



COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEXITY FOUNDATION

Proceedings of the 2017 Business Meeting

Date: July 6, 2017, 8:30pm-9:45pm

Location: University of Latvia, Raina bulv. 19, Riga, Latvia

Chair: Dieter van Melkebeek, President of CCF

Scribe: Sevag Gharibian, Secretary of CCF. Edited by the Chair. Approved by the Board.

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Convention for attributing quotes:

C: Chair

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

O: Other participant

CCC'17 PC Report and Awards

Speaker: Ryan O'Donnell, Program Committee Chair for CCC'17

- Thanks to other PC members: Manindra Agrawal, Eli Ben-Sasson, Amit Chakrabarti, Kai-Min Chung, Dmitry Gavinsky, Joshua Grochow, Michal Koucky, Shachar Lovett, Dana Ron, Benjamin Rossman
- Acceptances and submissions
 - 33 acceptances out of 98 submissions (34%, historically about right)
 - Comparison to recent years
 - 2016: 34/91 (37%)
 - 2015: 30/110 (27%)
 - 2014: 29/94 (31%)
 - 2013: 29/90 (32%)
 - 2012: 34/119 (29%)
 - 2011: 30/83 (36%)
 - S: Somewhat high number of accepts, very high quality papers, difficult to reject
 - Average Scores: 3 (1/1 accepted, best paper winner), ≥ 2 (20/21 papers accepted), ≥ 1.2 (33/53 accepted), -3 to 1.3 (61/61 rejected). Highest score of a rejected paper: 2.0. Lowest score of an accepted paper: 1.7. Average paper score: 1.0.
- PC process
 - Each PC member assigned 27/28 papers, except 15 for PC Chair
 - 175 distinct subreviewers employed
 - 9 weeks from submission deadline to notification date, down from usual 10 weeks to accommodate resubmissions to RANDOM. Didn't feel rushed, possibly because the winter holiday period was not included.
 - 5 days paper bidding + assignments
 - 6 weeks reviews/subreviews, total 340 reviews submitted
 - 2 weeks for final discussions, score adjustments
- Submissions by topic (some papers in multiple categories):
 - Complexity classes: 27 (9 accepted, 33%)
 - Circuit complexity: 25 (9 accepted, 36%)
 - Pseudorandomness and derandomization: 20 (7 accepted, 35%)
 - Communication complexity: 17 (7 accepted, 41%)
 - Reducibility and completeness: 14 (3 accepted, 21%)
 - Algebraic complexity: 12 (6 accepted, 50%)
 - Quantum computation: 11 (4 accepted, 36%)
 - Other: 10 (2 accepted, 20%)
 - Concrete complexity: 9 (5 accepted, 56%)
 - Optimization and inapproximability: 9 (2 accepted, 22%)
 - Learning theory: 8 (5 accepted, 63%)
 - Coding theory: 8 (3 accepted, 38%)

- Interactive and probabilistic proof systems: 7 (1 accepted, 14%)
- Proof complexity: 6 (3 accepted, 50%)
- Sublinear computation: 6 (3 accepted, 50%)
- Average case complexity: 6 (2 accepted, 33%)
- Cryptography: 4 (1 accepted, 25%)
- Logic and descriptive complexity: 3 (1 accepted, 33%)
- Submissions by country (each author counted once per accepted paper he/she (co-)authored):
 - USA 108
 - All Europe 38
 - Israel 21
 - Canada 12
 - India 11
 - Germany 9
 - Japan 9
 - UK 8
 - China 6
 - Singapore 5
 - Czech Rep. 4
 - Russia 4
 - France 3
 - Netherlands 3
 - Hong Kong 2
 - Iran 2
 - Norway 2
 - Australia 1
 - Brazil 1
 - Hungary 1
 - Latvia 1
 - Spain 1
 - Sri Lanka 1
 - Sweden 1
 - Switzerland 1
- Best paper award: “Settling the query complexity of non-adaptive junta testing” by Xi Chen, Rocco A. Servedio, Li-Yang Tan, Erik Waingarten, Jinyu Xie.
- Best student paper award: “A quadratic lower bound for homogeneous algebraic branching programs” by Mrinal Kumar.
- Thanks to: All authors who submitted, PC committee, subreviewers, CCF Board of Trustees, especially CCF president Dieter van Melkebeek, Local Arrangements (LA) Committee, especially LA chair Andris Ambainis, Avi Wigderson, Jacobo Torán and Marc Herbstritt for proceedings, and attendees!

