

20th Annual ACM Symposium on Computational Geometry Minutes of the Business Meeting, June 10, 2004, Brooklyn, NY

Joe Mitchell*

June 24, 2009

The annual business meeting for the 20th Annual ACM Symposium on Computational Geometry (SoCG) took place on Thursday evening, June 10, 2004, at the Poly campus in Brooklyn, the site of the Symposium. Pankaj Agarwal chaired the meeting. These minutes were scribed by Joe Mitchell, serving in place of Mark de Berg, Secretary of the Computational Geometry Steering Committee.

Pankaj Agarwal introduced the members of the current Steering Committee (September 2003-2006): Pankaj Agarwal (Chair), Mark de Berg (Secretary), Ferran Hurtado, Joe Mitchell, and Jack Snoeyink. They replaced the outgoing committee of Nina Amenta, Jeff Erickson, Danny Halperin, Marc van Kreveld, and Joe Mitchell.

1 Historical Perspective in Honor of the 20th Symposium

This year's 20th Annual ACM Symposium on Computational Geometry was marked with a ceremony (complete with cake and beer!) and some reflections on the history of the conference series. Bernard Chazelle gave a warm (and refreshingly humorous) introduction of Joe O'Rourke, who gave a fact-filled perspective on the 1st Symposium (which he organized and hosted in Baltimore in 1985). Joe structured his talk as a quiz, testing the audience's knowledge of SoCG trivia and history. The 1985 meeting had 105 papers submitted, compared to the 147 papers of the 2004 meeting. There were 186 attendees in 1985, which is comparable to the 180 in 2004, and more than at many recent SoCG meetings.

There were three participants of the business meeting who acknowledged that they had perfect SoCG attendance, for all 20 meetings so far: Steve Fortune, Leo Guibas, and John Hershberger. Are there others? If so, please contact me.

2 SoCG 2004 Report

The first item on the agenda was the report from the 2004 conference organizers, presented by John Iacono. The registration fees this year were relatively low, thanks to the efforts of the organizers in keeping costs down and in raising contributions from two generous donors – CATT at Poly, and Raindrop Geomagic (thanks to Herbert Edelsbrunner!) – whose funds went to keep student registration particularly low.

*jsbm@ams.sunysb.edu

year	ACM member/student fee	# participants
2001	\$285/125	153
2002	\$200/100	143
2003 (FCRC)	\$330/155	124
2004	\$260/98	180

This year there were two 1-day workshops (both on June 12) that accompanied this year's Symposium: one on biocomputing, and one on CGAL.

Jack Snoeyink made a presentation on behalf of the Program Committee (PC), which he co-chaired with Jean-Daniel Boissonnat. There were 147 papers submitted this year; of these, 49 were accepted. This relatively large number of total acceptances was accommodated by having a parallel session the morning of June 10. In comparison, there were 42 acceptances in 2003, 35 in 2002, 39 in 2001, and 41 in 2000. The PC made the decision, in consultation with the Steering Committee, to accept more papers than usual based on the overall high quality of the large number of submissions. The same high standard was applied as in prior years. Jack gave a breakdown of acceptance rates by date of submission, country of submitter, area of research, number of authors, and title words.

Erik Demaine made a presentation on behalf of the chair of the Video/Multimedia committee, Remco Veltkamp. There were only 3 submissions by the original due date (February 8); 3 more submissions came in by the extended due date (March 30). There was one Java applet submitted with no play button (it was rejected). Six videos were accepted. They were presented during a parallel session. Note that this year there was no DVD distributed; the videos are published on the web (in two resolutions: 720-by-576 and 360-by-288), and short papers are in the proceedings. The advantage of web-only distribution is that it allowed late submissions, close to the time of the Symposium. Another issue that arose was the inconsistent quality of video submissions; some had the wrong codec, wrong audio, etc. In general, the Video/Multimedia session will need better advertisement to attract more submissions.

3 SoCG 2005 Report

Marco Pellegrini gave a presentation on behalf of the 2005 organizers (Marco Pellegrini and Giuseppe Liotta). The conference will take place June 6-8 (Monday-Wednesday) in Pisa. The web site is <http://www.socg05.org/>. He gave transportation options for attendees, who may fly to Pisa directly, or to nearby Florence (a 1-hour train ride away) or Rome (a 3-hour train ride away). Hotels will be throughout Pisa, with a bus service to CNR campus on the northeast of the city. Hotel prices are estimated to be 82 Euro per night for a single room in a 3-star hotel.

The Program Committee for 2005 will be co-chaired by Joe Mitchell and Günter Rote. A Video/Multimedia program chair has not yet been selected by the Steering Committee.

4 SoCG 2006

Bids were made for hosting SoCG in 2006:

Portland, Oregon (John Hershberger)

The conference would be held in a hotel in Portland. There is a lovely Rose festival in early June that would overlap.

Santa Barbara, California (Subhash Suri)

Restriction on campus facilities necessitate the dates to be June 25-28. Accommodations would be in dormitories, or at local hotels.

Sedona, Arizona (Alon Efrat, with Stephen Kobourov and Carola Wenk)

The conference would be held in a hotel (e.g., the Sedona Hilton). The location of Sedona is resort-like and is about 120 miles (2 hours by car) from the Grand Canyon. Hotel prices would be about \$140/night at the Hilton, but with a wide variety of less expensive hotels in the \$70-110 range.

A first vote ranked Sedona first, then Portland, then Santa Barbara. A run-off vote between Sedona and Portland resulted in Sedona winning roughly two to one (about 60 votes for Sedona, about 33 for Portland). It was concluded that Sedona would be the location in 2006.

5 Discussion

There was a discussion of the merits of having a video/multimedia session. It was generally agreed that the session should continue, and that further efforts should be made to advertise and solicit high-quality submissions. The importance of having the short writeups in the proceedings was noted; this places constraints on how late the deadline is for submissions, given the printer's deadline. (This year's proceedings only arrive the afternoon before talks started!)

There was a brief discussion on the issue of having parallel sessions, as was done this year for the first time. It was proposed to leave this issue at the discretion of the program committee, who will base the decision on the quality and the number of submissions. It was pointed out that if the field is to grow over the years, it will be necessary to accommodate more papers.

There was finally a brief discussion on the issue of having one or having two PC chairs. Jack Snoeyink emphasized how helpful it was for there to be co-chairs, as he and Jean-Daniel could share responsibilities and they worked together very well. It was suggested that the choice remain with the Steering Committee.