



# COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEXITY FOUNDATION

## Proceedings of the 2020 Business Meeting

**Date:** July 28, 2020, 14:30 - 15:30 EDT

**Location:** Online, over Zoom

**Chair:** Venkatesan Guruswami, President of CCF.

**Scribe:** Ashwin Nayak, Secretary of CCF. Approved by the Board.

### Agenda:

#### CCC 2020

- PC Report and Awards
- "Local" Arrangements Report

#### CCC 2021

- Program Committee
- Local Arrangements (@ Fields Institute, Toronto)

#### CCC 2022

- hosting bid
- Q&A/Straw poll

#### 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, Shubhangi Saraf & CCC 2020 PC, and Markus Bläser for the significant efforts to organize CCC 2020 in these difficult circumstances. Thanks to the Complexity community for their support and excellent response!

# CCC'20 PC Report and Awards

Speaker: Shubhangi Saraf, Program Committee Chair for CCC'20

- Thanks to the PC members:  
Per Austrin, Zeev Dvir, Prahladh Harsha, Toniann Pitassi, Noga Ron-Zewi, Avishay Tal, Salil Vadhan, Ryan Williams, Ronald de Wolf, Amir Yehudayoff !
- Overview of the process
  - 101 submissions; 2 withdrawn; 11 assigned solely to chair, rest to 3 PC members each
  - 114 distinct sub-reviewers employed. Thanks to the sub-reviewers!

Number of reviews for a paper	Number of papers
1	11
3	74
4	11
5	3

- 11 weeks from the submission deadline to the notification date; Originally 10 ½ weeks but due to COVID-19 disruptions we extended the notification date by a few days
- 2½ days for paper bidding and 1½ days for paper assignment
- 6½ weeks for reviews/subreviews to be turned in
- 3½ weeks for online discussions and gradual assignment of “accept/reject”
- Online PC meeting to make final decisions
- Acceptance rate
  - Excluding withdrawals, 99 submissions, 38 accepted (38%)
  - Comparison with past years:

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 nice to be able to accept 38 papers and with more space we would have liked to accept even a few more.

- Score Distribution

Average score	Number of papers	Number accepted
3	1	1
2.0...2.7	18	18
1.5...1.9	12	11
1.0...1.4	9	7
0.5...0.8	8	1
0.0...0.4	16	0
-3.0...-0.1	35	0

- Submissions by country

Country	Authors	Submitted
United States	92	38.78
India	20	7.37
Israel	20	8.97
Germany	14	6.08
UK	14	6.75
China	13	4.40
Netherlands	11	3.90
Canada	9	2.72
France	9	3.25
Russia	6	1.75
Singapore	6	1.40
Czechia	4	1.92
Denmark	4	0.95
Japan	4	2.75
Brazil	3	1.00
Taiwan	3	1.40
Belgium	2	1.00
South Korea	2	1.00
Sweden	2	0.75
Finland	1	0.50
Montenegro	1	0.50
Portugal	1	0.33
Serbia	1	1.00
Spain	1	0.20
Switzerland	1	0.33

- Best student paper award: Rahul Ilango, MIT, for “*Connecting Perebor conjectures: Towards a Search to Decision Reduction for Minimizing Formulas*”. Congratulations!
- Best paper award: Daniel Dadush (CWI) and Samarth Tiwari (CWI), for “*On the Complexity of Branching Proofs*”. Congratulations!

- Many thanks to all the authors who submitted; the program committee; the sub-reviewers; the CCF Board of Trustees, especially Venkat Guruswami and Ashwin Nayak for help and advice with logistics for the virtual conference; the “Local” Arrangements Committee, especially Markus Bläser for all the organization and arrangements; Amir Shpilka for valuable advice throughout the process; Thomas Vidick and Shachar Lovett for their invited talks; Michael Wagner, for the proceedings; and **you** the attendees!

C: Thanks to Shubhangi and the PC!

## CCC’20 Local Arrangements Report

Speaker: Markus Bläser, Local Arrangements Chair for CCC’20

- Thanks to Sandra Neumann, Sabine Nermerich, and Kristina Scherbaum for help in the organization of the originally planned event.
- Thanks to Kristina Scherbaum, Julian Dörfler, and the LICS-ICALP team for help in organizing the online conference.
- Format of the conference:
  - Prerecorded videos (30 mins) on CCF YouTube Channel, possibility to submit a second 30-minute video with a “deep dive”. Two out of 38 speakers submitted a second video.
  - Short live presentations in Zoom (10 mins), start: 7 am in California, end: 11:45 pm in India.
  - Slack:
    - Discussion on papers, even after the conference (asynchronicity)
    - Alternative way of communication (redundancy)
  - Number of registrations was 288, no need for live stream.
  - Limit on the number of registrations was due to the capacity of the Zoom account. There were around 100 attendees on average in the live sessions. Registered participants did not attend all sessions.
  - Potential problem: YouTube, Zoom, etc. are blocked in some countries. Registration during the conference created extra work.
- Budget:
  - Income:
    - Registration: \$100 per paper (38), everybody else free
    - Net total: \$3511 (after Eventbrite fee)
  - Expenses:
    - LIPIcs: EUR 2640 = \$3055 (average paper length ≈ 23 pages)
    - Best student paper: \$750
    - Insurance: \$750
    - Gather: \$200
    - Total: \$4555
  - Fee model:
    - Publication costs are the main part of the expenses.
    - Potential problem: this is considered to be a sign of a bogus conference.

