SIGSAM

Annual General Meeting

July 12, 2006

What is SIGSAM?

SIGSAM is a special interest group (SIG) that is part of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

SIGSAM represents a community of researchers and practitioners working in computer algebra and symbolic computation.

SIGSAM is one of the original SIGs of the ACM and is about 40 years old.

What does SIGSAM do?

SIGSAM promotes computer algebra throughout the scientific community, and it advocates for the interests of its members.

SIGSAM publishes the "ACM Communications in Computer Algebra" four times a year.

SIGSAM frequently sponsors the ISSAC conference and supports the ISSAC conference in various ways.

Agenda

1. Treasurer's Report

2. Chair's Report

3. Advisory Board election

4. Discussion

Chair's Report

SIGSAM

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Who runs SIGSAM?

Officers

Chair: Emil Volcheck
Vice Chair: Werner Krandick
Secretary: Fabrice Rouillier
Treasurer: Wayne Eberly
Past Chair: Rob Corless

Who runs SIGSAM?

Editors: Ilias Kotsireas and Austin Lobo
Associate Editor: Chris Brown

They produce the "ACM Communications in Computer Algebra" (CCA).

Information Director: Will Turner

He runs the SIGSAM website and mailing lists.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board includes the officers, editors, and members-at-large.

I report to the Advisory Board several times per year and seek their advice on various matters.

Members-at-large:

Gene Cooperman

Jürgen Gerhard

Laureano Gonzalez-Vega

Alexander Hulpke

George Labahn

Ziming Li

Daniel Lichtblau

Peter Paule

Will Turner

Organization

Terms of officers end June 30, 2007.

Elections will be held in spring 2007.

Voting will be on the web.

Organization

SIGSAM is regularly reviewed by ACM's SIG Governing Board for performance, service, and financial stability.

Next Viability Review: March 2007

Awards

Awards bring credit to individuals and enhance the standing of our community.

SIGSAM nominates individuals for awards and tries to develop new awards.

Awards

Jenks Prize approved as ACM award:
ACM SIGSAM Richard D. Jenks Memorial Prize
Awards committee includes David Musser and
SIGSOFT representative.

Prize proposal was reviewed by the ACM Awards
Committee.

Awards

SIGSAM funds ISSAC paper and student author awards through an endowment.

ACM professional members can qualify for honorary membership grades.

SIGSAM successfully nominated George Collins as ACM Fellow in 2004.

Awards

One nomination for ACM Fellow is in progress for 2006

New honorary membership grades:
Senior member, Distinguished Member

ACM Dissertation Award: soliciting nominations

Outreach

Justification for research funding

Inspired by theorymatters.org and the TCS "white paper".

Goal is to produce a "white paper" with inter-national impact

Contact with US National Science Foundation Program Officer Robert Grafton for funding meeting

With assistance from Peter Harsha, Executive Director of the Computing Research Association (CRA), to help write for "decision-makers".

Possible successor to "Future Directions for Research in Symbolic Computation" (SIAM, 1990)

Volunteers: Mark van Hoeij, Erich Kaltofen

We could use more volunteers and more contributions.

Outreach

Build a relationship with the American Mathematical Society (AMS):

Special Session on hybrid symbolic-numeric computation at the Joint Mathematical Meetings in January 2006.

AMS gave permission to publish session abstracts in CCA

Outreach

SIGSAM offered 500 USD grant to the session, free advertisement

AMS donated four books to ISSAC

We hope for a similar arrangement at the 2007 JMM with a special session on computational algebraic geometry.

Outreach

ISSAC proceedings are not indexed in the Science or Compumath Citation Index.

Citation indices are used to compute "impact ratings".

The ACM Publications Board reached an agreement with Thomson/ISI to review all ACM conference proceedings for inclusion in their citation indices.

SIGSAM is working with the Publications Board to support ISSAC inclusion.

