

Management Committee Meeting

Minutes

COST Action no. IC1104

Action Title: Random Network Coding and Designs over GF(q)

Venue: Bergen, Country: Norway, Date: 19.04.2013, 13:00-17:00

1. Welcome to participants: The chair of Action IC1104, Marcus Greferath, welcomed all participants and determined if a quorum of 16 representatives from the 24 participating countries was present. This quorum was given, as the following countries were represented: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom. For the list of representatives participating see Annex 1.
2. Adoption of agenda: The agenda was unanimously adopted.
3. Approval of the minutes of last meeting and matters arising: The minutes were unanimously approved.
4. Updates from the Action Chair:

(A) Status of the Action, including participating countries: 24 countries have joined the Action. A number of these have only one representative on the Management Committee, and many have not nominated yet any substitute members for the MC. The Chair recommended these countries to make sure that these nominations are taking place to secure the required quorum for each of the upcoming MC meetings.

(B) Action budget: With significant probability the first year of this Action might end with an underspent budget. The Chair therefore asked for suggestions to utilize the unspent money. Three options were discussed: - Additional STSMs, - Additional working group meetings, and - a core group meeting. Preference was expressed for further STSMs and working group meetings. Ferruh Ozbudak suggested WG meetings in parallel to the upcoming ISIT 2013 in Istanbul.

(Extraordinary WG meetings and a Core Group meeting were instead held at the University of Zuerich. See Annexes below.)

(C) STSM status and new applications: In relation to the COST rules, the Action has fulfilled its commitment to support 4 STSMs in its first year. Two STSMs have been finished (Calderini (Italy) – Byrne (Ireland) and Kiermaier (Germany) – Pavcevic (Croatia)) and two are currently active (Stojakovic (Serbia) – Stefanovic (Denmark)) and Kovacevic (Serbia) – Stefanovic (Denmark)). A further STSM by Tuvi Etzion will be applied for in short time. Preference will in general be given to STSM applications where an early stage researcher is visiting a more senior

researcher of the Action. This principle will be relaxed in case of an underspent budget. Here a detailed table with all approved STSMs till this meeting:

Name	From	To	Period	Grant	ID	Approved	Title
Grant Period 1: 2012-2013							
Mr Marco Calderini	Trento	Dr Eimear Byrne, Dublin	2013-01-15 to 2013-04-12	2 000.00	11840	2012-11-16	Network coding and Boolean functions
Mr Michael Kiermaier	Bayreuth	Prof. Mario Pavcevic, Zagreb	2013-02-23 to 2013-04-07	2 000.00	12362	2012-01-12	Conditions on the existence of q-analogs of designs
Dr Milos Stojakovic	Novi Sad	Dr Cedimir Stefanovic, Aalborg	2013-04-28 to 2013-05-05	1 300.00	11974	2012-11-16	Enumerative Coding for Grassmannian Space
Mr Mladen Kovacevic	Novi Sad	Dr Cedimir Stefanovic, Aalborg	2013-05-25 to 2013-06-08	1 850.00	13204	2013-03-12	'Coding for the Permutation Channel'

5. Promotion of Early Stage Researchers (ESR) and Gender Balance: Regarding gender balance, there was no particular effort to support more female researchers as the current state was simply a result of the percentage of genders in the applications. 35 PhD and Master Students were supported to attend the recent Training School in Barcelona.
6. Update from the Grant Holder: n/a
7. Update from the COST Office: n/a
8. Update from the DC Rapporteur: The co-chairs have invited Peter Milanov repeatedly, but he has not yet been able to attend events of Action IC1104.
9. Annual Progress Conference: The annual progress conference will take place in Malta from 12.06.-13.06.2013. The Chair will not be able to attend, but the Co-Chair of the Action has indicated his interest and availability to attend this conference instead.
10. Follow up on MoU objectives:

(A) Progress report of Working Groups:

WG1/4: Tuvi Etzion gave a short report about activities in Working Groups 1 and 4. It becomes apparent that most fruitful work has been achieved thanks to

STSMs, so as the one by Marco Calderini visiting Eimear Byrne in Dublin, and Michael Kiermaier visiting Mario Pavcevic in Zagreb. Tuvi Etzion is currently writing a survey on q-analogues in Coding Theory, hoping to publish these results on the Actions website during the coming 2 or 3 months. Furthermore, two post-doctoral fellows from the University of Ulm will be working with Tuvi Etzion over the coming year.

WG2: Angeles Vazquez-Castro gave a report on the activities in Working Group 2. The most important areas under inspection in this working group are Sensor Networks (Slovenia), Implementation of Network Codes (Denmark), Physical and Application Layer (Barcelona). A broader discussion developed on the question that in many cases, researchers from the field of engineering are in search of mathematical expertise that is often difficult to find in the available engineering literature. This underlines a further emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of the projects in the Action at hand.