O: Why were there different Zoom links for each session?

S: To allow sessions to go over time.

O: How much money would it have saved if there were a page limit for the papers?

C: With a 20 page limit per paper, 360 Euros.

O: Would be happy to contribute to the budget. It is good for students to have free registration.

C: Thanks for the offer. CCF has a healthy reserve and given the circumstances it seemed OK to absorb the deficit.

O: Having no limit on doesn't encourage journal submissions.

C: Given that authors do not submit to journals, a relaxed rule on page limits allows us to have more complete versions of papers in LIPIcs.

O: It is extra work to fit paper into a smaller number of pages, and we do not have the human power to referee journal papers.

O: It is a problem that people do not publish in journals. We need more rigorous refereeing.

O: We should support traditional journal publication, ask authors to publish in journals. Verbatim submissions to journals are not allowed.

O: JACM has rejected a STOC paper for this reason.

O: Some journals ask for 30% new material.

O: We can encourage people to post the full versions online.

O: It is OK to allow longer papers in the conference, but we should inform the authors of journal policies.

C: Thanks to Markus for the arrangements!

## CCC'21 Program Committee

- PC chair: Valentine Kabanets
- 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

## CCC'21 Local arrangements

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

- CCC 2021 in Toronto:
  - Dates: July 19-23, 2021

- Venue: The Fields Institute, on the University of Toronto campus, in the heart of downtown
- Local arrangements: Ben Rossman (chair), Sasho Nikolov, Sushant Sachdeva, Henry Yuen
- Estimated costs CA\$215 (= US\$160) per attendee
- Funding available for student and postdoc travel: CA\$5,000 from The Fields Institute, and CA\$5,000 from NSF
- The Fields Institute
  - Center for mathematical research
  - Hosts thematic programs and workshops
  - [Lecture Room](#) seats 100-110. If needed, there is an additional room for overflow
  - Close to many hotels, restaurants
- [Travel](#)
  - Pearson International Airport has direct flights from almost everywhere, is 45 minutes to downtown Toronto
  - Billy Bishop Airport in downtown Toronto has direct flights from Newark, Boston, DC, Chicago
- [Accommodations](#)
  - Price in CA\$ (1 CA\$ = 0.75 US\$)
  - Nearby hotels: Kimpton Hotel, 4-star, 15 minute walk, CA\$260 + 17% tax; Chelsea Hotel, 3-star, 20 minute walk, CA\$230 + 17% tax
  - U of T dorm room (6 night minimum stay) CA\$45 + 12% tax
  - Many other nearby hotels and AirBnB options, within a 10-15 minute walk
- Hope to see you in Toronto!

## CCC'22 Bid and Discussion

### **Bid for Philadelphia, PA, USA**

(University of Pennsylvania)

Speaker: Anindya De

- CCC 2022 in Philadelphia:
  - Venue: University of Pennsylvania campus.
  - All the talks and reception to be held at the Hall of Flags, Penn Campus.
  - Local arrangements: Anindya De.
  - Registration fee: \$175 for students, \$270 for regular attendees.
  - Dates: 20<sup>th</sup> July – 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2022.
- Proposed arrangements:
  - Reception on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Conference from July 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Potential day of workshops / tutorial talks on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Registration fee includes breakfast, box lunch and coffee breaks.
- [Travel and accommodations](#):
  - Closest airport: Philadelphia International Airport.
  - 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 conf. venue.

- We'll reserve a limited block of rooms near the University at about \$200/night + taxes.
- There should be some less expensive options in the center city but summer is a busy time in Philly. So, book early.
- Things to do:
  - Many sites related to the formation of the United States including the Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> UNESCO world heritage city in the US.
  - There are many museums and plenty of restaurants.
  - New York (1.5 hrs) and Washington DC (2hrs) away by train.

## Straw Poll

Show of hands could not be properly counted due to the online venue. However, significant support in favour of Philadelphia was seen amongst the 47 audience members.

## CCF Treasurer's Report

Speaker: Shachar Lovett, Treasurer of CCF  
(All amounts in US\$)

- Balance on reserve fund
  - September 23, 2019: \$58175, after closing the books on CCC 2019
  - July 30, 2020: \$57776, not including CCC 2020 income and expenses
  - Fund is stable
- Income and expenses
  - Income:
    - \$28 interest on bank deposit
    - \$80 CCC 2019
  - Expenses:
    - \$754 Board liability insurance
    - \$196 CCF website hosting (2 year contract)
    - \$110 CCF domain registration (5 year contract)
    - \$60 NJ fees to maintain non-profit status
    - \$55 Late fees for 2016 NJ filing (needed for "compliant" status)
    - \$31 OpaVote

## Changes to the CCF Board

- Outgoing officers:
  - Treasurer: Shachar Lovett
  - Paper chair: Rahul Santhanam
  - Both will serve on board till next CCC
- Outgoing board members:
  - Ryan O'Donnell, Rocco Servedio

- Incoming board members:
  - Treasurer: Pierre McKenzie (U. Montreal), appointed by the board
  - Paper chair: Meena Mahajan (IMSc, Chennai), elected by CCF members
- Thanks to all for their service and welcome to the new members!