

SPHERIC Steering Committee meeting

Univ. of Pavia – Dec 2, 2010

MINUTES

Present participants

S.C. members

David Le Touzé (Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France, chair)
Stefano Sibilla (Univ. of Pavia, Italy)
Andrea Colagrossi (INSEAN, Italy)
Alejandro Crespo representing Moncho Gomez Gesteira (Univ. of Vigo, Spain)
Rade Vignjevic (Cranfield Univ., UK)
Xiangyu Hu (Technical Univ. of Munich, Germany)

Other participants

Thomas Rung (Univ. of Hamburg, Germany)
Christian Ulrich (Univ. of Hamburg, Germany)
Sauro Manenti (Univ. of Pavia, Italy)
Matteo Antuono (INSEAN, Italy)

Absent S.C. members

Nathan Quinlan (Nat. Univ. Ireland, Galway, secretary)
Ben Rogers (Univ. Manchester, UK, webmaster)
Jean-Christophe Marongiu (Andritz Hydro, Switzerland)
Damien Violeau (EDF R&D, France)
Paul Groenenboom (ESI BV, Netherlands)
John Biddiscombe (CSCS, Switzerland)
Jason Hughes (Univ. of Plymouth, UK)

1. Meeting attendance specific situation

Due to the snowy weather throughout Europe, 3 S.C. members had to cancel their attendance to the meeting. They sent emails which were read during the meeting together with the emails of the other absent members, in order to account as best as possible for the opinions of the many absent members.

2. Hamburg 2011 workshop

Schedule: Thomas Rung and Christian Ulrich described the present stage of the workshop organization; everything is on schedule. The registration fees shall be quite similar to last year ones. ERCOFTAC support was not attributed due to a bug on the ERCOFTAC side; this funding will be reconsidered at next ERCOFTAC meeting in

May 2011. If the organizers get further financial support (from the German National Science Foundation, from industrials...) the student registration fees will be reduced.

Workshop format: The 2011 workshop format will be unchanged (51 presentations + ~10 poster presentations, closure at 16.15 on the third day, training day the day before the first day). Parallel sessions were again rejected by the majority of present and absent S.C. members, at least for now. Following Alex Crespo's and Ben Rogers' proposal, the Committee agreed that at next workshops, the training day will take place after the workshop and not before, so that the workshop will last (at least) 3 full days. The format of the fourth day (training day or mixed workshop/training day) will be discussed at next S.C. meeting.

Paper submission: The submission schedule is very close to previous year's one. The 1 page abstract with 1 figure does not change, even though an abstract template will be provided (after Rade Vignjevic's and Ben Rogers' proposal) to ensure that the abstract content permits its fair assessment. The website will underline that papers proposing original methods or industrial applications will be encouraged. Any incomplete abstract (too little text or without figure) will be returned to the author requiring improvement, and the same if the authors do not select three keywords as specified. It will be let (mainly for students) the possibility to directly apply for a poster presentation.

Paper selection: This led to thorough discussions and various proposals, by emails and during the meeting. The modified selection process proposed in the end is as such:

- each abstract will be reviewed by 3 reviewers.
 - the local organizer can act as 14th reviewer if he wishes so (after such a request by Joe Monaghan for the 2012 workshop); Thomas Rung will tell his decision soon.
 - each abstract will be assessed by 3 marks ranging in 0-5; these marks will be respectively for:
 - o novelty
 - o applicability/expected impact of what is proposed
 - o improvement of the state of the art/quality of results
- The three marks will have equal weights: final mark is out of 15. These assessment criteria will be given to authors through the website
- to homogenize the review process, the marks given by any individual reviewer will be corrected so that all reviewers marks have a shared average
 - to try to reflect as much as possible the variety of the abstracts received, correction to some marks will be proposed to the S.C. by the local organizer, according to the following principle: if e.g. we receive 20 papers with the keyword "keyword3" and none of these paper is selected by the marking process, the proposal would be to slightly raise the marks of these 20 papers, e.g. by 1 or 2 points out of 15 (conversely, if we receive 20 papers with the keyword "keyword4" and all of these papers are selected, the proposal would be to slightly decrease the marks of those 20 papers).
 - As last year the reviewers will be attributed the abstracts according to a matrix reviewers/keywords. On the basis of last year matrix Thomas Rung will circulate soon a proposal for this year matrix, where every S.C. member will have to fill in the keywords which they can/want to review.

Besides, it will be clearly highlighted on the website that papers will be either accepted for standard session presentation (15min), or for poster presentation (4min+a poster), or rejected.

Finally, the S.C. members shall consider during future S.C meetings the possibility to have an extended scientific board for the review process.

Training day: The format is unchanged for this year. The introduction lecture (30-45min) will be given by Stefano Sibilla and the specific lecture (45-60min) will be given by Rade Vignjevic on specificities of SPH modelling for structure simulation (Lagrangian kernel, Tensile Instability, etc.). Computer rooms of Univ. of Hamburg will be used for the hands-on sessions using SPHysics (morning, Alex Crespo and Ben Rogers) and ParaView-Meshless (afternoon, John Biddiscombe and Jérôme Soumagne).

Miscellaneous: Ben Rogers will send last year mailing list for Thomas Rung to make the first call before Christmas. David Le Touzé will send the up-to-date SPHERIC member mailing list.

3. Prato 2012 workshop

The Committee validated the choice of Prato with Andrea Colagrossi, Stefano Sibilla, and Joe Monaghan as local organizers. The workshop will take place at Prato (Tuscany) in a place property of Monash Univ. One request by Joe Monaghan to participate in the reviewing process was accepted, the other one to have only electronic proceedings was dismissed.

4. Baltimore benchmarking workshop

The Committee is rather worried by this workshop (only 1 registration for now). It is likely that very few people of the S.C. will attend it, and it has been underlined again that delays were way too short to enable a true benchmarking workshop. A possibility could be to transform it into a special event to promote SPH in the US (with speakers invited to present their work) but this shall be decided almost immediately. David Le Touzé will send a specific email to the S.C. members and then to Tony Dalrymple.

5. New SPHERIC members

3 new members since June, from Canada, Italy and Iran. We are now 85.

6. December issue of the newsletter

Thomas Rung will send Damien Violeau the workshop presentation very soon. The rest of the newsletter will be composed of contributions of SPHERIC members contacted by Damien Violeau.

7. SPHERIC website

Ben Rogers made some updates:

- abstracts from previous workshops are now online
- new Ercoftac website has been uploaded with all our Special Interest Group information
- SPHERIC Homepage hits has reached 50,000
- list of countries on front page re-organised
- videos of Vignjevic keynote online
- missing pdf of keynote lecture from Koumoutsakos despite repeated requests.

8. Bibliography

Nathan Quinlan indicates that there are now 599 entries in the database, but that the growth is slow - about 10 more since June.

9. ERCOFTAC SPC meeting

David Le Touzé did not realize someone had to attend the last SPC meeting and no one attended it. He will attend next one in May 2011 and try to defend late funding for the workshop. In case he would not be able to attend it, a volunteer S.C. member would be requested.

10. Special issues / special sessions

Stefano Sibilla is organizing a special session at COMPDYN2011. Rade Vignjevic came up with the idea of launching a journal on meshless methods. The Committee agreed that this was a good idea to investigate. Rade Vignjevic has already some contacts with Springer. The idea would be to build an editorial line and decide the board (the S.C.? wider? mixed?...) via email before the next S.C. meeting, and to discuss this topic more in detail then in Hamburg. David Le Touzé will send an email in this respect.

The Committee is thanking Stefano Sibilla for its nice stay in Pavia (even though a little strange due to the situation!).