country is:

1. United States	701
2. China	250
3. France	227
4. Japan	205
5. Germany	162
6. United Kingdom	152
7. Canada	116
8. Taiwan	113
9. Spain	98
10. Republic of Korea	77

Special sessions were coordinated by Mihaela van der Schaar and Isabel Trancoso. These sessions complement the regular program, and are focused on emerging signal processing topics of high interest to the community. We received 33 proposals and accepted 12 as oral sessions. The corresponding 72 papers were all peer-reviewed.

Show-and-Tell demonstrations were coordinated by Erik G. Larsson. In Show-and-Tell, innovations generated by research and engineering groups in industry, academia and governmental institutes are demonstrated. After peer-review, we accepted 12 proposals.

Tutorial presentations were coordinated by Yonina C. Eldar and Nikos D. Sidiropoulos. We received 32 proposals, and accepted 16, spanning a wide range of topical areas. Each proposal was reviewed by 3 to 4 reviewers.

Plenary talks were coordinated by Pierre Moulin and Hynek Heřmanský. We are very pleased to announce the following four excellent presentations:

PLEN-1: Making Sense of Zettabyte World, Henry Tirri, Nokia Research Center, Palo Alto, CA, USA
PLEN-2: Does ASR have a PHD, or is it just Piled Higher and Deeper? Nelson Morgan, International Computer Science Institute and UC Berkeley, USA
PLEN-3: Directions in Immersive Communication, Philip A. Chou, Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, USA
PLEN-4: Bayesian Nonparametrics for Signal Processing Michael I. Jordan, Department of EECS, UC Berkeley, USA

Trends in Signal Processing is a new type of event for ICASSP, wherein each of the Technical Committees presents expert summaries of current trends. They will be held during lunch time on Wednesday till Friday, and last 30 minutes. In a session, two selected Technical Committee members will present their expert opinion on the most significant advances and upcoming trends within the TC area over the past year. The TC chair will introduce the speakers and moderate the discussion--or initiate and stimulate it, as in a panel discussion. The expert summaries will also be published in IEEE Signal Processing Magazine, later in the year. Coordination was done by Jose C. Principe.

ICASSP is pleased to present best student paper awards to 6 students who are first author of a particularly meritorious contribution. The initial selection has been made by the TC Chairs, and the final selection by a small but widely oriented review committee chaired by Nikos D. Sidiropoulos. Three more ICASSP student-authored papers have won the IEEE Ganesh N. Ramaswamy Memorial Student Grant and IEEE Spoken Language Processing Student Travel Grants; the selection was coordinated by the Speech and Language

Processing Technical Committee. In addition, the IEEE Signal Processing Society has offered a large number of merit-based travel grants to authors of developing countries. The selection was coordinated by Min Wu.

We wish to thank the members of the ICASSP Organizing Committee, and in particular the members of the Technical Program Committee and Area Chairs, who have carried the brunt of the work. We thank the numerous volunteers and reviewers for helping to create an exciting and technically stimulating program for this year's conference. Finally, we express our utmost gratitude to Lance Cotton and Billene Mercer from Conference Management Services, whose prompt and professional assistance was invaluable in composing the technical program.

Alle-Jan van der Veen, Jonathon Chambers
Technical Program Chairs