Newsletter
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Issue Number 3

Issue highlights

This issue is released less than a month after the organization of the CROSSFIRE’s 3rd plenary meeting, which took place in Barcelona, on the 4th-5th of November 2013. Hence, this newsletter issue is mainly dedicated on information about this meeting and about the complementary courses that followed and were delivered to ESRs. Below is a picture of all meeting participants (twelve ESRs, eight seniors, one technical staff) in front of the “Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)” premises in Barcelona, Spain. The full topic is covered in pages 4-5.

The rest of the headlines in this newsletter issue are:

- Following the previous column on “Recruitment of ESRs” of past newsletters, where all twelve ESRs had been presented, the new column “Meet the project seniors” has been created. The background of three out of nine of the project seniors is given in this 3rd issue. This column will be completed after three more newsletter issues.

- Information and pictures are given regarding the organization of an LTE-A workshop, held in Supélec in October by CNRS.

- The participation of CROSSFIRE in the IEEE CloudNet 2014 is announced. A special session will be organized by the project and the call for contributions is already available.

- Information on new publications and on previous publications’ recognition is also available.

- The upcoming events of the project are announced.

- Information on how to access the newly launched CROSSFIRE e-learning Moodle platform is given.

- Finally, details on the CROSSFIRE’s presence in the web and social media are given. So, don’t forget to keep up with the project’s latest updates!

3rd CROSSFIRE plenary meeting in Barcelona
Meet the project seniors

**Lazaros Merakos: CROSSFIRE project manager, University of Athens**

Professor Lazaros Merakos received the Diploma in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece, in 1978, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the State University of New York, Buffalo, in 1981 and 1984, respectively. From 1983 to 1986, he was on the faculty of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department, University of Connecticut, Storrs. From 1986 to 1994, he was on the faculty of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Northeastern University, Boston, MA. During the period 1993–1994, he served as Director of the Communications and Digital Processing Research Center, Northeastern University. During the summers of 1990 and 1991, he was a Visiting Scientist at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY. In 1994, he joined the faculty of the University of Athens, Athens, Greece, where he is presently a Professor in the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, and Scientific Director of the Networks Operations and Management Center.

His research interests are in the design and performance analysis of communication networks, and wireless/mobile communication systems and services. He has authored more than 200 papers in the above areas. He has served as the scientific director of the Communication Networks Laboratory of the University of Athens in numerous research projects, including the projects RAINBOW, WAND, MOBIVAS, WINE, EURO-CITI, POLOS, ANWIRE, EZR, EZRILL, E3, Self-NET funded by the European Union. Dr. Merakos is chairman of the board of the Greek Schools Network, and member of the board of the National Research Network of Greece. In 1994, he received the Guanella Award for the Best Paper presented at the International Zurich Seminar on Mobile Communications.

Contact: merakos@di.uoa.gr  
Webpage: http://cnl.di.uoa.gr/merakos/

**Nikos Passas: CROSSFIRE technical manager & WP4 leader, University of Athens**

Dr. Passas received his Diploma (honors) from the Department of Computer Engineering, University of Patras, Greece, and his Ph.D. degree from the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Athens, Greece, in 1992 and 1997, respectively. From 1992 to 1995 he was a research engineer at the Greek National Research Center "Demokritos". Since 1995, he has been with the Communication Networks Laboratory of the University of Athens, working as a sessional lecturer and senior researcher in a number of national and European research projects. He has also served as a guest editor and technical program committee member in prestigious magazines and conferences, such as IEEE Wireless Communications Magazine, Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing Journal, IEEE Vehicular Technology Conference, IEEE PIMRC, IEEE Globecom, etc. Dr. Passas has published more than 80 papers in peer-reviewed journals and international conferences and has also published 1 book and 7 book chapters. His research interests are in the area of mobile network architectures and protocols. He is particularly interested in QoS for wireless networks, medium access control, and mobility management. Dr. Passas is a member of the IEEE and a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece.

