

Minutes of the Nonlinear Circuits and Systems Technical
Committee meeting 2017

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:Location:

Marriott Waterfront Hotel and Conference Centre - Salon Heron
Baltimore, USA (in the framework of ISCAS 2017)

:Date:

29th May 2017

:Time:

13.00-14.00 UTC-04:00

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Members present at the meeting (22)

- Sergio Callegari (Chair)
- Herbert Iu (via teleconferencing, Chair Elect)
- Elena Blokhina (Secretary)
- Federico Bizzarri
- Chi Tsun (Ben) Cheng
- Alessandro Colombo
- Abdelali El Aroudi
- Orla Feely
- Tyrone Fernano
- Todd Freeborn
- Dimitri Galayko
- Zbigniew Galias
- Michael Green
- Francis Lau
- Adrian Leuciuc
- Xiang Li
- Yoshifumi Nishio
- Hiroo Sekiya
- Marco Storace
- Michael Tse
- Yongxiang Xia
- Wei Xing Zheng

Guests

- Michael Popp (on behalf of Wolfgang Mathis)
- Jens Anders (newly approved member)
- Fabio Pareschi (newly approved member)

This documents makes use of the following acronyms

CASS

Circuits and Systems Society
ISCAS
International Symposium on Circuits and Systems
NCAS
Nonlinear Circuits and Systems
TC
Technical Committee
TCAS (TCAS-I and TCAS-II)
IEEE Transactions on Circuits and System (-I and -II
respectively)
RCM
Review Committee Members

1. Call of order, welcome

At 13:00, the Chair of the Committee, Sergio Callegari, opened the annual meeting of the NCAS TC and welcomed all the participants. He presented the meeting agenda, and the agenda was approved. The Chair introduced himself, the Chair Elect (Herbert Iu, who was attending via teleconferencing), the Secretary (Elena Blokhina) and the ISCAS 2017 Track Co-Chairs (Dimitri Galayko and Marco Storace). The attending members of the TC and other participants introduced themselves.

2. Approval of previous minutes

Sergio Callegari informed that the minutes from the 2016 meeting were available online at the TC website prior to the meeting.

Copies of the minutes were circulated among the present TC members by Elena Blokhina, with a request from Sergio Callegari for comments or updates on the minutes. Sergio Callegari called to approved the minutes. The minutes were approved by rise of hands by all members.

3. Communications

Technical Activities Division meeting
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Sergio Callegari reported on the annual Technical Activities Division meeting (TC Chairs meeting with the CASS Technical Activities Vice President, Eduard Alarcon).

Sergio Callegari informed the participants that a number of strategic changes would be introduced at the Society level and at ISCAS 2018, and the Committee should base its strategic planning on this information. The Circuits and Systems Society will focus on Applications, Industry, Multi-Disciplinarity and Emerging Topics, and these will also be reflected in how ISCAS will be organised.

(i) ISCAS 2018 will keep the conventional Track Structure and the new Theme Structure introduced in 2017.

(ii) CASS introduced Special Interest Groups that are flexible groups on cross-disciplinary topics.

(iii) ISCAS 2018 will offer options for selected papers to be published in IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems I and II.

Sergio Callegari stressed that the committee must adjust to be able to deal with these global changes.

Planning for ISCAS 2018

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With regard to ISCAS 2018 details, Sergio Callegari confirmed that the revised Nonlinear Track structure, introduced at ISCAS 2017, is going to stay at ISCAS 2018; as well as the additional Theme structure, also introduced at ISCAS 2017. The option to select the primary and secondary sub-tracks for multi-disciplinary papers will also be the case at ISCAS 2018.

Among the new implementations at ISCAS 2018:

(i) The ISCAS 2018 organisers will introduce an author satisfaction survey on the quality of the review process. This will be mandatory for the authors of accepted papers.

(ii) The accepted papers for ISCAS 2018 will be available prior to the conference with no fees for a limited period of time through IEEE Xplore. This aims at improving the visibility of the conference.

(iii) The ISCAC proceedings on IEEE Xplore will be given a "new look", and the presentation of the proceeding will reflect the theme structure.

