

ALENEX 2015

PC chair report: Ulrik Brandes and **David Eppstein**

Westin Gaslamp, San Diego, January 5, 2014

Statistics

We accepted 15 out of 54 submissions, $\approx 28\%$.

Approximate breakdown of topics (among accepted papers):

- ▶ Graph and network algorithms $\approx 47\%$
- ▶ Computational geometry $\approx 20\%$
- ▶ Text indexing / document retrieval $\approx 14\%$
- ▶ Other $\approx 20\%$

Submissions are up from 49 in 2012 and 47 in 2013,
but down from 68 in 2014 (new parallel-with-SODA format)

Discussion issue #1: Timing

The PC had only two weeks to read and review all the submissions and one more week to deliberate and make decisions (after negotiations by Goldberg with SIAM; SIAM wanted even less time)

Neither of these is enough!

Not all PC members were able to complete their reviews in time and we had to scramble to get three reviews for all submissions

The start of the review cycle is set by the SODA notification date and the end of the cycle is set by SIAM

Can we do anything to make it longer?

Discussion issue #2: Conference length and acceptance rate

We had a hard limit of 15 accepted papers because of two issues:

- ▶ The one-day schedule of the conference
- ▶ Synchronization with SODA

I believe that a 28% acceptance rate is too low

- ▶ It causes us to reject good papers (opinions will differ on which ones those are), harm student careers, and slow down the research cycle
- ▶ Too low an acceptance rate leads to greater conventionality and less creativity and originality in accepted work
- ▶ We cannot grow our community

Can we add another session on a second day?

Thank you!

... to former PC chair Andrew Goldberg, who did most of the planning for the conference

... to my co-chair Ulrik Brandes

... to the other PC members:

Umut Acar, Lars Arge, Camil Demetrescu, Loukas Georgiadis, Haim Kaplan, Bernard Moret, Ian Munro, Petra Mutzel, Thomas Pajor, Roberto Tamassia, Dorothea Wagner, and David P. Williamson

... to the SIAM staff, especially Kirsten Wilden

... and to all the authors and participants