

IEEE Technical Committee on Variable Structure and Sliding Mode Control

Notes of the Technical Committee Meeting held on June 30th 2014 at VSS 2014, Nantes, France

Present: Bijnan Bandyopadhyay, Andrzej Bartoszewicz, Michael Basin, Igor Boiko, Leonid Fridman, Liu Hsu, Arie Levant, Shihua Li, Franck Plestan, Yuri Shtessel, Sarah Spurgeon, Elio Usai, Xinghuo Yu

1. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.
2. The Chair updated members on progress with the actions identified at the previous meeting:
 - The Chair thanked TC members for sending her details of all activities so that the TC report demonstrates the breadth and depth of our activities. She asked members to continue to provide updates so that rigorous returns of data/facts on the contribution of our TC can be made to IEEE.
 - The Chair reported to Frank Allgower that Leonid Fridman has been nominated as Vice Chair of the TC and is the TCs nomination as Chair for 2015. A biography had been requested. The formal ratification is still awaited.
 - One nomination for the post of Vice Chair for 2015 had been received. The TC fully supported that Chris Edwards should become the TC Vice Chair with effect from January 2015. Leonid Fridman noted that the TC had excellent options for succession planning in the Chair and Vice Chair roles moving into the future.
3. The Chair presented the update from Chris Edwards of the issues raised at the meeting of Technical Activities Board (see Appendix 1). Generally the TC appears in good standing with TAB and is up-to-date with the web site developments and the Wikipedia pages. It was suggested that all committee members look at the current mission statement of the TC which appears on the website to make sure we are all happy with it. Any suggested changes, please email the Chair. The meeting discussed the issue of matching the TC with an equivalent IFAC TC and it was commented that this was difficult with the current TC structure in IFAC – the interests of our own TC overlap with several IFAC TCs and there is not a clear match. Our TC is the focus for the community within the wider domain of control which has interests in variable structure and sliding mode control.
4. The Chair reported that Markus Reichhartinger had been nominated as a member of the Committee. Markus is from Graz University of Technology and has been actively involved in participating in and supporting TC activities. The Committee also currently has no representative from Austria. The meeting confirmed that they were happy to invite Markus to join and the Chair will write to him, seeking the data required in order to update the website.
5. The Chair reported that a bid to host VSS 2018 had been received from Universiti Technology of Malaysia (UTM). It was agreed that the Chair would write to the

applicants thanking them for their interest but explaining that it was too early to consider this and that an open call would be made which explained the bidding process in the future. A bid following the call would be welcome.

6. The main purpose of the meeting was to decide on the location for VSS 2016. One bid had been received from Shihua Li to host VSS 2016 in Nanjing, China. A full proposal had been received and circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. Some queries had been raised regarding the cost of registration and Xinghuo Yu responded at the meeting that the fees would be less than those charged for the current workshop. Further discussion ensued concerning the desirability of setting the fee structure so that research students could participate fully in the event. The Committee agreed that VSS 2016 would be held in Nanjing. Leonid Fridman undertook to announce this in his closing speech at the conference where Shihua Li would show a short video to all the delegates at VSS 2014 in order to promote the next workshop.

6. Any other business

Elio Usai highlighted a current opportunity to submit Review/Survey papers on practical applications to the IEEE Transactions Control Systems Technology. Any submissions should not refer just to the work of the author but should be a review across a domain. Experimental results/real applications were desirable.

7. The next TC meeting will take place at CDC 2014.

S.K. Spurgeon

2 July 2014

Appendix 1

Notes from ACC TAB meeting June 2014

- The following questions were posed to all TC chairs: why do the TCs exist?, what do the TCs want to do?, what is the “mission” of each TC? (e.g. should they try to promote engagement with industry, identify grand challenges etc). Each committee should consider these questions.
- Who should decide membership of the technical committees? At the moment whilst there are some official IEEE guidelines, it seems at ground level there are a wide range of practices in force— ranging from “by invitation only” to “anyone is welcome”. (I think the underlying drive here is to try to attract new up-coming members.) No firm conclusion was reached as to whether a strong push towards uniformity should be undertaken.
- The Wikiproject (led by Jakob Stoustrup) to create webpages associated with the subject areas covered by the TCs was discussed. It was stressed that whilst the TCs were being asked to create and monitor these pages, by their very nature, they would not be “owned” by the TCs, and other people could not be prevented from updating them. Each TC chair would be contacted with details on the timescales involved. (I think the first deadline will be in November.)
- There was discussion about matching-up TCs with their IFAC equivalent to create joint events and improve impact.
- There was an update on progress with regard to the TC webpages. Help would be provided if certain TCs were struggling. (Chris Dyer "conference catalyst")

Chris Edwards