(iv) The ISCAC ISCAS organisers will offer "channels" to publish conference papers in IEEE TCAS-I. Some selected papers will be offered a chance to be published directly in TCAS-II.

Recommendations to publish selected papers in TCAS-I and TCAS-II will rely on reviews, and the review process will be even more important. Sergio Callegari highlighted that the TC must follow tighter deadlines and be more organised to perform a successful review process.

(v) ISCAS 2018 will change the usual format of its call-for-papers from four pages to four pages plus one page of references. This is aimed at improving citations and ensuring better referencing of the literature.

Sergio Callegari then informed that the "Communications" part of the meeting is over.

4. Reporting -----

TC Activities from ISCAS 2016 to ISCAS 2017
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Sergio Callegari proceeded to the TC activities over the period from May 2016 to May 2017. He mentioned that a detailed report was available in electronic form prior to the meeting, and some printed copies are available at the meeting. Elena Blokhina distributed printed copies of the TC Activities Report. Sergio Callegari thanked those who submitted the required information for the report and mentioned that only 21 members contributed to it. He also mentioned that the format of the report is a "work in progress" but it contains the information that may be relevant to all CASS members. The report is stored online on the CASS website.

Sergio Callegari informed that the TC members were invited to give lectures on technical topics and also on educational topics. The track record of TC members publications was excellent. TC members served on technical and programme committees and served in leadership positions in CASS. Sergio Callegari reported that the TC also endorsed conferences and workshops and recommended track chairs for other CASS conferences.

ISCAS 2017 Track Organisation (by Dimitri Galayko and Marco Storage)
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Sergio Callegari then invited the ISCAS 2017 Track Co-Chair Marco Storage to present (on behalf of himself and Dimitri Galayko) the report on ISCAS 2017 Nonlinear Track

Organisation.

Marco Storace introduced himself and began the presentation on the Track Organisation. He informed that the Nonlinear Track has now eight sub-tracks. The Review Committee was comprised of 19 members who were selected according to an online poll run in June 2016. The poll revealed the members who can serve in "problematic" areas traditionally lacking RCMs. Marco Storace informed that the track observed a decrease in submitted papers from 84 in 2016 to 55 this year. Detailed numbers and distributions were presented on the slides.

With regard to the review process, not all RCMs received the same number of papers, and this reflected a nonuniform distribution of submissions across the sub-tracks. The review process went smoothly, with four reviews per paper on average and a large number of papers receiving good reviews. The acceptance rate was 44% with 24 papers accepted. Marco Storace again mentioned that there is a decrease in the number of submitted papers and speculated that this change might have been due to the restructuring of the track that seemed less appealing for conference participants.

Sergio Callegari thanked Marco Storace for the report and pointed out two particular points: change in the number of submitted papers and change in the structure of the track. In particular, Sergio Callegari highlighted that the Oscillators and Phase-Locked Loops sub-track was moved to another track and the Nonlinear Track lost many papers on this topic. The Nonlinear Track however retained a sub-track on modelling and analysis of Phase-Locked Loops.

Vote on the new TC Charter

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Sergio Callegari proceeded to the progress on the TC Charter. He reminded that the Charter team was composed of Elena Blokhina, Herbert Iu, Jinhu Lu and Sergio Callegari as officers and Francis Lau and Ljiljana Trajkovic as past officers. Sergio Callegari thanked the team for their work and the members who contributed to the Charter. He reminded that due to different rules for online meetings and in-person meetings, the Charter was not approved during the online vote. For this reason, the approval of the Charter would take place during the meeting. Elena Blokhina distributed ballots to vote for approval/disapproval of the Charter.

5. General orders

New members

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While the ballots were distributed, Sergio Callegari reminded about the CVs of candidates who wished to join the TC. Three applications were made (Jens Anders, Marcus Prochaska and Fabio Pareschi). Sergio Callegari explained that the approval of new members were delayed due to work on the new Charter. He explained that two applicants are present at the meeting. Jens Anders and Fabio Pareschi introduced themselves.

All applications were unanimously approved by rise of hands and the new members were congratulated.

<Resumed> Vote on the new TC Charter

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Elena Blokhina announced the result of the vote on the new Charter. Sergio Callegari announced that the TC now has the new Charter that is aligned with those of other technical committees in CASS.

