

Mathematical Theory of Networks and Systems

MTNS 2012, Melbourne, 9–13 July 2012

<http://mtns2012.com.au/>

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Preamble

The conference chairs thank the community for its participation in a successful MTNS 2012 down under in Melbourne. Special thanks to our conference organisers Ms Kim Stevenson and Ms Melissa Greco, and a very special thank you to our local University of Melbourne support provided by Ms Kerry Beachen.

The organisers thank the sponsors: The University of Melbourne, The Melbourne School of Engineering, National ICT Australia, Springer and the Australian Mathematical Society for their generous support.

Overview of the technical program

The 20th MTNS was held in Melbourne, Australia, at the University of Melbourne. Researchers from 34 countries presented their work over a 5-day period.

The actual program contained 4 plenary lectures and 10 semi-plenary presentations, as well as 192 regular presentations (only 6 of these suffered a no-show, and all these were clearly flagged by the presenter). The Uwe Helmke Techfest was held on the second day of the conference. It had 13 presentations that celebrated Uwe's contributions to mathematical systems theory.

There were 2 mini-courses presented: 'Quantum Control' and 'Multi-dimensional Linear Systems Theory'. As usual these mini-courses proved to be very popular with the audience.

Novel additions to MTNS were the panel session on 'Mathematical Network Problems in Mine Planning' and 'The MTNS History Session', which celebrated 40 years of MTNS conferences. Both of these were very popular items in the conference program.

Recommendation: That future MTNS organisers consider the inclusion of panel sessions (such as the 'Network Problems in Mine Planning') that bring together the mathematical community and the practitioners of a particular industrial or applied area for an open discussion on problems of interest.

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The review process

The proceedings are available at <http://www.mtns2012.conference.net.au>. The proceedings contain 95 full papers and 110 extended abstracts.

The full papers were subject to full peer review (and typically received 2 reviews), whereas extended abstracts were only vetted by the program committee chairs for alignment with the conference topics. The acceptance rate for the full papers was just on 70%, whereas the extended abstracts were by and large accepted, their acceptance rate being 90%.

Recommendation: That future MTNS organisers consider maintaining the dual review regime, accepting both moderated extended abstracts and fully refereed papers.

Participating countries

Clearly MTNS down under was a smaller conference, due to the unfortunate coincidence with a number of other important conferences like Sysid, and no doubt due to the travel distance involved.

The number of participants was 220, drawn from 34 participating countries.