



## CALL FOR SIGNAL PROCESSING GRAND CHALLENGE PROPOSALS

### Signal Processing Grand Challenges (SPGC) Programme 2021 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP'21)

#### General Chairs:

Konstantinos N. Plataniotis, University of Toronto  
Xiao-Ping Zhang, Ryerson University  
Tao Mei, Deputy Managing Director of JD AI Research  
Arash Mohammadi, Concordia University

#### Signal Processing Grand Challenges (SPGC) Programme Call for Proposals:

The 2021 International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, & Signal Processing (ICASSP) invites proposals for its Signal Processing Grand Challenges (SPGC) programme. ICASSP is the IEEE Signal Processing Society's flagship conference targeting signal processing and its applications. ICASSP 2021, to be held in the dynamic city of Toronto, Canada, includes keynotes by pre-eminent international speakers, cutting-edge tutorial topics, and forward-looking special sessions. ICASSP also provides a great networking opportunity with a wide range of like-minded professionals from academia, industry and government organizations.

#### SPGC Programme Guidelines:

- **Proposal:** Prospective SPGC organizers should include the following items in their proposal:
  - One-page call for participation;
  - Signal Processing Grand Challenge description;
  - Description of the dataset provided for training and evaluation, evaluation criteria and methodology, guidelines for proponents, and submission deadline, and;
  - List of potential participants.
- **Participation:** Grand Challenge organizers should facilitate participation, communication, and impact. Grand Challenge organizers are not allowed to participate in the competition they are organizing.
- **Dataset:** If applicable to the challenge, organizers should make the competition training dataset available to the participants. The training set should include every information required to complete the competition. The test set, to be used for evaluation, should also be released without the ground-truth. A second test set, which is not available to participants, is also encouraged.
- **Evaluation:** How the results are evaluated and ranked should be announced along with the challenge description. These criteria need to be carefully followed during the competition. Evaluation methods should be unbiased and transparent.
- **SPGC Papers:** Each SPGC would have around 2-3 months to run the competition and rank/select winning teams. Each SPGC can have up to 5 papers from the top ranked teams. The format should be consistent with ICASSP regular paper, and should be submitted before the camera ready deadline.
  - Organizers are responsible for reviewing the challenge papers.

- SPGC papers have the same camera-ready deadline as regular papers, but with a much tighter review cycle.
  - The SPGC paper submission deadline should coincide with the model submission deadline for SPGCs.
  - The SPGC paper acceptance announcement should coincide with the model evaluation results announcement. This gives proponents the maximum amount of time to prepare their models for submission to SPGC organizers for evaluation.
- **SPGC Sessions:** SPGC organizers should organize accepted SPGC papers into their own 2-hour SPGC session in the ICASSP 2021 program, which should include SPGC paper presentations (oral or poster), typically followed by a panel or open discussion. Winners of competitions should be announced during the SPGC sessions.

**Important Dates:**

- Proposal submission deadline: **21 October 2020.**
- Notification of Acceptance: **9 November 2020.**

**Contact Information:** For inquiries please contact the SPGC committee. Email contacts are given below:

- Konstantinos N. Plataniotis ([kostas@ece.utoronto.ca](mailto:kostas@ece.utoronto.ca)),
- Xiao-Ping Zhang ([xzhang@ryerson.ca](mailto:xzhang@ryerson.ca)),
- Tao Mei ([tmei@live.com](mailto:tmei@live.com)),
- Arash Mohammadi ([arash.mohammadi@concordia.ca](mailto:arash.mohammadi@concordia.ca)),