C: Thanks to Ryan and rest of PC!

CCC'17 Local Arrangements Report

Speaker: Andris Ambainis, Local Arrangements Committee Chair for CCC'17

- Other Local Arrangements Committee members: Dace Mileika, Jeļena Poļakova Alexander Rivosh, Raqueline Santos, Juris Smotrovs
- Local arrangements volunteers: Aleksandrs Belovs, Kamil Khadiev, Krišjānis Prūsis, Jevgēņijs Vihrovs, Abuzer Yakaryilmaz
- Registration: Total of 82, of which 34 students and 48 others. Early registration: 62 (27 students and 35 others). Not-early registration: 12 (3 students and 9 others). Complimentary: 8 (4 students, 4 others).
- Affiliation of registrants:
 - USA: 23
 - Latvia: 15
 - Russia: 8
 - Sweden: 5
 - Germany: 4
 - India: 4
 - Israel: 4
 - Singapore: 4
 - Czech Republic: 3
 - Canada: 2
 - China: 2
 - Netherlands: 2
 - UK: 2
 - Estonia: 1
 - Italy: 1
 - Japan: 1
 - Norway: 1
- Social events
 - Reception (Wed Jul 5)
 - 3-hour walking tour of Riga (Sat Jul 8, 16:30-19:30). Old Riga + Art Nouveau.
 - Conference dinner (Sat Jul 8, 20:00-22:30). At «Andalūzijas suns».
- Budget overview (in EUR)

○ Attendance:	100 planned	80 actual
○ Registration fee revenue:	18,400 planned	14,350 actual
○ Sponsorship revenue:	3,000 planned	5,000 actual
○ Total Revenue:	21,400 planned	19,350 actual
○ Expenses:	21,314 planned	18,214 actual
○ Balance:	86 planned	1,136 actual
- Registration fees (in EUR):
 - Early: 220 regular, 130 student

- Late: 280 regular, 160 student
- Budget expenses (in EUR):
 - Food: 8482 (46.6% of total)
 - Travel support: 4200 (23.1% of total)
 - Invited speaker: 1500 (8.2% of total)
 - Proceedings: 960 (5.3% of total)
 - Registration: 900 (4.9% of total)
 - Commissions: 812 (4.5% of total)
 - CCF insurance: 700 (4.0% of total)
 - Excursion: 530 (2.9% of total)
 - Taping/scribe notes 480 (2.6% of total)
 - Total 18214
- Sponsorship: A big thank you to Accenture Latvia! (Lead: Maksims Jegorovs)

C: LA Chair originally estimated 80 attendees, CCF Board suggested to revise to 100 attendees due to surpluses in previous years.

S: Actually, LA Chair originally estimated 70 attendees.

C: Thanks to Andris and rest of LA team!

CCC'18 Local Arrangements

Speaker: Shachar Lovett, Local Arrangements Chair for CCC'18

- Dates: June 22-24, 2018 (reception on June 21 evening)
- Venue:
 - UCSD Campus, San Diego, USA
 - Breakfast/lunch/reception in outside patio
 - State of the art conference room (200 seats)
- Co-location with STOC
 - STOC 2018 in LA, June 25-29
 - 2-hour drive from San Diego
 - Can arrange shuttle from San Diego to LA if demand
- Transportation
 - San Diego has international airport
 - Parking on UCSD campus (\$16/day), 5 min walk to venue
 - Shuttles from local hotels
- Accommodation
 - CS department negotiated reduced prices with local hotels
 - Prices (for Jan 2017 as point of reference):
 - La Jolla Shores: \$139/night, free shuttle
 - Sheraton La Jolla: \$169/night, walking distance
 - Marriott Residence Inn: \$159/night, walking distance
 - Estancia: \$189/night, walking distance

- Budget
 - Total cost (estimate, USD): \$19,000
 - Conference room rental: \$1,800
 - Support staff (event organizers + AV support): \$2,500
 - Furniture rental for outside breakfast/lunch: \$1,600
 - Food (light breakfast, lunch, coffee): \$6,000
 - Reception: \$4,000
 - Proceedings: \$2,000
 - Insurance: \$1,000
 - Assuming 100 registrants, can set registration fee of \$200 to allow additional funds for student support, unexpected costs, etc.
- People:
 - Local organizers: Shachar Lovett (chair), Sam Buss
 - Large local theory group

O: Will there be an invited speaker, and if so, do these costs need to be added to estimates?

