

## Message from the SIGSAM Chair

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Dear SIGSAM Members,

It is a great honor to serve as Chair of ACM SIGSAM, a historical organization with numerous and long-lasting contributions to Computer Algebra and Symbolic Computation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all candidates at the recent elections. Everyone is a valuable member of the community and I would encourage them to take part in the next election as well and/or to continue to be actively involved in SIGSAM activities and projects. SIGSAM is a volunteer-based organization and therefore it is important to involve as many volunteers as possible. I would also like to welcome the three elected members of the new SIGSAM executive, namely:

- Vice Chair: Jean-Guillaume Dumas (Université Joseph Fourier, France), [VC\\_SIGSAM@acm.org](mailto:VC_SIGSAM@acm.org)
- Secretary: Ziming Li (Institute of Systems Science, China), [Secretary\\_SIGSAM@acm.org](mailto:Secretary_SIGSAM@acm.org)
- Treasurer: Agnes Szanto (North Carolina State University, USA), [Treasurer\\_SIGSAM@acm.org](mailto:Treasurer_SIGSAM@acm.org)

I am looking forward to working with all three of them. I am also looking forward to work with those of you that would be willing to take some time off your busy schedules to work on some projects that I plan to pursue. To be more specific, I plan to intensify work on the following projects:

- Update and re-organize the SIGSAM webpage <http://www.sigsam.org/>
- Design and implement a campaign to increase SIGSAM membership. This will include reviewing all benefits of SIGSAM membership and discussing ways to increase the value of membership for all of those interested in computer algebra and related fields
- Enlarge and maintain coverage of CCA in on-line publication databases, i.e. DBLP, MathSciNet

The annual SIGSAM business meeting was held during the ISSAC 2013 conference in Boston and it was reported that:

1. SIGSAM is financially healthy with a balance of more than \$60,000.
2. SIGSAM sponsorship of ISSAC paper prizes and Jenks award funded by endowed accounts which also remain healthy
3. Item 1 enabled SIGSAM to reduce the fee from ACM for ISSAC sponsorship from 16% to 10% which was the same as when ISSAC was sponsored by INRIA at Grenoble.
4. ACM has revised its publishing policies. This includes authorizer which allows authors to post official copies of their ACM publications. It also allows ACM published proceedings to be available to everyone for one year. I.E. we can post the table of contents of ISSAC proceedings with links to all papers for one year on the ISSAC or SIGSAM website.
5. Past SIGSAM Chair, Prof. Jeremy Johnson, Drexel University, presented the SIGSAM Program Review on March 14, 2013. SIGSAM received renewed viability from ACM SGB for another 3 years. The official ACM statement is:

SIGSAM

The SGB EC congratulates SIGSAM on their continuing importance to the community, but has

concerns about submissions and attendance at the ISSAC conference and finds SIGSAM viable to continue its status for the next 3 years.

The preparations for the ISSAC 2014 conference are well underway, under the leadership of general co-chairs Kosaku Nagasaka (Kobe) and Franz Winkler (RISC-Linz). The conference will be held July 23–25 in Kobe, Japan. Please consult the website <http://www.issac-symposium.org/2014/> for more information. ISSAC 2014 is in cooperation with ACM. It is worthwhile to note that ISSAC 2014 is a satellite conference of the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM 2014) that will be held August 13–21 in Seoul, Korea, <http://www.icm2014.org/>.

The venue for the ISSAC 2015 conference was selected during the business meeting at ISSAC 2013 in Boston. There were four candidate cities and the winning city was Bath, UK. The representative of one of the four candidate cities expressed concerns over the preparation and the logistics of the bidding presentations. I witnessed some aspects of the entire process first hand and I believe the concerns were justified and valid. In order to address these concerns, I believe that SIGSAM and the ISSAC steering committee should investigate the entire bidding process and possibly offer recommendations on how to systematize it and streamline it, so as to hopefully avoid this type of concerns at future bids for ISSAC conferences.

SIGSAM sponsored the following ISSAC 2013 awards:

- Distinguished Student Author Awards: Pierre Lairez for Creative Telescoping for Rational Functions Using the Griffiths-Dwork Method (with Alin Bostan and Bruno Salvy) and Qingdong Guo for Computing Rational Solutions of Linear Matrix Inequalities (with Mohab Safey El Din and Lihong Zhi).
- Distinguished Paper Award: Jingguo Bi, Qi Cheng, and J. Maurice Rojas. Sub-Linear Root Detection and New Hardness Results for Sparse Polynomials Over Finite Fields.
- Distinguished Poster Awards: Jeremy Johnson and Lingchuan Meng. Towards Parallel General-Size Library Generation for Polynomial Multiplication. James Wan. Hypergeometric Generating Functions and Series for  $\frac{1}{\pi}$ .
- Distinguished Software Presentation Award: Fredrik Johansson. Arb: a C Library for Ball Arithmetic.
- The 2013 Richard Dimick Jenks Memorial Prize for Excellence in Software Engineering applied to Computer Algebra was awarded to the William Stein for the Sage Project.

I would like to thank CCA editor Manuel Kauers (RISC-Linz, Austria) and Information Director William J. Turner (Wabash College, USA) along with the editorial board for making sure that the four yearly issues of CCA are published in a timely manner on-line and in the printed version. Timely publication of CCA is an important aspect of the periodic viability review for SIGSAM. I would also like to thank Clément Pernet (Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France) for serving as the SIGSAM representative on the Editorial Board of ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software (TOMS) <http://toms.acm.org/>.

Finally I would like to thank the extremely efficient ACM staff for their help and support during my past ten years as Editor of CCA and on other occasions such as conference organization. Special thanks go to Irene Frawley, Program Coordinator, SIG Activities, for her enthusiasm and dedication. I hope to continue to work with all of them and be productive in my new role as SIGSAM Chair.

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