

Preface

The Speech and Computer International Conference (SPECOM) is a regular event organized since 1996 when the first SPECOM was held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. It is a conference with a long tradition that attracts researchers in the area of computer speech processing (recognition, synthesis, understanding etc.) and related domains (including signal processing, language and text processing, multi-modal speech processing or human–computer interaction, for instance). The SPECOM international conference is an ideal platform for know-how exchange, especially for experts working on Slavic and other highly inflectional languages, and also know-how exchange between these usually less-resourced languages as well as standard, well-resourced languages.

The long history of the SPECOM conference has seen it being organized alternately by the St. Petersburg Institute of Informatics and Automation of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SPIIRAS) and the Moscow State Linguistic University (MSLU) in their home cities. Furthermore, it was organized in 1997 by the Cluj-Napoca Subsidiary of the Research Institute for Computer Techniques (Romania), in 2005 by the University of Patras (Greece), in 2011 by the Kazan Federal University (Russian Federation, Republic of Tatarstan), in 2013 by the University of West Bohemia (Pilsen, Czech Republic), and in 2014 by the University of Novi Sad (Serbia). The last conferences were organized in parallel with TSD 2013 and DOGS 2014 and they enjoyed great success and benefits of joining the various research teams.

SPECOM 2015 was the 17th event in the series. Ten years since it was first held here, the SPECOM conference returned to Greece and it was our great pleasure to host the SPECOM 2015 conference in Athens organized this time by the University of Patras, in cooperation with the Moscow State Linguistic University (MSLU), St. Petersburg Institute for Informatics and Automation of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SPIIRAS), and St. Petersburg National Research University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics (ITMO University). The conference was held during September 20-24, 2015, in the conference center of the Titania Hotel situated in the heart of the historical and commercial centre of Athens.

During the conference the invited talks were given by Gerhard Rigoll (Head of the Institute for Human–Machine Communication, TU München, Germany), Yannis Stylianou (Professor at the Department of Computer Science, University of Crete, Greece), Murat Saraçlar (Professor at the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Boğaziçi University, Turkey) on the newest achievements in speech technologies and the relatively broad and still unexplored area of human–machine interaction. The invited papers are published in the first part of the SPECOM 2015 proceedings.

This volume contains a collection of submitted papers presented at the conference, which were thoroughly reviewed by members of the Program Committee consisting of 50 top specialists in the conference topic areas. A total of 59 accepted papers out of 104

submitted, altogether contributed by 159 authors and co-authors, were selected by the Program Committee for presentation at the conference and for inclusion in this book. Theoretical and more general contributions were presented in common (plenary) sessions. Problem-oriented sessions as well as panel discussions then brought together specialists in limited problem areas with the aim of exchanging knowledge and skills resulting from research projects of all kinds.

Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to the authors for providing their papers on time, to the members of the Program Committee for their careful reviews and paper selection, and to the editors for their hard work preparing this volume. Special thanks are due to the members of the local Organizing Committee for their tireless effort and enthusiasm during the conference organization. We hope that you benefitted from the event and that you also enjoyed the social program prepared by the members of the Organizing Committee.

July 2015

Andrey Ronzhin

Speech and Computer

17th International Conference, SPECOM 2015, Athens,

Greece, September 20-24, 2015, Proceedings

Ronzhin, A.; Potapova, R.; Fakotakis, N. (Eds.)

2015, XVI, 506 p. 135 illus., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-23131-0