Proceedings of the 2023 Business Meeting

Date: July 17, 2023, 18:30–20:30 BST
Location: The University of Warwick, UK

Chair: Valentine Kabanets, President of CCF
Scribe: Valentine Kabanets (in lieu of Amit Chakrabarti, Secretary of CCF, who could not attend). Subsequent edits by Amit Chakrabarti. Minutes reviewed by the chair and approved by the board.

Agenda:

CCC 2023
  • Program Committee (PC) Report and Awards
  • Local Arrangements (LA) Report
  • Travel Awards Report
CCC 2024
  • PC & LA
CCC 2025
  • Hosting bids
  • Q&A
CCF matters
  • Treasurer Report
  • Changes to the CCF Board
Other business

Convention for attributing quotes:
C: Chair
S: Speaker for the topic (indicated if other than the Chair)
O: Other participant

Initial Remarks

C: Welcome. We start with the PC report.
CCC’23 PC Report and Awards

Speaker: Tom Gur, on behalf of Amnon Ta-Shma, Program Committee Chair for CCC’23

- Thanks to the PC members: Eli Ben-Sasson, Andrej Bogdanov, Lijie Chen, Alex Grilo, Mika Goos, William Hoza, Susanna F. de Rezende, Neeraj Kayal, Tali Kaufmann, Raghu Meka, and Francois Le Gall.

- Overview of the process
  - 74 submissions, 36 accepted. Acceptance rate = 48.6%
  - Average load per PC member: about 20 papers
  - Suggestion: authorize the PC to invite 5-10 papers for presentation in the conference. Invitations can be submitted any time after the PC is assembled.

- Acceptance rate
  - 74 submissions, 36 accepted (48.6%)
  - Comparison with past years:
    
    | Year | Submissions | Accepted | Acceptance Rate |
    |------|-------------|----------|-----------------|
    | 2022 | 38 / 90     | (42%)    |
    | 2021 | 41 / 110    | (37%)    |
    | 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%)    |

- This year the PC decided not to make any “best paper” awards.

C: Thanks to Amnon Ta-Shma and the PC.

CCC’23 Local Arrangements Report

Speaker: Tom Gur

- 84 attendees: 39 students, 45 regular attendees. This is 18% higher than last year.
- Income from registration fees: £20,880
  - 10 student registrations awarded by the local committee
- Total expenditure: £21,304 (gap covered locally)
- SafeToC advocates: Mary Scott, Namrata, Tom Gur, Mahdi Cheraghchi, Ian Mertz
- Local organisation committee: Artur Czumaj, Tom Gur, Sathya Subramanian
- Huge thanks to Maria Ferreiro (Warwick DCS Finance)
CCC’23 Travel Awards Report

Speaker: Ben Rossman, Awards Chair for CCF

- Overview
  - Source of travel funding: $20k NSF grant.
  - Higher than previous years ($10-15K) due to high cost of travel to U.K.
  - Expected left-over funds ~$7500 carry over to next year’s conference.

- NSF Travel Awards
  - Awards cover airfare, accommodations, ground transportation, registration fee.
  - Limited to students currently enrolled at U.S. institutions.
  - We were able to fully fund the 6 eligible students who applied.
  - Decided by committee: Ben Rossman, Valentine Kabanets, Pierre McKenzie

- Thanks to:
  - Tracy Kimbrel (NSF) for advice on preparing the grant application.
  - Ryan Williams (previous Awards Chair) for sharing an archive of previous years’ applications and other materials.
  - Amit Chakrabarti (CCF Secretary) for setting up the application webform.
  - Valentine Kabanets (CCF President) for help publicizing the awards.
  - Jennifer Schmidt (Duke) for administering the awards.

CCC’24 Program Committee

C:
- PC chair: Rahul Santhanam (Oxford)
- PC members: Scott Aaronson (Texas), Marshall Ball (NYU), Mark Bun (Boston), Dean Doron (Ben-Gurion), Ankit Garg (Microsoft Research India), Alexander Golovnev (Georgetown), Troy Lee (University of Technology, Sydney), Robert Robere (McGill), Noga Ron-Zewi (Haifa), Srikanth Srinivasan (Aarhus/IIT Bombay), Madhu Sudan (Harvard), Iddo Tzameret (Imperial), and Rahul Santhanam.
- The timeline is expected to be similar to that of CCC 2023

CCC’24 Local Arrangements

Speaker: Mahdi Cheraghchi, Local Arrangements Chair for CCC’24

- CCC 2024 will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
  - Dates: July 22–25, 2024
Venue: Michigan Union
Talks, accommodation, and meals on campus
Registration fee (approx): $250 for students, $350 for regular attendees.
Local arrangements: Mahdi Cheraghi (Chair)

- Travel and Accommodation
  - Location: Ann Arbor central campus
  - Nearby airport: Detroit (DTW), 30min drive, bus and taxi access
  - There are various accommodation/hotel options on campus.
    - The Inn at the Michigan League
    - Graduate Ann Arbor
    - Residence Inn by Marriott Ann Arbor Downtown
    - Bell Tower Hotel

- Things to do
  - Ann Arbor Art Fair (July 18-20, 2024)
  - University of Michigan Nichols Arboretum
  - University of Michigan Museum of Art
  - Hill Auditorium
  - Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
  - Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Leslie Science & Nature Center
  - Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum

CCC’25 Bids and Discussion

C: The following bids were presented.