Election of the ISCAS 2017 Track Chairs

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Sergio Callegari stated that the TC has a tradition to elect the Track Chair(s) for ISCAS. He reminded that Track Chair(s) are not considered as officers of the TC anymore but they have very important roles in the TC. The Track Chairs are elected among those who volunteered for this role. He further informed that two nominations were made prior to the meeting (Ben Cheng and Federico Bizzarri). As there were no other nominations from the attending members and no objections, Ben Cheng and Federico Bizzarri were approved, and Sergio Callegari congratulated them. Sergio Callegari informed them that the new Track Chairs are advised to attend a meeting on the Cross Check system on Wednesday 31st May.

Election of the TC Secretary

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Sergio Callegari proceeded to the election of the TC Secretary who will serve from 2017 to 2019. He mentioned that there were two nominations made prior to the meeting (Dimitri Galayko and Marco Storace) and asked if anyone else wishes to volunteer. Sergio Callegari reminded to the attending members that both

volunteers are extremely competent and served as the Track Chairs. Elena Blokhina distributed ballots to vote on the Secretary.

Election of the TC Chair Elect
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While the counting of the votes on the TC Secretary was in progress, Sergio Callegari proceeded to the election of the Chair Elect who will serve from 2017 to 2019. He reminded that the Chair Elect will automatically become the Chair of the Committee after ISCAS 2019. He informed that there was one nomination made prior to the meeting (Elena Blokhina) and reminded that this is an important vote as this role requires strong commitment. As there were no other nominations and objections, Elena Blokhina was approved as the Chair Elect of the TC. Sergio Callegari congratulated Elena Blokhina.

6. Strategic Planning

Chair's comments on the development of the committee
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Sergio Callegari mentioned that there are a number of important issues that he wishes to be addressed in the future.

Sergio Callegari pointed out that the TC must increase the number of submitted papers in the area of nonlinear circuits and systems. In particular, the TC must increase the number of papers submitted by TC members.

He stressed that the TC must ensure that papers on the methods and simulations of Oscillator s and Phase-Locked Loops are directed to the Nonlinear Track.

Sergio Callegari said that it might be possible for the Track Chairs to see all the papers submitted to ISCAS 2018 to improve the interactions of the ISCAS Track Chairs.

He also stressed the need to increase the numbers of special sessions on emerging topics not only at ISCAS but at other flagship conferences. These special sessions can be organised in cooperation with other TCs.

Sergio Callegari reminded about the changes introduced at the next ISCAS and suggested that the TC must actively take advantage of those changes. He urged that the TC must work

efficiently to meet tight deadlines of the next ISCAS.

He also reminded that the TC is represented at other conferences. While the nonlinear track is not large there, it was successful at the conferences such as NGCAS, NOLTA, ICECS, and the TC needs to increase the number of conferences where it is present.

Sergio Callegari also urged to work on membership as currently only a smaller number of TC members are active, and this must be improved. He reminded that the new Charter allows two types of membership and suggested that some inactive members can become affiliated members for the "well-being" of the TC.

Elena Blokhina made an announcement about the new CASS resources website and asked the members to contribute educational and outreach materials such as tutorials, lectures, etc. Sergio Callegari suggested that some of TC activities can be made in cooperation with the TC of Education in Circuits and Systems.

Sergio Callegari suggested that in the future the TC should have its own means to organise votes and ballots without without resourcing directly to CASS.

Sergio Callegari suggested that the TC must work on its Strategic Vision and draft a corresponding documents. Sergio asked Herbert Iu to set up a committee to work on Strategic Vision.

Sergio Callegari urged to take benefits of social networking tools and, in particular, to update the TC logo used on Collabratec.

<resumed> Election of the TC Secretary
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Elena Blokhina announced the result of the vote on the TC Secretary. Marco Storace was elected and the attending members congratulated him.

7. Communications from members and any other business

Jens Anders noted that his area is IC design and noted the difficulties related to nonlinear behaviour.

8. Adjournment

Sergio Callegari thanked everyone who attended the meeting.
The meeting was concluded at 14.10.

*Prepared by Elena Blokhina with help from Marco Storace in
June 2017*