
Minutes of the IFAC Cognition and Control TC meeting

This meeting was held on 29 October, 2007 in conjunction with the AFNC 2007 workshop in Valenciennes, France.

Present: R. Babuska (TC chair)

TM Guerra (TC co-chair)

S. Ge

A. Sala

R. Precup

E. Ikonen (new TC member)

Meeting agenda:

- 1) Organization of conferences and workshops in 2009 and 2010
- 2) Place of TC CC within IFAC, scope, members
- 3) Plans for other activities (joint publications, books, software, etc.)

Outcome of discussions:

-
- 1) Organization of conferences and workshops in 2009 and 2010
-

It is desirable to organize one conference in 2009 and then the next AFNC workshop in 2010.

To get sufficient attendance for the conference, it should be organized in conjunction with another conference on related topics (eg IEEE - are there issues with copyright?, are there examples of such past events?) or it could be co-organized by another IFAC TC (such as

learning systems, or the two TC's within our CC). Robert Babuska will contact the respective TC chairs to investigate what possibilities are available.

Two of TC members are interested in organizing these events:

a) Prof. Okyay Kaynak made a proposal to hold a workshop in 2009 in Istanbul (attached). Robert Babuska has in the meantime contacted him to find out what his ideas are on the possible joint organization with other conferences /bodies.

b) Prof. Sam Ge proposed to organize the next AFNC workshop in 2010 in Singapore. By that time, new hotels and other facilities should be completed and hotel prices will hopefully become reasonable.

Moroccan researchers would be interested in hosting a future event. At this moment, there is, however, no NMO in Morocco, so organizing an event within a short horizon does not seem feasible.

Additional comment: Sam Ge mentioned that Asian (mainly Chinese) researchers hesitate to submit their publications to IFAC events, as the proceedings traditionally have not been included in citations databases and do not have the necessary impact factor. Antonio Sala reported that the IFAC publications committee has prepared a plan for getting IFAC proceedings online via Elsevier. This will hopefully improve the current situation, but the effect will not become visible in the near future.

2) Place of TC CC within IFAC, scope, members

We briefly discussed to what degree the scope of our TC fits within the CC 3, given the scopes of the other two TC's.

There is not so much relation between the research subjects, so in this sense the structure is not ideal, but at the same time there are no obvious alternatives. Also the name of the committee is not ideal - a reasonable alternative could be "Computational Intelligence in Control". We will poll the committee members to find out what their ideas / suggestions are.

Most emphasis in our TC is on fuzzy and neural techniques. Considerably less research is devoted to other promising approaches such as reinforcement learning, Markov decision processes, swarm intelligence, etc. Enso Ikonen accepted our invitation to become a new member of the committee, with the outlook of reinforcing research in the above-mentioned areas.

We are looking for new (young) TC members willing to actively participate in the TC. Our current members database contains quite a number of inactive members, who should be replaced by new ones. Everybody is invited to suggest new members.

3) Plans for other activities (joint publications, books, software, etc.)

The contacts among several of our TC members have lead to interesting collaborations and subsequently joint publications. This is a very positive aspect and it would be nice if our committee can further strengthen this trend.

Possibilities include an edited book (as suggested by Thierry Marie), including chapters by prominent researchers, for instance, based on invited sessions, etc.