



Minutes of General Assembly

13 December 2023

Location: ETH Zurich, Sternwartstrasse 7, 8092 Zürich, ETF D110
Date/Time: 13 December 2023, 16:00
Participants: Thomas Mittelholzer (Chapter Chair)
Stefan Moser (Secretary/Treasurer)
Christoph Studer (At Large)
Michael Gastpar
Hans-Andrea Loeliger
Amos Lapidoth
Minutes: Stefan Moser
Distribution list: all attendees

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1 Welcome

The chapter chair Thomas Mittelholzer welcomes the participants and gives a short overview of the current situation of our chapter. Our chapter is quite large as it combines four societies. Currently, we have 739 members.

He also briefly introduces the current ExCom. Today's important point to discuss and decide are the elections of the new ExCom.

2 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda has been published on the chapter's webpage. The agenda is approved.

3 Chapter Activities 2022/2023

Thomas summarizes the activities of the chapter. The main activity is the biennial conference

- *2022 International Zurich Seminar on Information and Communication (IZS 2022):*
 - March 2–4, 2022, Zurich
 - The chapter offered technical co-sponsorship
 - Organized by co-chairs Amos Lapidoth and Stefan Moser (representatives of Zurich Shannon Society), and by treasurer Hans-Andrea Loeliger (representative of ZuSem Foundation)
 - Financial responsibility and support by ZuSem Foundation
 - Due to COVID-related travel restrictions, the in-person attendance and the presentations had to be canceled
 - Proceedings are available on <https://www.izs.ethz.ch/2022>

Further activities by the chapter:

- 9th Swiss Conference on Data Science (SDS 2022)
 - June 22–23, 2022; KKL, Lucerne
 - The chapter offered technical co-sponsorship
 - The goal of SDS2022 was to foster the exchange of novel ideas in digital health, robust and trustworthy machine learning, innovative products and big data
 - Two keynote speakers: Francesca Dominici (Co-Director of the Harvard Data Science Initiative, Harvard University, USA) and Roberto Capobianco (Senior Research Scientist at Sony AI and Professor at Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)
 - Statistics:
 - * 538 guest attendees, 26 IEEE members (at conference and 6 workshops)
 - * 51 submissions: 15 accepted papers (published in IEEEXplore) and 5 poster presentations
 - * 19% female speakers, 12% non-Swiss participants

- Website: <https://www.sds2022.ch>
- 21st IEEE International Symposium on Parallel and Distributed Computing (ISPDC 2022)
 - July 11–13, 2022; University Basel (<https://ispdc2022.dmi.unibas.ch>)
 - The chapter offered technical co-sponsorship
 - The goal of ISPDC 2022 was to provide an international forum and discussion on advances in the field of Parallel and Distributed Computing, understood broadly, and the impact of these theoretical and practical advances in science, engineering, and society at large
 - Statistics:
 - * 40 participants (with 16 IEEE members)
 - * Publication of 19 papers in IEEEExplore
 - * 4 keynote presentations
- Some further past events in 2022:
 - Friday, September 9, 2022
 - Talk:** *Second-Order Asymptotics of Hoeffding-like Hypothesis Tests*
Prof. Dr. Tobias Koch, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
10:30–11:30, ETH Zurich, ETF D110
 - Wednesday, September 28, 2022
 - Tutorial:** *Digital PLLs for WiFi: State-of-the-Art and Trends*
Dr. Francesco Brandonisio, Principal Engineer, MaxLinear, Villach, Austria
ETH Zurich, 17:00, ETZ E81
 - Wednesday, October 19, 2022
 - Talk:** *KO Codes: Inventing Non-linear Encoding and Decoding for Reliable Wireless Communication via Deep-Learning*
Ashok Vardhan Makkuva, EPFL
16:15–17:15, Zoom meeting; or in person at ETF D110
- **Invited Talk:** *The Information Bottleneck: A Unified Information Theoretic View*
 - Speaker: **Prof. Dr. Shlomo Shamai**, Technion, Haifa, Israel
(2011 Claude E. Shannon Award)
 - Date: 7 Feb. 2023 at ETH Zurich, Room ETF D110
 - Topic: Connections between the information bottleneck and classical information theoretic frameworks:
 - * Remote source-coding
 - * Information combining
 - * Common reconstruction
 - * CEO source coding under log-loss
 - Attendance: 21 guests