WG3: Results by Camilla Hollanti and Philippe Gaborit were described. The working group chair, Simon Blackburn, appealed to all members of the MC to propose specific cryptographic problems to WG3, and offered to disseminate any proposals to the WG.

WG5: Axel Kohnert, the working group chair, reported that during the first meeting of WG5 in Barcelona the different participants introduced their work relevant to the subjects of WG5. There was also a careful discussion of the organisation of the next meeting in Ghent. In the upcoming working group meetings in Ghent there will be talks presenting results but also short presentations on open problems which may be the starting point of new co-operations inside WG5.

11. Scientific planning

(A) Scientific Strategy: It was unanimously agreed that more emphasis will be put on STSMs over the coming years with a goal of 10 STSMs per year. Also, the Action will intensify Working Group meetings.

(B) Action Budget Planning: Due to the increased number of countries participating in the Action, the budget for the upcoming 2nd year has increased from about €130,000 to about €156,000. A new Work&Budget Plan is in preparation and will reflect this change.

(Regarding a voting on the 2nd year's Work&Budget Plan see Annexes below.)

(C) Long-term Planning:

Leo Storme (Ghent) introduced his plans for general Working Group meetings in Ghent from 18.09.2013 till 20.09.2013. He has applied for additional funding from the Flemish Science Foundation which should facilitate additional support for young participants in addition to the budget of €43000 that have been allocated by this Action for this meeting. His application was however not successful. There will be an MC meeting on Friday afternoon, and participants will arrive on Tuesday evening and leave on Friday evening or Saturday morning. This event will be open to non-members of the COST Action. The MC (unanimously) voted to approve this meeting with the provisional figure of €43000 in mind.

Each Working Group will be entitled to suggest one invited speaker. The Elliptic Curve Cryptography Workshop (ECC) will take place in Leuven, Belgium earlier in that week, so that additional speakers might be available. 45 up to 60 Minutes talks will be allocated along with result sessions of 2 hours. The location of the event will be the Department of Mathematics of Ghent University.

Vitaly Skachek (Tartu) introduced his plan to organize the European School of Information Theory in May 2014. On demand this event may adapt to the needs of Action IC1104 in that several Sections on Network Coding and Design Theory and neighboring fields will be offered. This event will be most applicable to early stage researchers and students.

Christine Bachoc (Bordeaux), substituted by Philippe Gaborit (Limoges), gave a short report on the status of the upcoming conference on Network Coding in Bordeaux in June 2014.

(D) Dissemination Planning (Publications and outreach activities): There has been a proposal by ResearchMedia.eu. For details see the annex. The Management Committee expressed a general preference for dissemination via the website, publications and conference papers rather than paying for published summaries of progress. A consensus was reached that the budget for dissemination would be better spent on an additional STSM, which would be likely to result in a further publication.

12. Requests for new members: There have not been any new requests.
13. Non-COST applications to the Action: Dr. Wei Xiang from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia has indicated interest and filed an application to join the Action. The MC unanimously voted to support this application.
14. AOB: Mario Pavcevic volunteered to organize the final conference in April 2016 in Dubrovnik and invites other members who would be interested in hosting or organizing any meetings from now until the end of the action to approach the chairs with their suggestions.
15. Location and Date of the next meeting: 20th September 2013, Ghent.
16. Summary of MC decisions:
 - (A) MC voted to approve the Ghent meeting and its provisional budget figure of €43,000.
 - (B) The MC voted to invite Wei Xiang to become a member of the Action.
17. Closing: The Action Chair expressed repeated thanks to Tor Helleseth for organizing the Workshop on Coding and Cryptography (WCC2013) in Bergen, that hosted this MC meeting along with a sub-workshop on network coding. He then closed the meeting.

Annexes:

1. Agenda for the MC meeting
2. Attendance list of the MC meeting

3. Electronic voting on 03.05.2013 regarding extraordinary Working Group Meetings to be held at the University of Zuerich on June 20/21, 2013. Result: unanimously approved.
4. Electronic voting on 21.05.2013 regarding local organizer support of €3000 for the meeting in Zuerich. Result: unanimously approved.
5. Electronic voting on 26.05.2013 regarding the invitation of the external expert Frederique Oggier to attend the meeting in Zuerich. Result: unanimously approved.
6. Electronic voting on 27.06.2013 regarding the Work&Budget Plan for the second year of Action IC1104. Result: unanimously approved.
7. Electronic voting on 01.08.2013 regarding the group of participants for the Working Group Meetings in Ghent (17.-20.09.2013) which are eligible for reimbursement. Voting also for 5 invited speakers. Result: unanimously approved.
8. Electronic voting on 04.09.2013 regarding a sixth invited speaker for the WG Meetings in Ghent. Result: unanimously approved.