Bid for St. John’s, Canada
(Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Speaker: Noah Fleming

- About the venue
  - Talks and accommodations on campus
  - Large conference room (400 people)
  - Social space and small rooms available
  - Local Arrangements: Noah Fleming &

- Travel and Accomodations
  - 10–15 minutes from St. John’s intentional airport
  - 3 hour flight from Toronto
  - Accommodations on and within walking distance to campus (140-240 CAD/night)

- St. John’s the City
  - Oldest city in Canada
  - Eastern-most point in North America
Stunning natural beauty, world-class hiking, whale watching
Award winning restaurants

Bid for Bengaluru, India
(Indian Institute of Science)

Speaker: Prahladh Harsha

- Proposed dates: 14–16 July 2025 (flexible)

- About the venue
  - Lecture Hall: Tata Auditorium @IISc, capacity 450–750
  - Additional seminar halls
  - Adjacent grounds for hosting lunch and coffee/tea breaks
  - Spacious, green and pleasant!
  - Workshops @ ICTS: post-CCC (16–17 July), pre-conference school?

- Accommodation
  - On-Campus (15-25 min walk from venue)
    - Centenary Guest House
    - Main Guest House
    - Hoysala Guest House (student accommodation)
    - IISc Dormitories (student accommodation)
  - ICTS Guest House (45 mins drive from venue)
    - Free (including transportation)
  - Hotels (< 4km from IISc)
    - Sheraton Grand, Four Seasons, ITC Windsor, Taj Yeshwantpur, Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa, Shangri-La, Renaissance, Taj West End, Holiday Inn, Radisson Blu Atri

- Travel and Connectivity
  - Kempegowda International Airport
  - 30-45 mins by cab from IISc
  - Non-stop flights to several international destinations
    - Kuala-Lumpur, Hong-Kong, Dubai, Tokyo, Kuwait, Singapore,
    - Paris, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Munich
    - San Francisco, Sydney
  - Visas: Visa required for citizens of most countries to travel to India, however in several cases e-visas suffice.

- Why Bengaluru?
  - If chosen, the first ever CCC in India and first in Asia since 2016 (CCC’16 in Tokyo)
  - India and Bengaluru, especially, is home to a large number of computer scientists, especially complexity theorists.
  - Bengaluru - India’s Garden City
  - Excellent weather (20-28 deg Celsius)
  - IISc – India’s premier research institute (established in 1909)
  - Bengaluru -- rare distinction to house a premier research institute in the country (IISc), almost every global industry research/R&D lab one can name (Google
Research, IBM Research, Microsoft Research, ...) and a vibrant tech ecosystem (Wipro, TCS, Infosys, Flipkart, Inmobi, ...)
- Very well connected domestically and internationally
- South Indian Filter Coffee

Bid for Toronto, Canada
(The Fields Institute, University of Toronto campus)

Speaker: Swastik Kopparty

- Overview
  - Proposed dates: 19–23 July 2025 (flexible)
  - Local arrangements: Swastik Kopparty, Ben Rossman (+ U of T theory group)
  - Estimated registration: $215 (= US$160)
  - Funding available for student and postdoc travel

- About the venue (Fields Institute)
  - Center for mathematical research
  - Hosts thematic programs and workshops
  - Lecture rooms seats 100–110 (overflow rooms available)

- Accommodation
  - Nearby hotels: price in CAD
    - Kimpton Hotel **** 15 minute walk $260 + 17% tax
    - Chelsea Hotel *** 20 minute walk $230 + 17% tax
  - U of T dorm room (6 nights minimum stay) $45 + 12% tax
  - Many other nearby hotels and Airbnbs

- Travel
  - Pearson International Airport
    - direct flights from almost everywhere
    - ~45 minute drive to U of Toronto
  - Billy Bishop Airport (downtown)
    - flights from Newark, Boston, DC, Chicago
    - ~10 minute drive to U of Toronto

CCF Treasurer Report

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

- Funds in CC Foundation account
  - June 30, 2022: $57,365, before CCC 2022 income and expenses
  - June 30, 2023: $57,878, before CCC 2023 income and expenses
  - The fund is stable.
• Income and expenses
  ○ Income:
    ■ $27  interest on bank deposit
    ■ $2,137 CCC 2022 surplus (low Euro proceedings, $0 invited speakers)
  ○ Special expenses
    ■ $1,500 for 2021 and 2022 student paper awards, prepaid to us by EATCS
  ○ Recurring expenses:
    ■ $755  Board liability insurance
    ■ $216  CCF website hosting (3-year contract, $0 in 2022–23)
    ■ $111  CCF domain registration (5-year contract, $0 in 2022–23)
    ■ $63  New Jersey tax filing + NJ charity registration

• Things to watch for in 2023–24
  ○ New EasyChair fee structure: $855 for CCC 2023
  ○ Best student paper award funds
    ■ Thanks to the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science
    ■ EATCS 3-year goodwill runs 2021–22–23

• History of the reserve fund (reminder)
  ○ 2014: CCC left the IEEE
  ○ 2014: $21,000 from about 10 anonymous donors
  ○ 2014: $1,200 from EATCS
  ○ 2015: $30,000 from Microsoft
  ○ 2016: $1,000 from anonymous donor

Changes to the CCF Board

• Outgoing officers:
  ○ Treasurer: Pierre McKenzie
  ○ Paper chair: Meena Mahajan
  ○ Both will serve on board until next CCC

• Outgoing board members:
  ○ Michal Koucký, Ryan Williams

• Incoming board members:
  ○ Treasurer: Mahdi Cheraghchi, University of Michigan, appointed by the board
  ○ Paper chair: Susanna de Rezende, Lund University, elected by CCF members

• Thanks to all past officers and board members for their service, and welcome to the new members!