Contact: passas@di.uoa.gr  
Webpage: http://cpl.di.uoa.gr/~passas/

**Ferran Adelantado: WP5 leader, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**

Ferran Adelantado received the Telecommunications Engineering degree from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) in December 2001 and in June 2002 he joined the Radio Communications Research Group (GRCM, http://www.tsc.upc.edu/grcm/) at UPC. In 2002 he was granted with a scholarship funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology to support his Ph.D. studies, which were completed in May 2007. Since December 2007 he has been working as an Associate professor at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC).

He has participated in several European and National projects, such as COSMOS (TEC-2004-00518 COSMOS), EVEREST (IST-2002-00185), CAUTION++ (IST-2001-38229), AlgorithmsForRouting (TRA-2010-21644-C03-02), SOFIA (IPT-2011-1498-370000), “UMTS system evaluation from GSM measurements” (funded by Telefónica Móviles) and CROSSFIRE (PITN-GA-2012-317126). He has also served as an advisor in numerous national and European projects. He has also served as a guest editor and technical program committee member in prestigious magazines and conferences, such as IEEE Wireless Communications Magazine, Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing Journal, IEEE Vehicular Technology Conference, IEEE PIMRC, IEE

Contact: ferranadelantado@uoc.edu

To be continued in the next issue...
LTE-A Workshop at SUPELEC

On October 16-18 2013, CNRS organized a small workshop with the objective of presenting the research activities of the CROSSFIRE project to leading experts in the wireless communications field, encompassing experts in communications theory, information theory and networking. The event was organized in three days with the following schedule:

Day 1: CNRS researchers (Marco Di Renzo, Peng Guan and Wei Lu) presented the CROSSFIRE project to the audience and illustrated the latest research achievements obtained in CROSSFIRE. In particular, Marco Di Renzo presented a framework that provides a closed-form expression of the average rate of heterogeneous cellular networks by using a stochastic geometry based approach. Peng Guan and Wei Lu presented their research papers that have recently been accepted for publication to the IEE ICNC-2014 conference. All the presentations received many questions from the audience, which was interested in both the research funding possibilities of Marie Curie projects as well as in the novel communications-theoretic results.

Days 2 & 3: The ESRs Peng Guan and Wei Lu had the chance to have informal meetings with the visitors in order to discuss their research achievements during the first year of their Ph.D. degree. They had individual meetings with the visitors, who provided many suggestions to them in order to enhance their research results. Furthermore, new mathematical tools were discussed. During the meetings, some visitors proposed to Peng Guan and Wei Lu to visit their research laboratories for possible research collaboration.

Here the list of invited experts from academia and industry:

- Pierre Duhamel, Directeur de Recherche CNRS (SUPELEC, France)
- Mohamed-Slim Alouini, Professor (KAUST, Saudi Arabia)
- George K. Karagiannidis, Professor (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)
- Philippe Ciblat, Professor (TELECOM ParisTech, France)
- Norman C. Beaulieu, Professor (University of Alberta, Canada)
- Martin Haenggi, Professor (University of Notre Dame, USA)
- Philippe Loubaton, Professor (University of Marne la Vallée, France)
- Christophe Le Martret, Thales Expert (Thales Communications, France)

IEEE CloudNet 2014

The 2014 3rd IEEE International Conference on Cloud Networking, part of the IEEE Cloud Computing Initiative, will be held in Luxembourg on October 8-10, 2014. The technical program of this event will include a special session on “Network virtualization and QoE in future mobile cellular networks”, which will be organized by the FP7 MITN CROSSFIRE project. The contributions requested include but are not limited to (Paper Submission is due May 1, 2014):

- Architectural aspects for enabling dynamic network sharing via network virtualization (NV).
- Protocols and advanced algorithms for dynamic NV.
- Near optimal utilization of the available spectrum (cognition, self-organization, etc.).
- Network interference mitigation and avoidance in conjunction with QoS considerations.
- Decentralized self-organization of heterogeneous networks.
- Bridging the gap between QoE and QoS.