- **Invited Talk:** *The Information Velocity of Packet-Erasure Links*
 - Speaker: **Prof. Dr. Anatoly Khina**, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
 - Date: 30 Mar. 2023 at ETH Zurich, Room ETF D110
 - Topic: What is the maximal speed — the information velocity — at which information can propagate reliably in a network through a cascade of links?
 - * Recent results for this problem for packet-based links with ACK signals
 - * The information velocity for a causally arriving stream of packets was derived together with the arrive-failure exponential decay rate
 - Attendance: 11 guests

4 Planned Chapter Activities 2024

In the coming year the main activity is the upcoming *2024 International Zurich Seminar on Information and Communication*, that will take place March 6–8, 2024. The conference is again organized by the co-chairs Amos Lapidot and Stefan Moser. Hans-Andrea Loeliger (ZuSem Foundation) takes financial responsibility.

- Plenary speakers:
 - Robert Fischer, Universität Ulm
 - Sara van de Geer, ETH Zurich
 - Yossi Steinberg, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
- Proceedings will be available on Research Collection Archive of ETH-Zurich:

<https://www.research-collection.ethz.ch/handle/20.500.11850/534535>
- Conference Registration and Program: <https://www.izs.ethz.ch>

5 Financial Report and Budget

Stefan Moser gives an overview of the financial status of the chapter. The development of the assets are as follows:

- Per end of 2020: 7961 CHF
- Per end of 2021: 7949 CHF
- Per end of 2022: 7922 CHF
- Per end of 2023 (budget): 7.88 kCHF
- Per end of 2024 (budget): 7.83 kCHF

Details:

		Expenses	Revenues
2021:	banking fees	12	
2022:	banking fees	27	
2023 (budget):	banking fees	42	
2024 (budget):	banking fees	42	

Stefan adds a few comments and explanations:

- The budgets for 2023 and 2024 only anticipate small banking fees.
- Since the financial responsibility of the IZS lies with the ZuSem Foundation, the chapter is not anymore involved in IZS on the financial side.

6 Discharge of the ExCom

The financial report 2021, the financial report 2022, the financial budget for 2023/2024, and the discharge of the ExCom for the current period (Nov. 2021 – Dec. 2023) is unanimously approved.

7 ExCom Elections

The chair Thomas Mittelholzer steps down after 8 years of service as the president of the chapter. Stefan thanks him for his many contributions to the chapter, in particular the big task of rewriting the by-laws from scratch. The assembly thanks him by applause.

In his stead, Christoph Studer is willing to be elected as the new president of the chapter.

The secretary and treasurer Stefan Moser is willing to continue to serve for the coming two years.

Michael Gastpar, professor at EPFL, has agreed to be nominated as a new member of the ExCom (at large). Thomas thanks Michael for his willingness to contribute to our chapter and strongly recommends his election.

No other candidates are proposed.

The three candidates are elected unanimously. The election is accompanied by applause.

Andi also adds his thanks for the former and new ExCom.

8 Miscellaneous

Andi gives a brief overview over the ZuSem Foundation.

No further items are proposed to be discussed.

Thomas closes the meeting at 16:45.

Zurich, 13 December 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stefan M. Moser'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Stefan' being the most prominent part.

Stefan M. Moser
Secretary and Treasurer, IEEE Chapter on Digital Communication Systems

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Mittelholzer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'T.' being the most prominent part.

Thomas Mittelholzer
Chair, IEEE Chapter on Digital Communication Systems