Introduction to Emerging Issues in Distributed Group Decision-Making: Opportunities and Challenges

Anil K. Aggarwal              Doug Vogel         Sree Nilakanta  
University of Baltimore   City university of Hong Kong   Iowa State University   
USA       Hong Kong           nilakant@iastate.edu  
aaggarwal@ubalt.edu         isdoug@cityu.edu.hk

This mini track addresses emerging issues, such as diversity, culture, adaptability and agility related to teams in distributed group decision-making, as well as the underlying theories of group dynamics, coordination, and communications. The papers submitted specifically examined the emerging issues related to team configuration, crowd sourcing and performance in a distributed environment.

The mini track attracted several papers related to various aspects of distributed decision making. Though all papers were of good quality, only three were accepted. Accepted papers study emerging issues of trust, non-trust, diversity and crowd sourcing in distributed group decision-making. The first paper discusses Decisions 2.0 from the standpoint of making use of the "crowd". The paper, specifically, studies collaborative decision making that explores how decisions 2.0, contrasts to traditional decision making. The second paper conducts a longitudinal experiment involving online classes to study the impact of functional diversity on distributed groups. The third paper investigate users’ subjective sense of security, which is called Anshin in Japanese. Authors designed an improved questionnaire to study information security based on brainstorming and the KJ method. Authors found four factors such as "Competence", "Kindness", "Familiarity" and "Reputation" important for perceived sense of security.

Each of the three papers is timely, as they address emerging issues related to distributed group decision making. The distributed group decision making area is still emerging and research is conflicting. As long as research produces mixed results, there will be continual need for validation and replication of experiments and development of new underlying theories.