S: Up to PC.

C: Usually, we only offer free registration to invited speakers.

CCC'18 PC

- Chair: Rocco Servedio
- Other members: Eric Allender, Paul Beame, Eric Blais, Mark Braverman, Michael Forbes, Shafi Goldwasser, Srikanth Srinivasan, Madhur Tulsiani, Henry Yuen (plus one more TBA).

CCC'19 Bids and Discussion

Bid from New Brunswick / Princeton

Speaker: Eric Allender, who would be the local arrangements chair

- Two options: New Brunswick (close to Rutgers) or Princeton
- New Brunswick
 - Home of Rutgers University, site of FOCS 2012 & 2016
 - Local Arrangements Committee: Eric Allender (chair), Swastik Kopparty, Periklis Papakonstantinou, Mike Saks, Shubhangi Saraf, Mario Szegedy, Rebecca Wright (and DIMACS staff)
 - Hotel: Hyatt New Brunswick
 - 2 blocks from the train station, \$170/night
 - Other less expensive (and less convenient) options

- Venue for talks: Rutgers (no cost apparently, will have to confirm), 1 km from hotel
- Estimated costs for travel: NY/Newark has many direct flights from nearly everywhere.
- Registration cost: May skip banquet to keep cost very low
- New academic building this year, nice lecture halls
- Princeton
 - Home of Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study, site of ITCS 2014 and APPROX/RANDOM 2011 & 2015
 - Local Arrangements Committee: same as above plus Mark Braverman, Zeev Dvir, Gillat Kol
 - Hotel: Nassau Inn
 - 1.8 km from the train station, \$140/night (price in 2015, more now)
 - Venue for talks: Princeton CS (low cost for room)
- Estimated costs for travel: NY/Newark has many direct flights from nearly everywhere.
- Registration cost: May skip banquet to keep cost very low

O: Dates for CCC '19?

S: Up in the air, potentially mid-July. We should be careful of potential conflict with ICALP.

O: Also potential conflict if not directly timed adjacent to FCRC, could conflict with quarter-based US universities

O: How far is hotel from CS department?

S: Talks not at CS department. 1 km walk from hotel to lecture hall, which is in new building. Department is further, less convenient.

Bid from FCRC

Speaker: Chair

- Venue: Convention Center in Phoenix, AZ
- Dates: June 26-28 (FCRC dates are June 22-28)
- Hotel rates: \$140-\$170 per night
- Registration fee: ~\$500 for early non-student, includes lunches, no reception, no banquet
- Liaison: Next CCF president
- Pros:
 - Co-location with STOC
 - Interaction with CS community
- Cons:
 - More hectic
 - Higher registration fee (500 vs 200-250)
 - Little input/control
- FCRC 2015 liaison experience: Staff helpful and responsive, but treated like a “play ball” for issues like ACM fee, invited talks, room, child care.

O: Food cheap in Phoenix, would likely end up with budget surplus. But need to be careful not to lower registration fee too much to avoid risk.

O: COLT overlapped with CCC in 2011 and this year. Will COLT be at FCRC? (No clear answer.) EC will be there.

O: CCC registration in 2015 (last FCRC) was 84, i.e., attendance does not necessarily increase with FCRC. But be careful regarding registration counts at FCRC; FCRC registration is by day, regardless of which conference you attend on that day. So some people just register for the cheapest conference.

O: The FCRC 2015 Portland convention center was too large, the conferences were spread apart.

O: How does CCC compare in size to other FCRC conferences?

C: CCC is among the smaller ones. STOC, PLDI, and ISCA are considerably larger

C: FCRC/ACM at first promised CCC no equivalent of the fee we used to pay to IEEE, but then changed its mind. In the end, we negotiated to pay half the fee. This time we will have to pay the full amount. We also likely have to pay a child care fee.

O: If CCC held in New Jersey, how much gap time between CCC and STOC?

O: Depends on ICALP, good to try for mid-July. RANDOM usually around August. Can try to time so STOC rejected papers can be submitted to CCC, but that won't work if we do FCRC. Also, we'd lose US audience if we schedule CCC around July 4 holidays.

O: People don't like spending time waiting between two conferences on the same continent, hurts attendance.

O: STOC this year was 5 (very full) days, and was quite tiring. Would be difficult to attend CCC right after; perhaps we should put a gap between and place CCC in a different location.