For more information, visit: http://www.ieee-cloudnet.org/
The CROSSFIRE’s third plenary meeting took place in Barcelona, Spain during the first week of November (4-5/11/2013). The “Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)” was responsible for the hosting and coordination of this event, which took place in one of UOC premises, located in the business district of Barcelona. All twelve recruited ESRs together with the project seniors participated in this meeting. The agenda of the 3rd plenary meeting covered management issues, such as recruitment, future planning, financial reporting, next milestones and deliverables etc., as well as issues related to training and dissemination activities. The meeting was followed by short presentations per WP. First, WP leaders explained the main objectives and technical approach of each WP, as well as the overall progress so far. Moreover, the general roadmap and some ideas for future research directions were given.

Following that, per WP, each ESR presented his/her current research work status, research results and future plans as well as his/her training or other parallel activities.

During the next days (5-8/11/2013), all ESRs took part in the first CROSSFIRE complementary courses on “Writing scientific papers and presentation techniques”. Six different modules were presented from six different speakers. First, Fabrizio Granelli gave a lecture on writing scientific papers, where he mainly explained how to prepare a paper contribution in terms of structure, concept, purpose and presentation of ideas.

The next day, Marco di Renzo gave a very interesting course on issues related to conferences and journals; He explained their differences and classification, their submission process, their impact factor, the review process, and also discussed issues related to plagiarism.

Afterwards, Maydo Arderiu gave a very interactive lecture, with the objective to help ESRs design their personal marketing plan in order to find their place in organizations, in the near future. For instance, she gave useful advice regarding assessment centers, job interviews, job search channels, social media etc.

During the following day, the ESRs attended presentation skills courses. First, Marco Quoiani gave to the ESRs some very useful tips on how to give presentations in English, by explaining what are the key moments in a presentation, how to capture and keep the audience’s attention, which words and expressions enrich a presentation, etc. Afterwards, Ferran Adelantado organized a session where all ESRs prepared and presented a short presentation on a topic of their interest (not necessarily technical). Valuable feedback was given to each ESR regarding his/her strengths and weaknesses and most of all regarding what each ESR needs to improve and how.

The last course was given by Leonardo Badia, who advised ESRs on how to create professional-looking presentations, which tools to use, what kind of common mistakes need to be avoided etc. Moreover, he gave general hints regarding oral conference and poster presentations.

The exact program of the seminars may be found here.
Publication news

- **New publications:**

- **Awards:**
  1. The paper: “M. Di Renzo, A. Guidotti, G. E. Corazza, “Average Rate of Downlink Heterogeneous Cellular Networks over Generalized Fading Channels – A Stochastic Geometry Approach”, IEEE Transactions on Communications, Vol. 61, No. 7, pp. 3050–3071, July 2013” received the 2013 NEWCOM# Best Paper Award. It is a joint research activity between scientists of the projects ITN-CROSSFIRE and NoE-NEWCOM#.
Upcoming events – Save the dates!

- On December 18th 2013, a multidisciplinary research symposium will be held at UOC with the objective to give visibility to ongoing research activities.
- Each one of the twelve recruited ESR is going to organize one public talk until the end of 2013. The public talks may take place at different locations, such as schools, public events and congresses and are targeted to non-experts. The talks will be recorded and photos will be provided after the symposium. More information is available here.

Crossfire in social media

Crossfire is present in:

LinkedIn
CROSSFIRE
(open group)

Twitter
@mitncrossfire

Wiki
(members only)

The research profiles of the CROSSFIRE members may be found in the Research Gate scientific community.

NEW: The CROSSFIRE “Training Activities Platform”, the e-learning platform for the training activities of CROSSFIRE, has been now launched: http://crossfire.uoc.es/moodle/

Some of the courses allow guest access too.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
http://mitn-crossfire.eu/