



Connections

The Newsletter of the IEEE Neural Networks Council

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President's Message-Should the Council Become a Society?

Patrick K. Simpson

The IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) consists of societies and councils. The majority of the technical groups are societies. When there is a technology (e.g. neural networks or solid-state circuits) that appears to span the technical interests of several societies, a committee is formed. If the committee is growing and strong, it becomes a council. Sometimes, as was the case for the Robotics and Automation Society, a council will ascend to society.

Societies and councils are the same in most ways. They each sponsor periodicals, conferences, books, video tutorials, and so on. They each

elect an executive committee. In addition, each society or council has its own budget.

The primary difference between a society and a council is membership. The members of a council are other IEEE societies. The members of a society are people (IEEE Members).

When a society wants to join a council, it petitions the council and, if there is sufficient technical overlap, it is added. Once a society has joined a council, that Society's president appoints two of its members to represent the society in council affairs. The appointed society representatives, the council's executive

committee, and various committee chairs, conduct council business.

A second difference is subscriptions. Currently, to get the *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks* or the *IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems*, you must be a member of one of the sponsoring societies. If you are not a member of a sponsoring society, you must pay a higher subscription fee (or join a sponsoring society for the lower rate).

A third difference is local representation. Most IEEE members are aware of Chapters. If there is enough local support, a society Chapter (i.e. Signal Processing Society Chapter)

(continued on back cover)

IEEE Neural Networks Council Member Societies

Circuits and Systems
Communications
Computer
Control Systems
Engineering in Medicine & Biology
Industrial Electronics
Industry Applications
Information Theory
Lasers and Electro-Optics
Oceanic Engineering
Power Engineering
Robotics and Automation
Signal Processing
Social Implications of Technology
Systems, Man & Cybernetics

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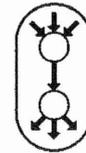
CoNNections Newsletter

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1995 IEEE International Conference
on
Neural Networks
27 November - 1 December 1995



Perth, Western Australia
ICNN/ICEC General Chair: Yianni Attikiouzel
University of Western Australia



IEEE
NEURAL
NETWORKS
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1995 IEEE International Conference
on
Evolutionary Computation
29 November - 1 December 1995

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Natural and artificial neural networks and associated topics:

Applications—Motion Analysis Architectures—Neurobiology—Artificially Intelligent Neural Networks—Neurocognition—Associative Memory—Neurodynamics—Computational Intelligence—Optimization—Cognitive Science—Pattern Recognition—Filtering—Prediction—Fuzzy Neural Systems—Robotics—Hybrid Systems—Sensation and Perception—Image Processing—Sensorimotor Systems Implementations—Speech, Hearing and Language—Intelligent Control—System Identification—Learning and Memory—Supervised/Unsupervised Learning—Machine Vision—Time Series Analysis

ICEC Technical Chair
David B. Fogel Natural Selection, Inc.
Assistant Technical Chair:
Ah Chung Tsoi, University of Queensland

Theory and applications of genetic and evolutionary algorithms, and associated topics:
Theory of evolutionary computation—Applications of evolutionary computation—Efficiency/robustness comparisons with other direct search algorithms—Parallel computer implementations—Artificial life—Evolutionary algorithms for computational intelligence—Comparisons between different variants of evolutionary algorithms—Machine learning applications—Evolutionary computation for neural networks—Fuzzy logic in evolutionary algorithms

ADDRESSES

ICNN'95 submissions and all other correspondence regarding the conferences, *except* submissions of papers to ICEC

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SCHEDULE

Proposals for tutorials, exhibits and plenaries 31 March 1995
Submission of papers 5 May 1995
Notification of acceptance 7 July 1995
Submission of camera-ready papers 25 August 1995

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Prospective authors are invited to submit papers related to the listed topics for oral or poster presentation. Five (5) copies of the paper must be submitted for review. Papers should be printed on ISO A4 or USA 8.5" x 11" white paper, written in English in one-column format in Times or similar font style, 10 points or larger with 2.5cm (1") margins on all four sides. A length of four pages is encouraged, and a limit of six pages, including figures, tables and references will be enforced. Centered at the top of the first page should be the complete title and the name(s), affiliation(s) and address(es) of the author(s). The Paper Submission Cover Sheet (available via e-mail from conference management) should be completed and attached to the submission.

Treasurer: Svetha Venkatesh, Curtin University of Technology, Perth
Local Arrangements: Dorota Kieronska, Curtin University of Technology
Publicity Chair: Chris deSilva, University of Western Australia, Perth

Should the Council Become a Society? (Continued from front cover)

can be formed. Because the NNC is not a society, it cannot have chapters. It can form Regional Interest Groups (and it has), but this is not easily done and the funding for local activities is limited. For many, working within a chapter of the local IEEE Section is preferred.

Should the NNC become a society? If it did, it would charge dues to its members and each member would determine who would be on the Executive Committee and Administrative Committees. This would eliminate appointments and provide the opportunity to any IEEE member to become a voting member of the IEEE NNC AdCom and ExCom. Furthermore, the membership could exercise its vote on key issues. Other than that, the difference would be almost imperceptible (other than a name change).

It is difficult to say exactly how large the membership for an IEEE Neural Networks Society would be, but I will offer a guess. Currently there are 7,200 subscribers to the *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks* and 5,850 subscribers to the *IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems*. If three-fourths of these subscribers become members, and

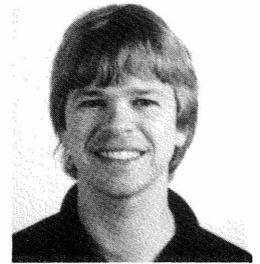
approximately 50% of the subscribers receive both transactions, this would mean the IEEE Neural Networks Society would have almost 5,000 members.

What do you think? Do you feel that the current society president appointment structure that is in place is preferable to membership-based elections? Do you feel the current structure for local meetings is sufficient and does not require a chapter-based structure? Do you feel that the access to *Transactions on Neural Networks* and *Transactions on Fuzzy Systems* is hindered by having to belong to another society to get the lower rate?

I would like you to respond to the editor of *CoNNections* with your thoughts on this issue. The Editor will summarize these thoughts and publish the results in the next issue of *CoNNections*. If you have thoughts that you would not prefer to have publicly expressed, please feel free to send to me where I will treat them with confidence. My mail address is 17436 Ashburton Road, San Diego, CA 92128. I can also be reached by email at xm8@sdcc12.ucsd.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

PKS

Direct from Australia— The On-Line NN Calendar



NNC CoNNections Associate Editor Paul Bakker of the University of Queensland, Australia, has prepared the bulk of the extensive calendar which has appeared in the last several issues. You may access the current version of this calendar (which is updated monthly) via anonymous ftp from ftp.cs.uq.oz.au. ('get' the file /pub/pdp/conferences).

If you would like to add a conference to this on-line calendar, please send (preferably) a Call-For-Papers to

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