

ACM SIGSPATIAL 2016 Students Research Competition Report San Francisco, USA - October 31, 2016

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For the first time, the ACM SIGSPATIAL 2016 hosted the SIGSPATIAL ACM Student Research Competition (SRC) this year. SRC allows undergraduate and graduate students to share their research results and exchange ideas with other students, judges, and conference attendees; understand the practical applications of their research; perfect their communication skills; and receive prizes and gain recognition from ACM and the greater computing community.

Student Research Competition winners were selected in three phases: In the first phase, a two-page abstract was judged based on novelty, impact, approach, results, and contributions to the field of spatial systems and algorithms. Selected competitors prepared a poster for demonstrating their work during the conference in the second phase. Those selected for further competition at the final phase gave a short talk about their research project in front of the judging committee and conference attendees. All SRC participants at the conference received support to cover their travel to the conference. Three graduate category and one undergraduate category winners of the SIGSPATIAL 2016 SRC were announced at the conference banquet and received certificates, medals, as well as monetary awards from the ACM. In addition, the top winner from each category will advance to the SRC Grand Finals, where winners from various ACM SIGs are evaluated to nominate the ACM-wide SRC winners. The winners of the Grand Finals will be recognized at the Annual ACM Awards Banquet, the same banquet that also recognizes the Turing Award winners.

The winning entries cover different areas of interest to the SIGSPATIAL community including computational steering for geosimulations, accelerating the calculation of the minimum set of viewpoints for maximum coverage over digital elevation model data, dynamic indoor navigation, and city-scale mapping of pets using georeferenced images.

I would like to thank all the authors of papers and the SRC judging committee for their professional evaluation and help in the three phases of the competition. A special thanks goes to Microsoft Research for supporting the SRC across the different ACM SIGs. Finally, I hope that the first Student Research Competition will inspire new research ideas and encourage further participations from all students working in areas relevant to the SIGSPATIAL community.