



COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEXITY FOUNDATION

Proceedings of the 2021 Business Meeting

Date: July 20, 2021, 14:30 - 15:40 EDT

Location: Online, over Zoom

Chair: Venkatesan Guruswami, President of CCF

Scribe: Ashwin Nayak, Secretary of CCF. Minutes reviewed by the chair and approved by the board.

Agenda:

CCC 2021

- PC Report and Awards
- Virtual Arrangements Report

CCC 2022

- Program Committee
- Local Arrangements (@ U. Penn, Philadelphia)

CCC 2023

- hosting bids
- Q&A / Straw poll

TheoretCS – a new open access TCS journal

CCF matters

- Treasurer Report
- Changes to the CCF Board

Convention for attributing quotes:

C: Chair

S: Speaker for the topic (indicated if other than the Chair)

O: Other participant

Initial Remarks

C: Huge thanks to CCF Secretary Ashwin Nayak, CCF Board Members, Valentine Kabanets & CCC 2021 PC, and “local” organizer Benjamin Rossman for their significant efforts to put together the program and organize CCC 2021 virtually. Thanks to the Complexity community for their continued support and excellent response!

CCC'21 PC Report and Award

Speaker: Valentine Kabanets, Program Committee Chair for CCC'21

- Thanks to the PC members: Arkadev Chattopadhyay, Irit Dinur, Yuval Ishai, Swastik Kopparty, Nutan Limaye, Ryan O'Donnell, Igor Carboni Oliveira, Alexander Razborov, Barna Saha, Emanuele Viola, Henry Yuen !
- Overview of the process
 - 110 submissions (last year 101), from 25 countries
 - 141 distinct sub-reviewers employed. Thanks to the sub-reviewers!
 - 10 weeks from the submission deadline to the notification date
 - 2 days for paper bidding and 1 day for paper assignment
 - 7 weeks for reviews/subreviews to be turned in
 - 3 weeks for online discussions and gradual assignment of “accept/reject”
 - Online PC meeting to make final decisions

- Acceptance rate
 - 110 submissions, 41 accepted (37%)
 - Comparison with past years:

2020:	38 / 99	(38%)
2019:	32 / 98	(33%)
2018:	28 / 74	(38%)
2017:	33 / 98	(34%)
2016:	34 / 91	(37%)
2015:	30 / 110	(27%)
2014:	29 / 94	(31%)
2013:	29 / 90	(32%)
2012:	34 / 119	(29%)
2011:	30 / 83	(36%)

- Strong submissions, it was good to accept 41 papers and we would have liked to accept even a few more.

- Submissions and acceptance rate by country

country	authors ↔	submitted ▼	accepted ↔	acceptance rate ↔	PC members ↔
United States	94	44.31	14.61	0.33	6
Israel	17	9.97	6.63	0.67	2
India	22	9.50	2.75	0.29	2
United Kingdom	14	6.75	2.08	0.31	-
Germany	19	5.57	2.32	0.42	-
China	11	4.75	0.75	0.16	-
Russia	6	3.75	3.75	1.00	-
Canada	8	2.91	1.01	0.35	2
Australia	9	2.75	1.25	0.45	-
Singapore	5	2.58	1.58	0.61	-
France	5	2.50	0.00	0.00	-
Czechia	5	2.00	0.75	0.38	-
Italy	4	2.00	0.25	0.13	-
Switzerland	4	1.54	1.14	0.74	-
Poland	3	1.25	0.00	0.00	-
Netherlands	4	1.20	0.70	0.58	-
Denmark	3	1.17	0.25	0.21	-
Greece	1	1.00	0.00	0.00	-
Iran	1	1.00	0.00	0.00	-
Sweden	2	1.00	0.00	0.00	-
Norway	3	0.75	0.00	0.00	-
Japan	1	0.58	0.33	0.57	-
Ukraine	1	0.50	0.50	1.00	-
Portugal	1	0.33	0.33	1.00	-
United Arab Emirates	1	0.33	0.00	0.00	-

- Best student paper award: Yaroslav Alekseev, St. Petersburg State University, Russia, for “*A Lower Bound for Polynomial Calculus with Extension Rule*”. Congratulations!
- Many thanks to all the authors who submitted; the program committee; the sub-reviewers; the CCF Board of Trustees; especially to Venkat Guruswami, Ashwin Nayak, and Shubhangi Saraf for help and advice with logistics for the virtual conference; the “Local” Arrangements Committee, especially Benjamin Rossman for all the organization and arrangements; Eric Allender for the invited talk; Michael Wagner and Meena Mahajan for the proceedings; and **you** the attendees!

