



SSTD 2023

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Message from the PC and General co-Chairs

SSTD 2023

Welcome to SSTD 2023, the 18th International Symposium on Spatial and Temporal Data!

The International Symposium on Spatial and Temporal Data 2023 (SSTD 2023) is the eighteenth event of a series of biannual symposia that discuss new and exciting research in spatial, temporal and spatio-temporal data management and related technologies with the goal of setting future research directions. SSTD 2023 took place in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, from 23 to 25 August 2023.

The primary focus of SSTD symposia is on original results in the areas of theoretical foundations, design, implementation, and applications of spatial and temporal database technology. This year, we continued the tradition of SSTD to gather research in both academia and industry.

Following a panel discussion at SSTD 2019 in Vienna, Austria, we decided to rename SSTD from “International Symposium on Spatial and Temporal **Databases**” to “International Symposium on Spatial and Temporal **Data**”. The rationale for this change, as suggested by Prof. Dimitris Papadias at the SSTD 2019 panel, was to broaden the topic and participation to explicitly solicit research submissions that do not necessarily focus on database technologies and research. The call for papers of SSTD in the last decades had already been inclusive of research topics outside of databases and many papers published did not focus on databases. The panel and participants at SSTD 2019 agreed that this change of name of SSTD is consistent with the research focus on SSTD. This year, we implemented this change.

This year, we received 48 submissions in the Research track, among which 46 were regular papers, and two were short papers. Our program committee included 88 expert reviewers. All papers received at least three reviews. Based on the recommendation provided by the program committee we selected 15 papers for publication in the proceedings, among which 14 are regular research papers and one is a short paper. The overall acceptance rate of the research track is $15/48 = 31.25\%$. Apart from the Research track, we received a total of 15 submissions in the Industry/Vision/Demo tracks and accepted 8 of them: 5 Demo, 2 Industry and 1 Vision. Along with the presentations of research publications, and technical demonstrations, a panel has been organized. The program also featured two keynote talks by prestigious researchers, Juliana Freire (Institute Professor at the Tandon School of Engineering and Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Data Science at New York University), and Li Xiong (the Samuel Dobbs Professor of Computer Science and Biomedical Informatics at Emory University). Professor Freire talked about “Democratizing Urban Data Exploration”, and Professor Xiong's talk was about “Harnessing Spatiotemporal Data for Pandemic Preparedness with Privacy-Enhancing Technologies.”

We were very fortunate to be able to count with the support and financial support from Esri, Inc. and Wherobots. We are very grateful to all of the organizing committee members for their contribution to this effort as well as the support by the SSTD Endowment. We also thank all the Program Committee members and external reviewers who contributed in the evaluation of the papers and ensuring the quality of the technical program. Our colleagues from the University of Calgary deserve special recognition for making it possible to host this year's SSTD so close to the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Finally, we thank

all the authors for their submitted contribution and ensuring SSTD continues to be well-known as an excellent research venue for spatial and temporal data.

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