

ECE Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes for September 23, 2011

Members AY 2011-12: Stephen Levinson (chair), Jont Allen, Tangul Basar, Stephen Bopart, Andreas Cangelaris (ex-officio), Alejandro Dominguez-Garcia, Matthew Gilbert, Yih-Chun Hu, Seth Hutchinson, Erhan Kudeki (ex-officio), Jean-Pierre Leburton, Xiuling Li, Steven Lumetta, Jonathan Makela, Sayan Mitra, Michael Oelze, Constantine Polychronopoulos, Paris Smaragdis, John Tucker, Nitin Vaidya, Martin Wong

Attendees: Levinson, Allen, Kudeki, Dominguez-Garcia, Hutchinson, Oelze, Basar, Lumetta, Bopart, Leburton, Makela, Gilbert, Mitra

The meeting of the AY 2011-12 Curriculum Committee was called to order at 10:05 AM.

The minutes of the meeting of September 16 were amended.

The revised proposal for ECE498JD was reviewed. There are still minor problems that require correction. The chair will review the comments of the committee with Prof. Dalasassee by telephone.

The committee discussed revision of the CompE curriculum. The chair will distribute an early draft proposal for such revisions from Erhan Kudeki's records.

In addition to revising the core courses, ECE190, 290, 385, and CS225 there are other considerations. One in particular that was discussed by many members of the committee is the goal of coordinating the CompE and CS curricula. In particular there are areas of common interest but the subjects are presented from different perspectives when taught in different departments. Many of these differences ultimately rest on different perspectives on probability theory. The question was raised whether or not we need a course to follow ECE313 that would treat random processes and statistical decision theory including Markov processes and dynamic programming. Many of our courses such as ECE459, 448, and 486 develop some of this material on an as-needed basis. Do we need a foundational course such as the Signals, Systems, and Inference course given at MIT? Would these issues result in the need for the CompE curriculum to offer courses with the same nominal content as existing CS courses but with a different (i.e. stochastic) perspective?

Some kind of coordination with the curriculum committee in CS would be helpful. In particular Steve Lumetta, Paris Smaragdis (already on the CS curriculum committee), and Sayan Mitra could attend the CS curriculum committee meetings. Erhan Kudeki will find out how to arrange such meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

These minutes drafted by S. E. Levinson, Sept. 23, 2011. Revised 10/14/11.