The Computer Vision Foundation

Tuesday November 8, 2011

Rationale

- We have a unique opportunity to explore an alternative sponsorship mechanism
- Independent foundation drawn from our community, “clean sheet” design
  - Financial and institutional advantages
- Inspired by: NIPS, AAAI, USENIX, etc.
- CVPR11 left a surplus which allows us to bootstrap this process smoothly

Summary of advantages

- Lightweight organization that can easily adapt to our community's unique needs
- Impose appropriate (minimal) overhead
  - Financially: significantly more efficient
  - Procedurally: approvals only needed from members of the vision community
- Ensure leverage for future CVPR/ICCV's

How would this work?

- CVF is an independent non-profit
- An individual CVPR/ICCV can decide to use CVF as a co-sponsor, in whole or in part
  - Technical or financial
- CVPR/ICCV are chosen just as always
- CVF uses surplus from previous conferences to provide initial loan for current one
- CVPR13 test case, using CVPR11 surplus

Structural advantages

- CVF brings together the journal (TPAMI) and the conferences (CVPR/ICCV) in a natural way
  - Currently the relationship with TPAMI will be purely informal via shared leadership
- CVF has flexibility to deal with industrial opportunities that may arise
- Ultimately, CVF may be able to fund anything that the community thinks it should

Financial advantages

- External sponsorship of CVPR & ICCV has historically been very expensive
- Just in the period 2004-2010, CVPR & ICCV send ~ $1.6M to IEEE-CS
  - Which sent ~$200K to PAMITC and kept the rest
  - IEEE membership fees are even larger
- Contribution has not been commensurate with cost
  - See appendix of Forsyth committee report
  - Particularly bad since 2007

Procedural advantages

- CVPR/ICCV are restricted by the sponsor
  - Any sponsor want to ensure it makes money
- IEEE-CS policies are enforced by people who do not come from the our community
- This has often obstructed the conference organizers in the past (see Forsyth appendix)
  - Ex: CVPR09 was not allowed to spend its money on travel grants for students or for social events
  - Ex: CVPR11 was told "Overspending on Social Functions at the last minute indicates serious problems with the management of this conference"

CVF generalizes CVPR11

- CVPR11 problems with IEEE-CS led to a co-sponsored conference with UCCS (Boult)
- Many advantages: lower registration fees, less micromanagement, surplus available to community under our control
- Model was designed at the last minute under severe time pressure to run AC meeting
  - We have a chance to do this “right”

CVF structure

- Board of directors (CVPR11 & CVPR13 GC's, plus RDZ's wife who is an attorney)
- Board is self-selecting and self-accountable
  - Just like NIPS, but CVF doesn't pick organizers
- Bylaws on web page shortly
- Membership includes all CVPR11 attendees
  - We expect this will provide member-rate registration at CVPR13
  - Members will be consulted but don't vote