Outreach

AMS *Mathematical Reviews*

- Contact with Executive Editor

- metadata for ISSAC Proceedings and CCA,

- ISSAC 2005 Proceedings CD provided, soon for 2006

Support to ISSAC

ISSAC 2005 loss of about 2800 USD absorbed by SIGSAM

Review and approval of ISSAC 2006 budget

ISSAC Contingency Fund budget line-item, managed together with the ISSAC Steering Committee

Support to ISSAC

ISSAC 2006 DVD

- Proceedings of ISSAC 2006, CCA archive

- Free computer algebra software

- Santos lecture

Thanks to John May, Tim Daly

Citations Project

Coordinated by Alexander Hulpke

Goal is to increase credit to system builders by encouraging citations of computer algebra systems when used for journal papers.

We try to make it easier to find citations and to encourage journals to adopt policies that support citation

Citations Project

Index of 32 systems on website

Developed policy on citations of CASs.

JSC editor Hoon Hong supports the citation policy.

Contacted chief editor for *Mathematics of Computation*: journal is officially neutral.

Membership Initiatives

Economically Developing Countries: 5 USD

Dues waived temporarily for countries without convenient individual access to Western currency.

Optional member package with printed ISSAC Proceedings proposed.

Question:
Would anyone like to have this option?

Continuing Initiatives

Proposed bylaws revision:

New election structure: members elect Executive Committee, which in turn chooses officers amongst themselves

Draft currently under review by SIG Governing Board Executive Committee.

Continuing Initiatives

Possible ACM journal:

ACM produces quality journals for less than commercial publishers.

ACM journals are widely available through the ACM Digital Library.

SIGSAM is looking for an opportunity to serve the community by offering an ACM journal.

Continuing Initiatives

Possibilities for an ACM journal:

ACM Transactions in Symbolic Computation?

Carlo Traverso's "Active Journal of Computational Algebra"?

Alternative: more computer algebra in TOMS

Member survey planned for January 2007

Communications in Computer Algebra

We are currently three months behind. Our editors are working to catch up.

Discussion:

In order to save on printing costs, we are considering keeping four electronic issues per year but printing only two double issues per year (June, December).

Why Join SIGSAM?

Subscription to Communications in Computer Algebra (print, web)

Discount on ISSAC registration (when sponsored by SIGSAM)

Support SIGSAM initiatives to serve the community

Joining SIGSAM

You can join SIGSAM without becoming a professional member of the ACM.

SIGSAM dues cost 29 USD (regular), 9 USD (student), 5 USD (economically developing countries).

Visit `http://www.sigsam.org/` to join.

Volunteer!

Awards:

- Nominate a student for the ACM Dissertation Award

- Nominate a colleague for ACM Fellow or Distinguished Member

Volunteer!

Communications in Computer Algebra:

- Submit an article

- Write or edit a column or regular feature, e.g., on your specialty, or bring back the technical reports feature.

- Review an article or a book

Volunteer!

Assist with the Citations Project

- Collect or solicit citations for CAS or package

- Volunteer to tell authors or editors about our policy.

Volunteer!

Assist with the "white paper" project on justifying funding for research in symbolic computation.

Volunteer to help with anything you think will help our community.

Consider serving as an officer.
Contact Nominating Committee Chair: Rob Corless `rcorless@uwo.ca`

Thank you!

Possible ACM Journal?

Rising costs and "bundling" by certain commercial publishers make journal subscriptions harder to afford.

ACM operates publications to break even (non-profit), so its journals cost less.

ACM would welcome a proposal for a new journal, e.g., "Transactions on Symbolic Computation" (TSC).

Member survey planned for January 2007

Cost

Subscribers of the ACM Digital Library would receive this journal at no extra charge.

1700 libraries, 35,000 individual ACM members, total est. 100,000 world-wide have DL access.

Estimated subscription price:
institutional: 180 USD/year,
personal: 50 USD/year.
(Assumes small print run of about 200 copies.)

Cost of Transactions on Algorithms (TALG):
Print 50, Online 40, Both 60

Cost increases are limited by ACM policy to 1 USD/year for individual subscribers, 5 USD/year for institutional subscribers.