

## 2008 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory

Sheraton Centre Toronto, Toronto, Ontario Canada

July 6–11, 2008

ISIT 2008 took place in Toronto, July 6–11, 2008. There were 856 registrants from 39 countries, distributed as follows:

Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees	Country	Attendees
Argentina	1	Greece	3	Norway	7
Australia	14	Hong Kong	12	Portugal	3
Austria	2	Hungary	2	Qatar	1
Belgium	1	India	17	Russia	2
Brazil	2	Iran	1	Saudi Arabia	1
Canada	130	Ireland	1	Singapore	3
China	7	Israel	34	South Africa	1
Cyprus	1	Italy	9	Spain	9
Denmark	3	Japan	44	Sweden	11
Finland	4	Korea	57	Switzerland	40
France	27	Lebanon	1	Taiwan	15
Germany	25	Netherlands	10	Turkey	2
Great Britain	11	New Zealand	1	United States	341

Among the 856 registrants, 333—or 39%—were students (and 523—or 61%— were non-students). Interestingly, 83 attendees waited to register until after the start of the symposium.

Four tutorials were offered on the Sunday prior to the conference:

Tutorial	Presenters	Attendees
Information Theoretic Security: Theory and Practice	J. Barros and S. W. McLaughlin	78
Distributed Source Coding: Foundations, Constructions and Applications	K. Ramchandran and S. Pradhan	95
Information Exchange in Viral Infections: Applications to Vaccine Design	N. Jovic	34
Networks' Challenge: Where Game Theory Meets Network Optimization	A. Ozdaglar	99

The highlight of ISIT 2008 was the Claude E. Shannon Award Lecture given by Professor Robert M. Gray of Stanford University on “Source Coding and Simulation.” Four excellent plenary lectures were presented: A. R. Calderbank: “Golay, Heisenberg and Weyl”; A. Or-litsky: “From Two to Infinity: Information Theory and Statistics for Large Alphabets”; E. H. Knill: “Building Quantum Computers”; and A. Wigderson: “Randomness—A Computational Complexity View”. A special session in memory of Sergio Servetto was organized by

Toby Berger. A recent results poster session took place immediately following the Shannon Lecture; 21 posters were presented.

Several Wednesday excursions were offered, but only two achieved sufficiently many subscriptions to be offered: these were the Niagara Falls tour (144 attendees) and the Blue Jays Baseball game (24 attendees).

The panel session on “Balancing Career and Personal Life” held at lunchtime on Wednesday (with panelists Andrea Goldsmith, Robert M. Gray, Ubli Mitra and Lalitha Sankar, and organized by Muriel Médard) was very well attended (by women *and* men). The student committee, under the leadership of Aylin Yener, organized two lunchtime events: a “Roundtable Research Discussion” and a “Panel Discussion and Meeting.”

Conference Management Services (CMS) provided excellent logistical support (conference web site, paper-handling system, registration, publications, etc.) for ISIT 2008. (They had previously been hired to help with ISIT 2004 and ISIT 2006.) The Proceedings of ISIT 2008 appeared in IEEEXplore approximately one month after the Symposium ended.

The IEEE Conferences budget process requires preparation of three parallel budgets: “pessimistic”, “expected,” and “optimistic.” Although the books have not yet been closed (CMS must still be paid and the books must be officially audited), the current projected surplus for ISIT 2008 is on the order of US\$95K, in keeping with the “optimistic” budget, and reflecting the healthy attendance at the Symposium.

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Sept 22, 2008