O: For those travelling from abroad, e.g., Europe, easier to do one trip for combined FCRC.

C: Similar arguments have been considered for Portland 2015 FCRC. An additional reason pro was that it was our first year of being independent.

O: It will be hot in Phoenix at the end of June. This year, American had to strand some of its planes in mid June due to the heat.

Straw Poll

By show of hands:

11 votes for New Jersey/Princeton

4 votes for FCRC

C: We must inform FCRC of our decision by July 15.

Treasurer's Report

Speaker: Eric Allender, Treasurer of CCF

- CCF funds, May 18, 2016: \$56,524.21
- CCF funds, June 26, 2017: \$58,762.17 (Does not reflect expenses/income from CCC 2017.)
- We maintain a large sum to as we needed an initial reserve, now we try to keep steady.
- Income: \$3,081
 - \$3,064 from CCC 2016 in Tokyo
 - \$17 miscellaneous (interest, minus fees)
- Expenses: \$842.75
 - \$755.25 insurance
 - \$87.50 annual fee for non-profit status
- Things are stable.
- New incoming treasurer: Shachar Lovett

President's Report

- Status: CCC and CCF are healthy.
- Overview of motions from the past year: Usual ones and one special one - ECCC under auspices of CCF. Practical implication: the two link each other on their respective websites, but no financial ties)

Travel Allowances

- NSF grant for students from US institutions:
 - All 11 complete applications (partially) funded.
 - 1 application incomplete/improperly filled out, rejected.
 - Total funding: \$15K USD.
 - Intended for students who normally might not be funded, but this year most applicants would have been funded through other means if not given our travel allowance.
 - O: On the other hand, note NSF travel funding is not a lot on a typical grant.
- Local Arrangements (LA) support for needy researchers:
 - 6/10 applicants (partially) funded
 - Total funding: ~5K USD (4200 EUR)

- New sources of funding welcome!

LIPIcs

- Was only option suggested by transition committee on proceedings. Was only publisher which met our criteria at the time.
- Issues:
 - Work level for PC Chair/Editor:
 - Less PC Chair workload this year (partially automated metadata extraction in place), but still more than it should be.
 - High standards for aesthetics
 - Fee increases
 - Gradually year by year from 15 EUR per paper to 60 EUR per paper.
 - Were told this compensates for funding LIPIcs lost from the German government.
 - When asked about where most of the fee goes (e.g., ISBN, DOI, archiving, editing), they said mostly to editing. This touches on the issue of perhaps overly high standards for aesthetics above.
 - Unfulfilled promises and inflexibility
 - Still lack automated metadata extraction from EasyChair, scripts to detect simple formatting problems such as overfull lines in LaTeX, etc. The first was promised within a year when contract was signed, but not done yet.

C: Perhaps we need to align with other LIPIcs conferences (STACS, ICALP, ITCS, etc.) to put more pressure on LIPIcs to push essential changes through.

O: Are there no other real alternatives?

C: Can consider ArXiv overlay, but has no ISBN number.

O: How about Discrete Analysis journal?

C: Journals normally get ISSN number (one per entire series), not an ISBN (one per book). The latter needed at some places for conference papers to be considered quality papers.

C: Tried formatting paper to LIPIcs standard this year, was not that bad.

O: I was told submissions (i.e. to initial call for papers) to CCC had to be in LIPIcs format.

C: This is incorrect.

Changes to the Board

- The composition of the Board right before CCC'16 was: Dieter van Melkebeek (President), Eric Allender (Treasurer), Sevag Gharibian (Secretary), Ryan O'Donnell (Budget Chair), Jacobo Toran (Paper Chair), Rocco Servedio (Awards Chair), Boaz

Barak (Registration Chair), Osamu Watanabe (Past Budget Chair), Venkat Guruswami (Past Awards Chair).

- Osamu Watanabe and Venkat Guruswami have now fulfilled their duties and are exiting.
- Treasurer Eric Allender will be replaced after CCC 2017 by new Treasurer Shachar Lovett (elected by the CCF Board of Trustees).
- Paper Chair Jacobo Toran will be replaced at CCC 2017 by new Paper Chair Rahul Santhanam (voted by CCF body). Note: Emanuele Viola withdrew as candidate before voting for this position closed.
- Welcome to Shachar and Rahul!
- Thanks to Eric and Jacobo!
- Thanks to Osamu and Venkat!

Other Issues

- None.