C: Thanks to Valentine and the PC!

CCC'21 Virtual Arrangements Report

Speaker: Benjamin Rossman, Local Arrangements Chair for CCC'21

- Local arrangements committee: Benjamin Rossman (chair), Henry Yuen, Sasho Nokolov, Sushant Sachdeva
- Huge thanks to Valentine Kabanets, Venkat Guruswami, Ashwin Nayak for the website, Ronen Shaltiel for the registration page, Bryan Eelhart from the Fields Institute, Ian Mertz for designing the Gather.town space
- Thanks to the Fields Institute
 - Free use of Zoom license + logistics support
 - Had pledged CA\$10,000 travel support
 - Hope to return in-person in CCC 2024 (?)
- Attendance
 - Number of registrations was 290

Students	128
Faculty	97
Postdoc	28
Researcher	24
Other	13

- About 70-80 attending per session so far

O: How many views do the recorded talks have?

S: I haven't tracked the statistics.

O: YouTube shows the number of views for each talk. 30-60 views per talk; the highest is 137 views.

C: Thanks to Ben for the organization!

CCC'22 Program Committee

- PC chair: Shachar Lovett
- PC members: Benny Applebaum, Eshan Chattopadhyay, Gil Cohen, Johan Håstad, Antonina Kolokolova, Pravesh Kothari, Mrinal Kumar, Marvin Kunnemann, Nitin Saxena, Osamu Watanabe, John Wright
- The timeline will be similar to that of CCC 2021

CCC'22 Local arrangements

Speaker: Anindya De, Local Arrangements Committee Chair for CCC'22

- CCC 2022 in Philadelphia / online
 - Dates: July 20 – 23, 2022
 - Venue: University of Pennsylvania campus. All the talks and reception to be held in the Hall of Flags
 - Estimated registration fee US \$250 for students, \$350 for other attendees
 - Negotiations are underway to reduce the registration fee
 - Planning a hybrid conference
- Arrangements
 - Reception on July 20
 - Main conference from July 21 to 23
 - Potential day of workshops / tutorial talks on July 20
 - Registration fee includes breakfast, box lunch and coffee breaks
- **Travel and accommodations**
 - Closest airport: Philadelphia International Airport, 20 minutes from campus
 - Direct flights to most destinations in the US (American Airlines) and several places in Europe including London, Frankfurt, Paris, Rome, Zurich
 - Newark Liberty International airport about 1.5 hrs away and is a United hub
 - Many hotels in the center city – about 20 min walk from the conference venue
 - We'll reserve a limited block of rooms at the "Study at University City" at \$198.00 + taxes.
 - There should be some less expensive options in the center city but summer is a busy time in Philly. So, book early.
- Attractions
 - Many sites related to the formation of the United States including the Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell
 - 1st UNESCO world heritage city in the US
 - There are many museums and plenty of restaurants
 - New York (1.5 hrs) and Washington DC (2 hrs) away by train
- Suggestions for hybrid conference are welcome. Hope to see you in Philly!

C: The board will discuss the situation and conference format 6 months in advance with the local organizers. Hopefully, some in-person participation will be possible. A hybrid conference format may be desirable regardless, for example for people in convenient time zones who are not able to attend in person.

CCC'23 Bids and Discussion

Bid for Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

(University of Michigan)

Speaker: Mahdi Cheraghchi

- CCC 2023 in Ann Arbor
 - Venue: University of Michigan central campus, Michigan League

- Beautiful, historic building, with lots of rooms for talks, refreshments, reception; beautiful garden
- Local arrangements: Mahdi Cheraghchi, Euiwoong Lee
- Dates: July 16 – 19, 2023 (but flexible)
- Reception on July 16, and possibly workshop
- Estimated registration fee: \$150 for students, \$250 for others; includes catered breakfast / lunch, coffee breaks, reception dinner
- Why Michigan?
 - CCC in the Midwest: Chicago (2001, 1991), Minneapolis (1995), Buffalo (1998)
 - Never been held in Michigan
 - Easy access, short drive from Detroit MI
 - Beautiful summers (long days: sunset > 9 PM), ideal for outdoor activities
 - Lots of great restaurants and summer activities (e.g., Art Fair, 3rd week of July)
- Travel
 - Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)
 - 2nd largest Delta hub
 - 20 miles from Ann Arbor, less than 30 min drive
 - Lots of direct domestic and international flights
 - Easy drive from
 - Toronto (4 hours)
 - Pittsburgh (4 hours)
 - Chicago (3.5 hours); Amtrak as well
 - Lots of Midwest locations
- Accommodations
 - Lots of options

