

Proof Society General Meeting

Thursday 12th September 2024, Birmingham

The meeting took place within the Proof Society Workshop, and was both in-person and online.

Agenda:

1. Report on PS meeting 2024
2. Elections
3. Follow-up on points of actions from the Proof Society General Meeting of 18th April 2024:
 - a. Organisation of PS School and Workshop for 2025: when, where?
 - b. PS online seminar
 - c. PS website: suggestions and improvements; volunteers to maintain a resource page; information about graduate programs in proof theory; how to join the proof theory mailing list (?); information about funding opportunities (?).
4. Vision of the proof society: suggestions and ideas for the future
5. Indicative date of the next general meeting

Present to the meeting: Lev Beklemishev, Anupam Das, Marianna Girlando, Antonina Kolokova, Andreas Weiermann. To the meeting were present also several attendees of the Proof Society Workshop. We did not take the names of those present (but no votes took place). The meeting was chaired by AW.

In the first 5 minutes of the meeting, AW introduced the Proof Society and presented the members of the committee. We then moved to discuss the various items listed in the agenda above.

Report on PS meeting 2024 (AD)

AD observed that this edition of the PS Workshop had the highest submissions up to now (33 submissions, of which 32 were accepted). As a consequence, the workshop had parallel sessions, which are notoriously difficult to handle. The invited speakers were chosen aiming to have a focus on computational proof theory. Regarding numbers of participants, both to the School and to the Workshop, different editions of the PS events “counted” the number of participants differently, so it is difficult to compare. However, the numbers stayed constant or increased since the 2020 pandemic. Due to the growing trend, AD observed that it might be good practice, for future editions, to distinguish the roles of the PC Chair and the Conference Chair. For the moment, these are not distinct. LB agreed that this is a reasonable practice, and could be considered for next year’s event already. Similarly, AD proposed to establish an Award Committee for the Best Student Presentation, to make the award consistent throughout the years.

AD also commented on the importance of trying to keep the costs low by using local funding, and on the importance of having a team of local organisers. AD remarked that the format of the current PS event, consisting of 3 day school + 2 day workshop, still feels too dense.

Action points

- AW: Appoint the PC Chair and the Conference Chair for PS event 2025
- AW/AD/MG: Appoint the Award Committee / decide if we want to appoint an Award Committee

Elections

AW observed that, according to the rules, the PS should have elections every three years; if there are private agreements between members, these should not be discussed in the General Meeting, but in a restricted meeting between the members of the committee.

Action points

- MG: Arrange a meeting between the committee members to discuss this point

PS event 2025

AW announced that the next PS School + Workshop will take place in Ghent (Belgium).

About the PS event for 2026, there are the following volunteers:

- Alexis Saurin, for an event at CIRM (conference centre in Marseille) or in Paris
- Anton Freund, for an event in Würzburg [MG: not sure this is the proposed location]

PS online seminar (LB)

Following up from the last meeting, LB and AD are organising a seminar, which will be called “The Proof Society online seminar”. The proposed frequency of the seminar is once per month, and the proposed slot is Monday at 14:00 UTC+1, to include both people in the US and in Asia. The proposal is to record talks (with the speakers’ consent and accommodating all the speakers’ requests), and have them available on YouTube, and possibly on other servers. There is no authorship / copyright on the recording, that will be available for everyone.

Action points

- LB: Discuss if the proposed slot and frequency is ok with the committee members not present at the meeting
- LB: Set up the first occurrence(s) of the seminar
- LB/MG: Set up the webpage of the seminar (there is already an existing page: shall we just use that one?)
- LB: Mailing list for the seminar / how to announce the seminar?

Website

The PS website has been updated. However, some more pages are still to be done:

- Resource page
- Information about funding opportunities: would be nice to mention in the website, but high maintenance

Action points

- MG: Decide who is in charge of the resource page?
- MG: Decide if we want to have the minutes of the meetings to be uploaded on the website

Vision

Not much was said about this point, other than the fact that, as witnessed by the PS events, proof theory is a growing field, which is attracting more attention and researchers.

Date of the next general meeting

The date of the next general meeting will be during the next PS event.

Discussion

We concluded the meeting with a general discussion, and the following points were raised:

- Shall the PS have other communication channels (e.g., social media)? It was observed that we should have a functioning website first.
- Shall the PS school and workshop be separated? AW thinks no, or it might be difficult to allocate time to this. LB agrees, because of the possibility of having the trip funded. Paul Levy observed that the PS 2024 was colocated with the British Colloquium, and that the colocation worked very well, as the numbers of both events increased. AW further observed that, for Ghent, the university offers a non-trivial amount of money to fund a school (or tutorial talks, as done in the Workshop 2024). Stepan Kuznetsov suggested having a 6-days event, to have a less dense event. The conclusion was that this is up to the organisers of next year's event to decide.