

SIAG/IS Business Meeting
Minutes
May 16, 2006
Minneapolis, MN

The activity group business meeting was called to order by Don Geman, SIAG/IS chair, at 7:15 p.m. The following issues were discussed.

Location for IS08

In discussing proposed locations for the next conference (IS08), it was suggested that a location be selected that would encourage participation by the DOD community. Baltimore, MD, Crystal City, VA, and somewhere on the west coast were suggested as possible sites that meet this criterion as well as being convenient to reach. A European venue was discussed, but the potential high cost of such a location must be considered. The consensus was that the SIAG/IS officers would like SIAM to investigate Baltimore, Crystal City, and an economical location in Europe as possible sites for IS08. It was suggested that dates for the conference be selected to avoid conflict with ICAS. It was also noted that the conference was originally scheduled in the fall, but was changed to the spring after the events of 9/11/2001, so the fall time frame could be considered for future meetings.

Format of IS08

A discussion was held concerning the possibility of altering the format of the conference to avoid too many competing tracks. There was discussion about whether all presentations should be accepted, or there should be more review of proposals. A comparison was made between this meeting and other scientific meetings where acceptance rates for oral presentation are as low as 5% - 15%. It was noted that if proposals were going to be reviewed, there would have to be a more structured review process. As the foremost goal of the next conference is to be more inclusive, it was decided that it would be counter-productive to start rejecting proposed minisymposia.

There was discussion regarding a format used at other conferences utilizing a ten-minute presentation followed by a poster session. The advantage of this format is that it encourages interaction among attendees. The disadvantage is that SIAM conference attendees are not familiar with this format and would need guidance on how to prepare such presentations.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that the minisymposia worked very well as currently structured, and that it was a positive sign that attendees were interested in attending more than one of the concurrent presentations. As an experiment, it was suggested that contributed sessions, which make up 12% of the program, be structured in the new format of a ten-minute oral presentation followed by a poster session.

Expanding the base constituency

There was a discussion about expanding the base constituency of the activity group and IS08 conference participants to other researchers who pass a "math plus imaging" filter. Examples might include people working in mathematical imaging in various fields even though they may not think of themselves as mathematicians, and researchers from computer science and even applied mathematics who are working in computer vision, for instance on object recognition and other problems which involve the semantic interpretation of images. Additional disciplinary constituencies that could be included are seismic, ultrasound and work relevant to the DOD

(such as automatic target recognition). The idea is to experiment with broadening the constituency, for example by inviting well-known researchers in computer vision to participate in IS08, and see how it works. In addition, if the activity group does expands its scope, there will need to be more mini-tutorials to provide an introduction to new topics and the organizers should also make sure that the new areas are represented in the invited presentations.

To accommodate the expanded community, there was a suggestion to consider increasing the conference to 4 days. As this would also increase costs, it was agreed that this suggestion would need additional consideration by the SIAG officers.

Program Chairs IS08

The Program Committee for IS08 will be chaired by Margaret Cheney plus three other individuals who have expertise in diverse areas, with attention paid to the new communities whose conference participation SIAG/IS wishes to encourage in the future.

ICIAM 2007

SIAM will not have an annual meeting in 2007 as it will be participating in the International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM) in Zurich, Switzerland in July of 2007. The SIAG/IS officers suggest that a track on imaging science be organized for ICIAM 2007, perhaps by Fadil Santosa, to provide a survey of the imaging field featuring high points of the last few years.

Visibility of SIAG/IS

To enhance the visibility of the activity group, communications with SIAG/IS members will be improved. Don Geman will be revamping the SIAG/IS Web site and Fadil Santosa will write an article on IS06 for *SIAM News*.

Possible journal

Don Geman reported that he had received an e-mail from Tony Chan regarding a possible SIAM journal on imaging. Don asked for comments from attendees on this proposal. The participants agreed that there is no single publication for publishing an article on imaging, and those journals that do publish some articles on imaging now, such as *Annals of Statistics*, are invisible to the imaging and computer vision communities. The question was whether or not the imaging community has the sustainability to attract enough high quality articles that pass the “math” and “imaging” filter to fill a journal on imaging. It was noted that although the *SIAM Journal on Applied Math* publishes some articles on imaging, it covers the entire spectrum of applied math and can’t handle too many focused on imaging. The editors of the existing *Multiscale Modeling & Simulation* are concerned about the possible impact that a journal on imaging might have on MMS. SIAM Publisher Mary Rose Muccie reported that Tony Chan and Kirk Jordan submitted a formal proposal for a new journal on imaging that will be going before the SIAM Council in July. If it is approved by the Council, the proposal will go to the SIAM Board for review in December 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Whitehouse
Membership Manager