Property	Rate per night (without tax)	Location
Holiday Inn	\$145 – \$170 (group rate ~ \$96)	North campus (too far?)
Graduate Ann Arbor	\$190 – \$260 group rate ~ \$159 – \$169	Next to Campus (closest)
Residence Inn by Marriott	\$189 – \$250 (group rate ~ \$179– \$218)	Downtown (10 min walk)
Hampton Inn Ann Arbor-South	\$139 – \$165	South – Briardwood (10 min drive/shuttle, 25 min bus)

- Hotels have shuttles
- Can bicycle
- Ann Arbor highlights
 - Ranked #1 Best College town (Forbes'18), #2 Best City to Live (niche.com'19)
 - Downtown is a 10 min walk from campus
 - U-M: Stadium (largest in US), Museum of Art / Natural history, Botanical gardens / Arboretum
 - Ann Arbor Art Fair (3rd week of July)
- Hope to see you in Ann Arbor!

Bid for Sydney, Australia

(University of Technology Sydney)

Speaker: Venkat Guruswami, on behalf of Troy Lee

- CCC 2023 in Sydney
 - Venue: University of Technology Sydney
 - Lecture theater in the "cheese grater", capacity 200 people
 - Local Organizers: Clément Canonne (USyd), Troy Lee (UTS), Youming Qiao (UTS)
 - Preliminary Dates: July 18–21 (UTS winter break)
 - Reception and workshop/tutorial talks July 18. Main conference July 19–21
 - Estimated registration fees US\$ 100 for students, US\$ 200 for others
 - Registration fee includes breakfast and coffee breaks. Lunch will be on your own.
 - There are many food options on campus and in the immediate neighborhood
 - We will also support a hybrid format, may help people for whom distance is an issue
- Travel and accommodations
 - UTS campus is centrally located
 - 5 minute walk to central station
 - Airport is 15 min to central station by public transport
 - Direct flights from South Africa, Eastern rim of Asia, West coast of the Americas
 - More accessible for those in Asia than a typical CCC
 - Hotel options ~150 US\$ / night within 5 minute walk or closer to tourist attractions
- Attractions
 - July is in Winter!
 - Average high / low temperature 17°C / 8°C (63°F / 48°F)
 - Many beautiful sites: Sydney opera house, botanic gardens, Taronga zoo, Bondi beach
 - Possible day trip to Blue Mountains or visit Uluru or Great Barrier Reef while here
- CCC has never been below 32.7° N. Come, try the Southern hemisphere!

C: Typically, we have travel support for US attendees.

O: How much is the airfare?

S: Current airfares are abnormally high, I do not have the figures.

O: How large is the Theory community in Sydney?

S: There is a small but growing community in Australia.

O: The student population will be smaller than in CCC locations we have had so far.

C: Travel restrictions may also be a concern. The potential organizers (from all three bids this year) are open to organizing in a later year, if their bid is not successful.

O: Extrapolating from the current situation in Australia, travel restrictions are likely to extend to 2023.

O: It is expected that the vast majority of the Australian population would be vaccinated by March 2022. The travel restrictions may be lifted then.

