

A Report from the ACM SIGCOMM 2002,  
Conference of Special Interest Group on  
Communications,  
Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A  
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## 1 Introduction

The annual ACM SIGCOMM is a single track and highly competitive conference in the field of Computer Networks. This year I got ACM SIGCOMM student travel award to attend it as a student member of ACM and Ph.D student of Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) and Computer Science (COSC) Department.

I was greatly helped by my supervisors, Assoc. Prof Harsha Sirisena (ECE) and Assoc. Prof Krzysztof Pawlikowski (COSC) during the whole process of inspiring, motivating, applying, traveling to Pittsburgh PA and attending SIGCOMM 2002, <http://www.acm.org/sigcomm/sigcomm2002/> .

## 2 Traveling

Traveling to U.S.A for conference is usually a matter of much excitement for most postgraduate students of ECE and COSC. Same was the case with me. After packing my stuff, I started my journey on Aug 19, and it took me long hours of flights to reach my destination William Omni Penn Hotel Pittsburgh, where the conference was being held at 17-th floor.

## 3 Topics Discussed

I did my registration on Aug 21 and joined the opening reception party in Urban room.

First day Aug 21, had three sessions on Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Analysis, Overlay Networks and Congestion Control. The last session was related to my research work, and I got couple of good ideas like Explicit Congestion Protocol (XCP), which might be useful for my future work. In the evening we had a banquet at Carnegie Museum, where there was a very big collection of fossils of dinosaurs. A lot of socialisation was done on that evening with people from different local and foreign Universities. During the banquet, people discussed research problems with each other and every one got a chance to know about the latest trends in industry and academia.

Second day Aug 22, brought technical sessions about Measuring and Simulating Networks, Point to Point (P2P) and Multicast. At the mid afternoon there was a student poster session which had a lot of very good ideas about

latest networking research being carried out in U.S.A and the other parts of world. Then, there was a session about Routing Dynamics.

On the last day Aug 23, we heard sessions about Router Analysis/Design and Measuring Paths and Flows. I liked the first session very much. It discussed a lot of issues relating to routers (like buffering, QoS, parallel and distributed shared memory, tradeoffs on delay bounds and computational complexity in packet scheduling algorithms).

At the end there were two position papers. On whole, everybody in the conference was quite attentive and there was a lot of discussion/questions after every presentation.

## **4 Carnegie Mellon University End System Multicast Project**

Under this project all of the conference sessions were shown on line at <http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/streaming/>. It was a very good project. Many people around the world has used this system to watch the conference remotely.

## **5 Notable Researchers/Participants**

It is a very good experience to be among the world famous networkers whose names you read for many years in books and in research journals. Also someone can discuss ambiguities in their previous publications and results. This year about 400 people attended SIGCOMM and half of them were students.

Four overseas students got travel award including me from University of Canterbury Christchurch (UoC) New Zealand. This was the second time since last year, that a student from ECE/COSC Network Research Group(NRG) at UoC, [http://www.cosc.canterbury.ac.nz/research/RG/net\\_sim/](http://www.cosc.canterbury.ac.nz/research/RG/net_sim/), was granted student travel award. It is a clear evidence that research conducted by our Research Group has International recognition.

## **6 Proceedings/Literature**

The proceedings of ACM SIGCOMM 2002, abstracts of student posters and some other literature is available from NRG, which can be viewed by interested students.

## **7 ACM SIGCOMM 2003**

Next year SIGCOMM will be held in Karlsruhe Germany. The URL is <http://www.acm.org/sigcomm/sigcomm2003>. It also has student travel grants, and I encourage students of ECE/COSC to apply after they have joined NRG and started their Ph.D's.