Bid for Warwick, UK

(University of Warwick)

Speaker: Tom Gur

- CCC 2023 in Warwick
 - Venue: University of Warwick campus
 - Can have conference, accommodation, and meals on campus, within a few minutes of each other
 - In English countryside, close to villages
 - Dates: July 18 – 20, 2023 or July 25 – 27, 2023 (flexible)
 - Estimated registration fee: £120 for students, £ 200 for others
 - Registration fee includes meals and refreshments, and drinks at the reception
 - Local arrangements: Artur Czumaj and Tom Gur
 - Would be the first CCC in the UK
- Venue details
 - Several big lecture halls (capacity: 250-370)
 - Smaller rooms (capacity 100-150)
 - Professional video recording equipment, can stream talks live
 - Large social space available
 - Small spaces with blackboards for discussions
- **Travel and accommodations**
 - 20–25 minutes from Birmingham Airport
 - 1.5 hours from London
 - 6+ airports in the nearby area
 - Various accommodation/hotel options on campus and nearby towns (£50–120 per night); 4-5 star hotel on campus, others short bus ride away
 - Restaurants on campus and in surrounding areas
- **Attractions**
 - Castles and historical sites
 - Stratford upon Avon – Shakespeare’s birthplace; Royal Shakespeare Theatre
 - Classic English countryside
- Hope to see you in Warwick!

O: Are all the lecture and discussions rooms in the same building?

S: They are in a new conference centre. The entire campus can be traversed in 10 minutes.

O: When did we last have CCC outside the US?

C: CCC 2020 was supposed to be in Saarbruecken, but was held virtually. Before that, CCC 2017 was held in Riga. Usually, CCC is held outside North America once in three years.

O: When is FCRC next?

C: CCC has not been held with FCRC the past few times (2015 or 2019). I do not know if FCRC will be held in 2023.

O: 2023 would be a standard FCRC year.

O: Several Theory conferences were collocated with 2019, and it was a heavy schedule.

O: CCC is small and may be overshadowed by other conferences.

C: The cost is higher, there is less scheduling flexibility, invited talks, tutorials and workshops may not be possible because the schedule is more compact.

O: The cost is proportional to the number of days, so a more relaxed schedule may not be possible.

Straw Poll

A total of 44 people voted.

- Warwick 22 votes
- Ann Arbor 12 votes
- Sydney 10 votes

C: Thanks to all the volunteers for their bids!

TheoretiCS

Speaker: Venkat Guruswami, on behalf of Meena Mahajan

- New open-access journal for all of TCS, taking a broad view of the field
- Diamond/platinum open access: no fees for authors or readers
- Joint project involving broad TCS community, with Advisory Board members including representatives from major TCS conferences (FOCS, STOC, SODA, ICALP, CCC, SoCG, ...)
- CCC representative: Dieter van Melkebeek
- Editors-in-Chief: Uri Zwick ("Track A"), Javier Esparza ("Track B")
- Area editors relevant to CCC include: Andris Ambainis, Albert Atserias, Anuj Dawar, Venkatesan Guruswami, Johan Håstad, Ravi Kannan, Moni Naor, Nitin Saxena, Alistair Sinclair, Gregory Valiant, Mihalis Yannakakis
- Target level: Very high quality (SICOMP-JACM)
- Watch for general announcement around September 2021

CCF Treasurer Report

Speaker: Pierre McKenzie, Treasurer of CCF
(All amounts in US\$)

- Balance on reserve fund
 - July 20, 2020: \$56,980, before CCC 2020 income and expenses
 - July 15, 2021: \$55,783, before CCC 2021 income and expenses
 - Fund is largely stable
- Income and expenses
 - Income:
 - \$26 interest on bank deposit
 - CCC 2020 deficit
 - \$1,124
 - Recurring expenses:
 - \$754 Board liability insurance
 - \$216 CCF website hosting (3 year contract)
 - \$35 New Jersey tax filing
 - \$30 NJ charity registration to maintain non-profit status
 - \$31 OpaVote
- History of the reserve fund
 - donations made by individuals, EATCS, Microsoft during 2014 – 2016
 - fund is recommended for stability of the conference

C: EATCS will be funding the Best Student Paper award for three years 2021 – 2023.

Changes to the CCF Board

- Outgoing officers:
 - President: Venkatesan Guruswami
 - Secretary: Ashwin Nayak
 - Registration chair: Ronen Shaltiel
 - All three will serve on board till next CCC
- Outgoing board members:
 - Shachar Lovett, Rahul Santhanam
- Incoming board members:
 - President: Valentine Kabanets, Simon Fraser University, appointed by the board
 - Secretary: Amit Chakrabarti, Dartmouth College, appointed by the board
 - Registration chair: Nutan Limaye (IIT Bombay), elected by CCF members
- Thanks to all past officers and board members for their service, and welcome to the new members!

O: Thanks to Venkat Guruswami and Ashwin Nayak for their outstanding service!

C: It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve!