



Micro-52 Survey Results

October 12 – 16, 2019

Columbus, Ohio

<http://www.microarch.org/micro52>

2:43 mean time to
do survey

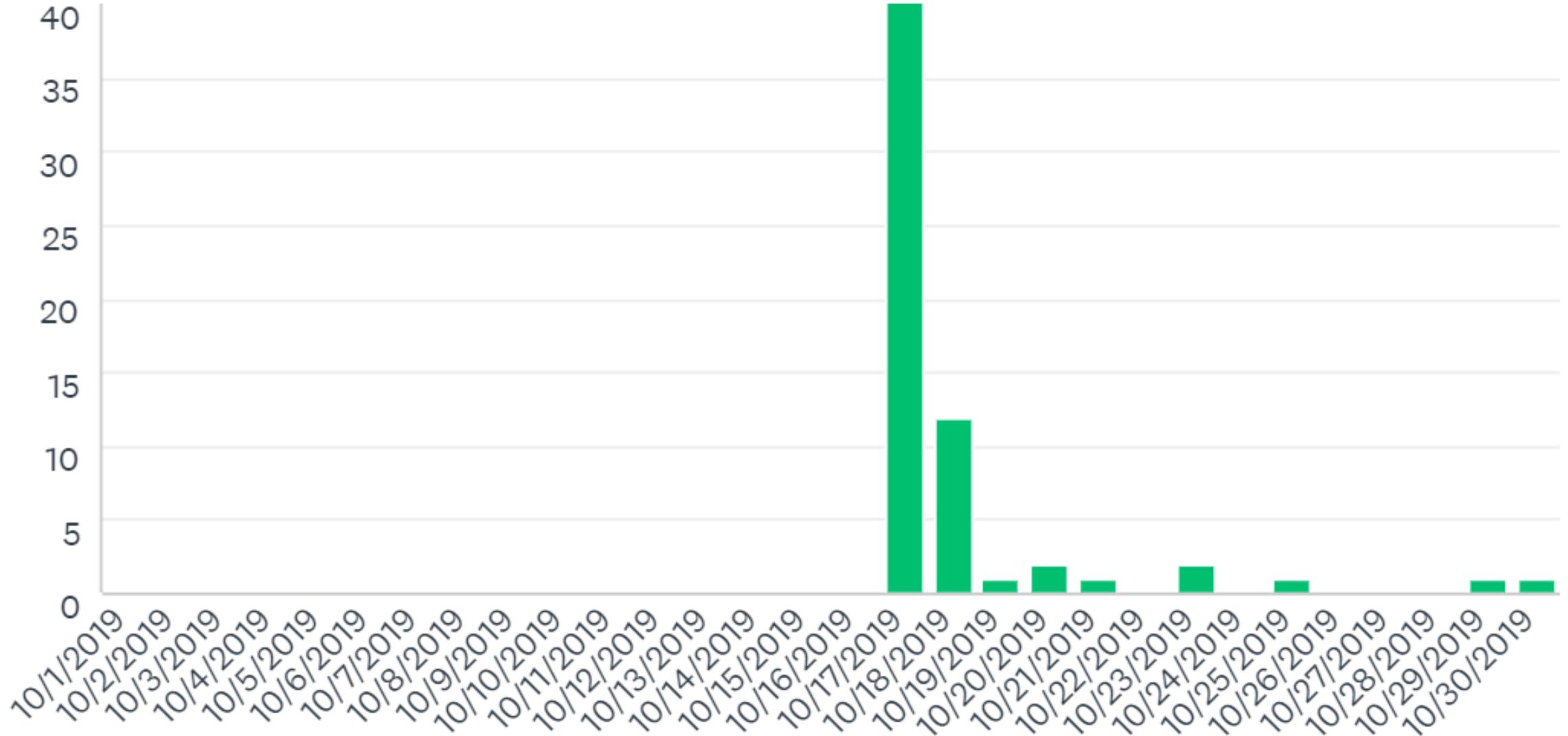
Survey Questions

1. What was your overall impression of MICRO?
2. What was your impression of having three parallel sessions to accommodate the larger number of papers?
3. What was your impression of the poster sessions?
4. What was your impression of the MICRO Workshops and Tutorials?
5. What was your impression of the Greater Columbus Convention Center and the Hilton for conference activities?
6. What was your impression of the Tuesday excursion to COSI, the Columbus Center of Science and Industry?
7. What was your impression of Wednesday's bonus excursion to the US Air Force Museum?
8. What was your view of Columbus, Ohio as a venue for Micro?
9. What is your confidence that major conference submissions are reviewed properly according to rules on conflicts, double-blind reviewing, etc?
10. Please provide any other comments

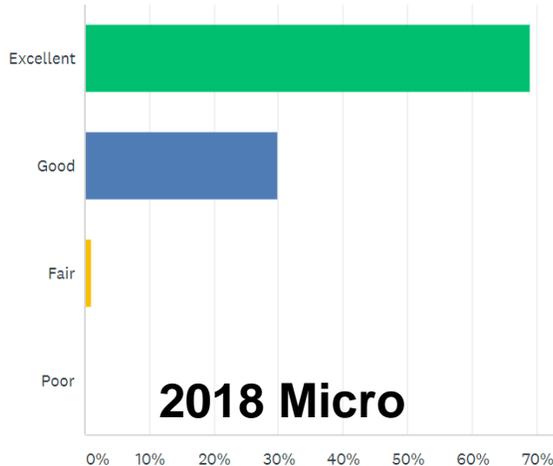
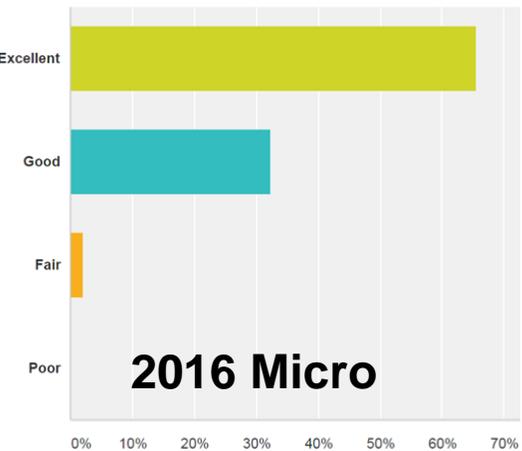
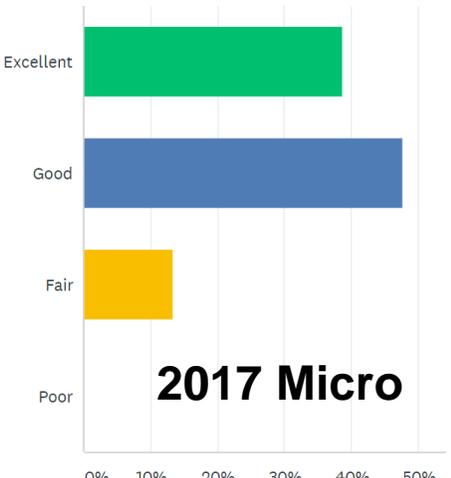
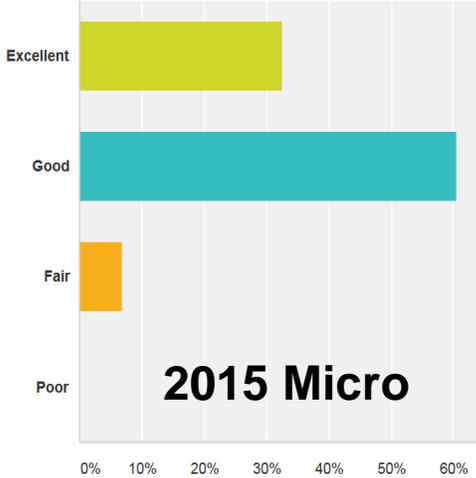
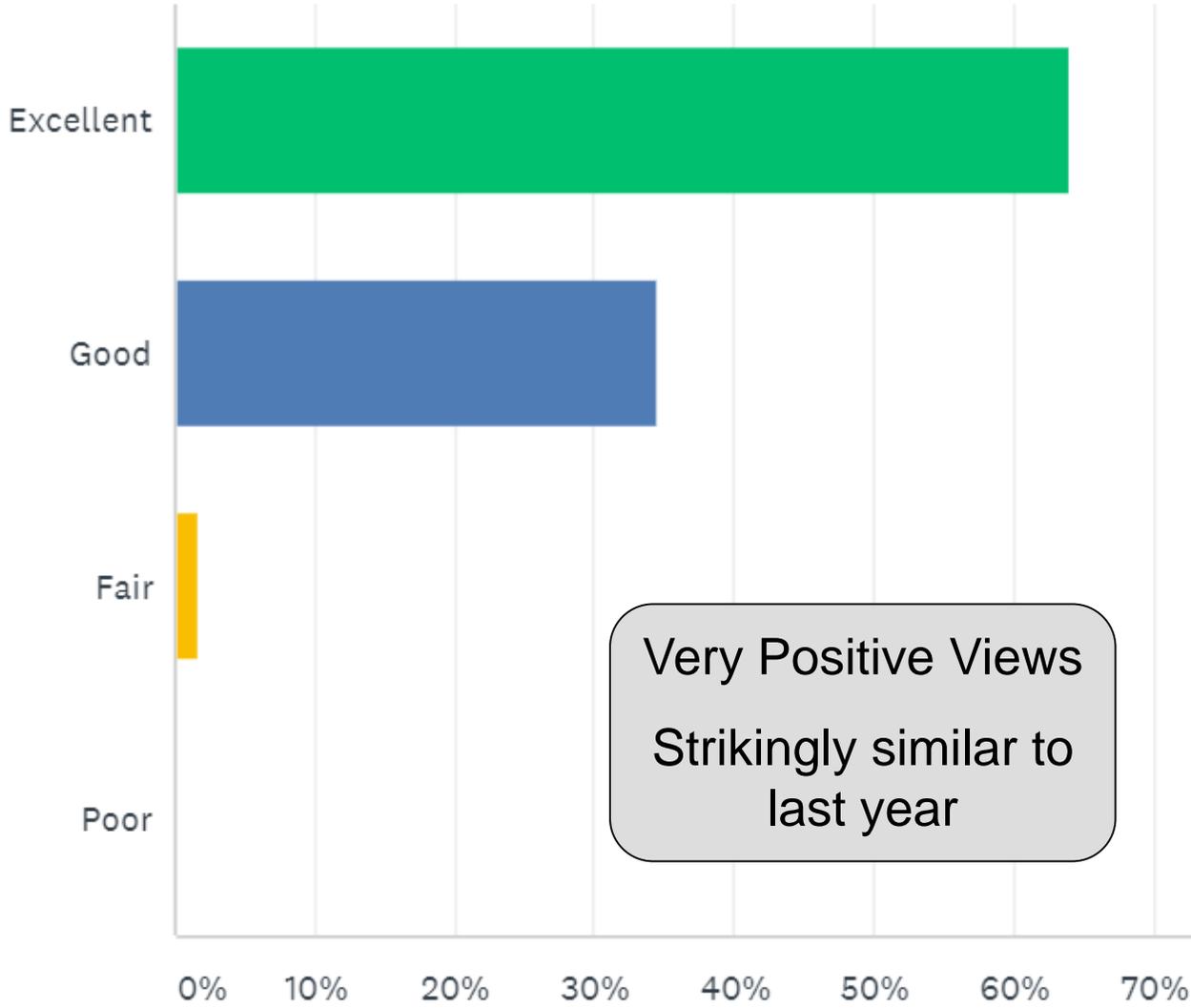
Broad Themes in Responses

1. Very positive overall views of the conference: *papers, organization, hotel, city*
2. Some negative comments on 3 parallel tracks, but mostly positive views
3. Some negative comments about having lightning talks, but no statistical results
4. Poster sessions had most positive scores on record
5. Somewhat more positive views of Air Force Museum outing than Science Museum
6. Some comments that Columbus cumbersome to reach for people outside the U.S.
7. Most have confidence in reviewing system, but significant minority does not.

Survey Response over Time

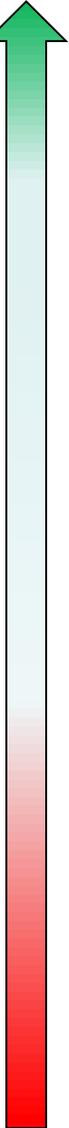


1. Overall Impression of Micro

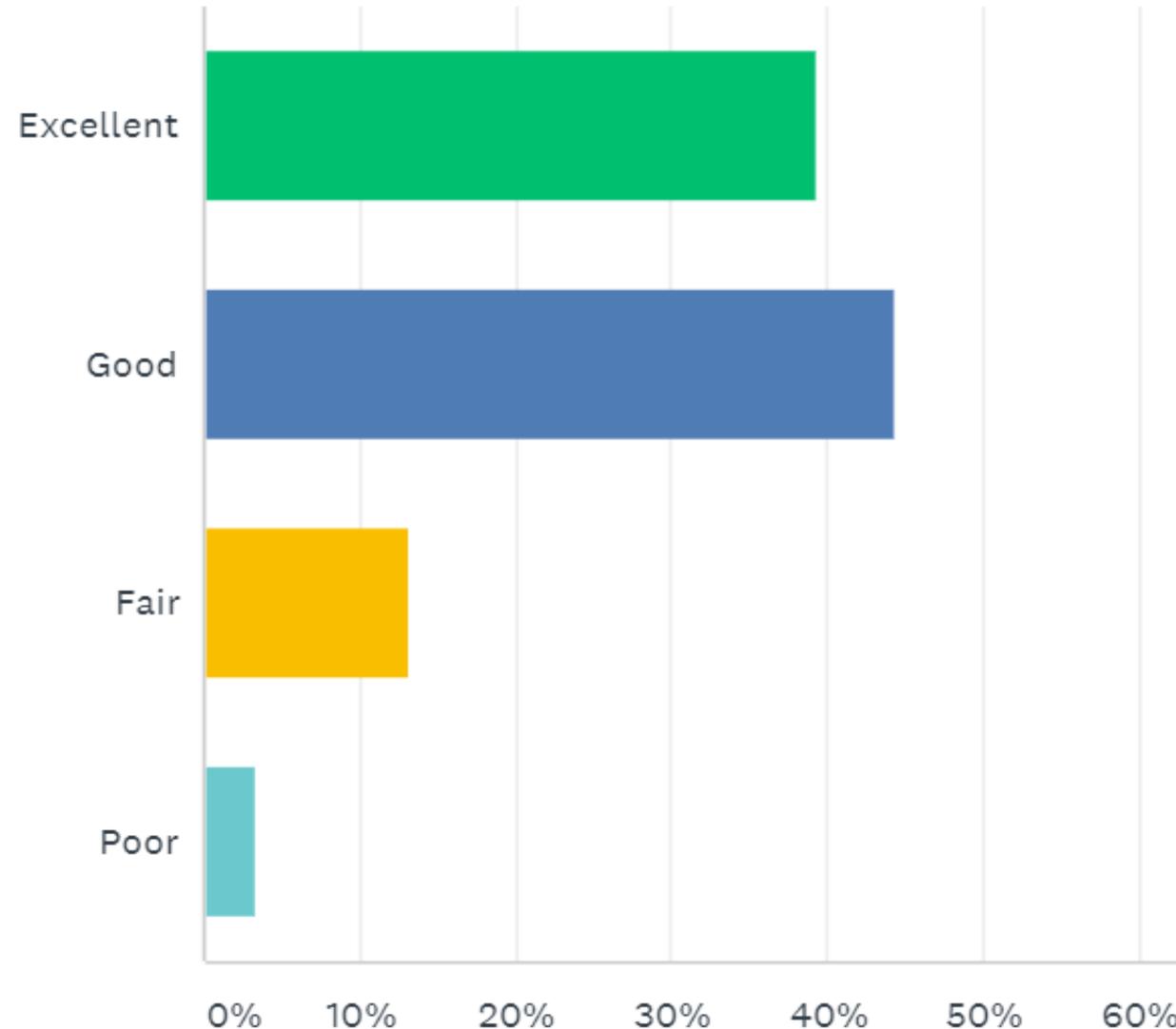


1. Overall Impression – Comments

1. I enjoyed Micro a lot. High quality keynotes, regular talks and workshops / tutorials, great choice of location and social events.
2. Great venue and location, and everything ran very smoothly!
3. well organized, good food !!, sufficient time for networking and, last but not least a great selection of papers
4. The Whova app worked very well.
5. I have mixed feelings about the composition of the conference program (in terms of topics) and the not-so-easy-to-get-to conference location.
6. food is terrible
7. Lightning talk is not necessary because the videos exist.
8. The three tracks were bad: I felt like I was always missing a majority of the work and that most sessions were rather empty.



2. What was your impression of having three parallel sessions to accommodate the larger number of papers?



3 Parallel Sessions – The Good

1. Anything that enables accepting more quality papers is good!
2. Also good is the longer talks and more time for questions.
3. I liked the big breaks and poster sessions, great for networking
4. There is unavoidably some overlap where one can't attend an interesting talk in a parallel session, but this is still better than not having the paper at all.
5. This worked out better than I had expected. Almost at no point did I feel torn between options.
6. Having some break every hour was good. I think longer sessions without breaks would have been more tiring.
7. I think the overlap of the parallel sessions was fairly minimal. I usually didn't have a problem deciding which session to attend.
8. 3 parallel sessions was a necessary evil

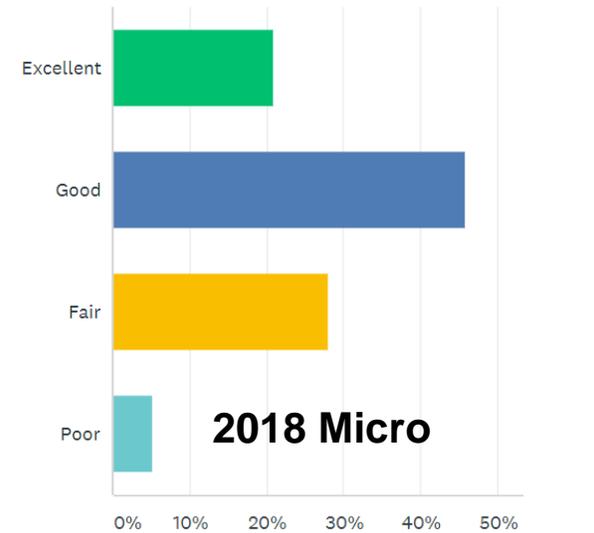
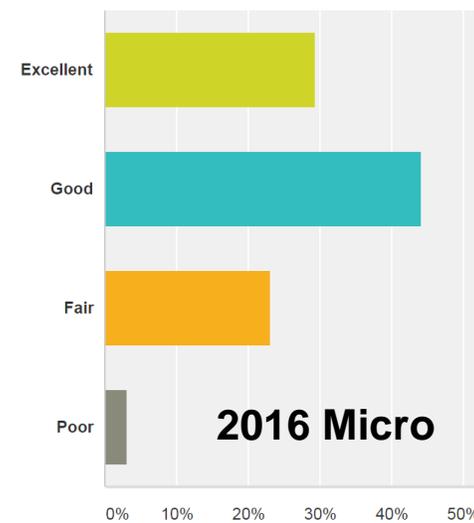
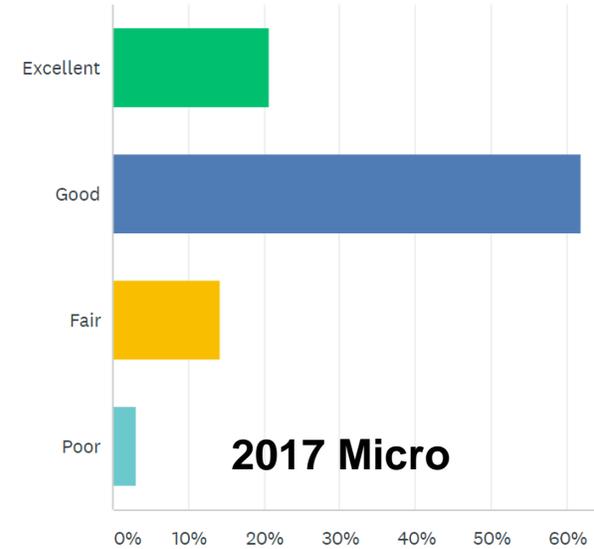
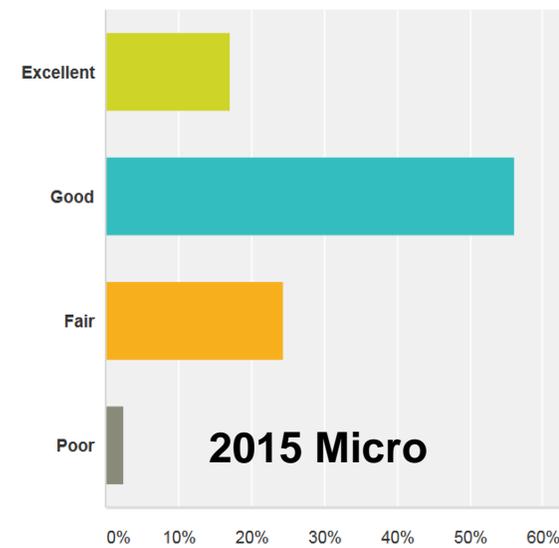
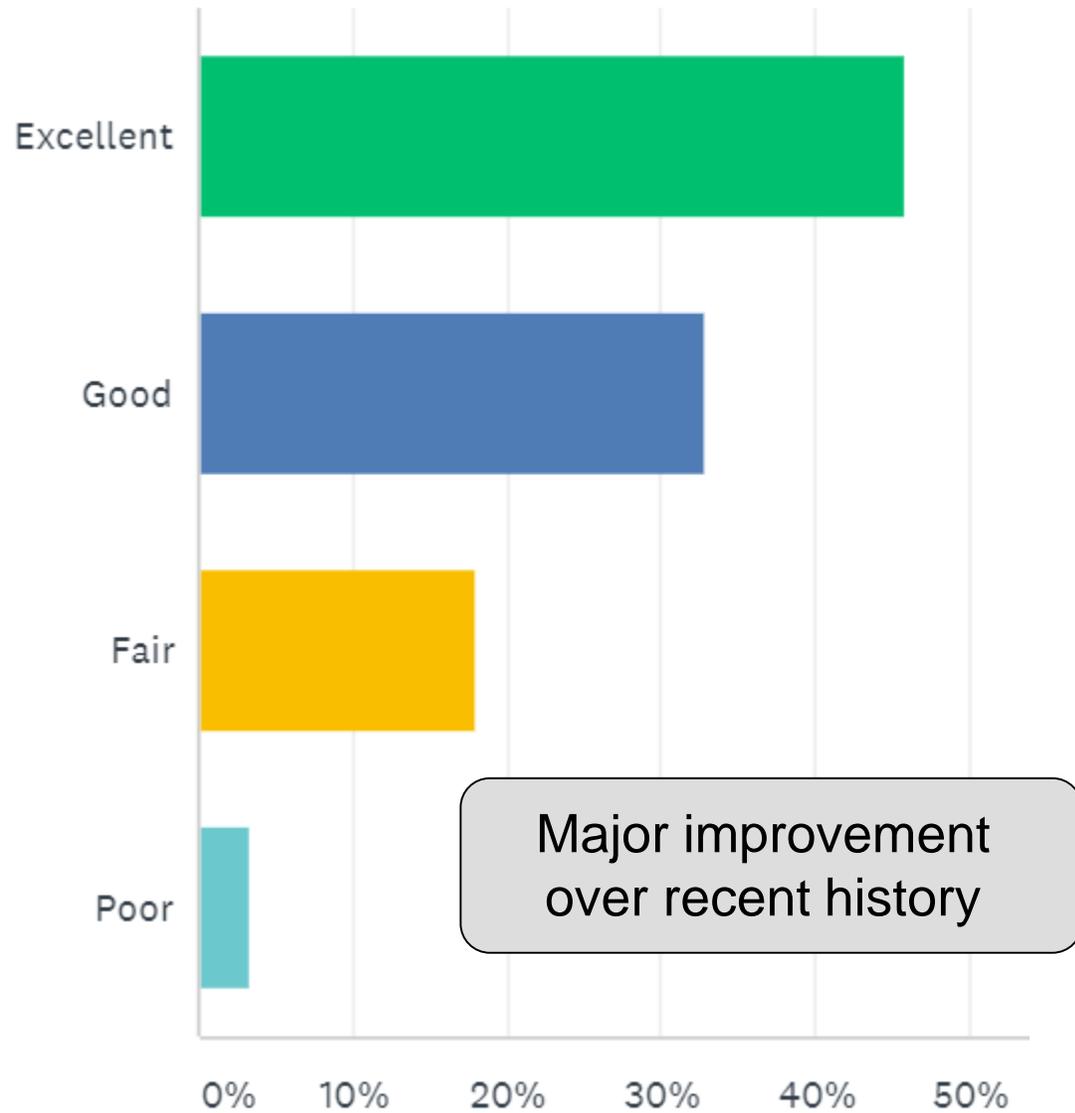
3 Parallel Sessions – The Bad

1. 3 seems a bit too much
2. Some sessions were poorly attended
3. I missed some talks due to three parallel sessions.
4. The three tracks were bad: I felt like I was always missing a majority of the work and that most sessions were rather empty.
5. It was challenging to plan a schedule to see all the papers of interest. Shorter presentations could be similarly impactful.

3 Parallel Sessions – The In-Between

1. There was very audible noise leakage from adjacent sessions, which sometimes distracted from the talk or made it hard to hear. Otherwise great.
2. it almost always worked out to jump from session to session between presentations - unfortunately I had a few conflicts where I would have loved to attend two presentations running at the same time
3. There were some sessions that I would have liked to attend but conflicted in parallel sessions. This is understandable though.
4. Any thought to asking attendees, prior to the conference, for their top X sessions so as to optimally schedule the sessions?
5. Try to minimize overlaps as much as possible

3. Poster Session



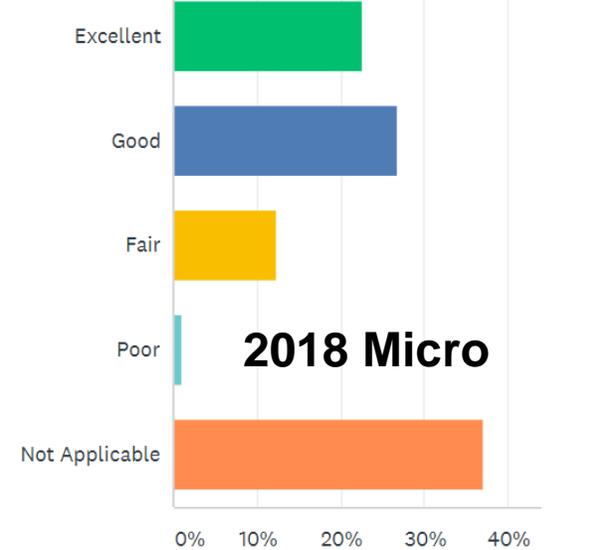
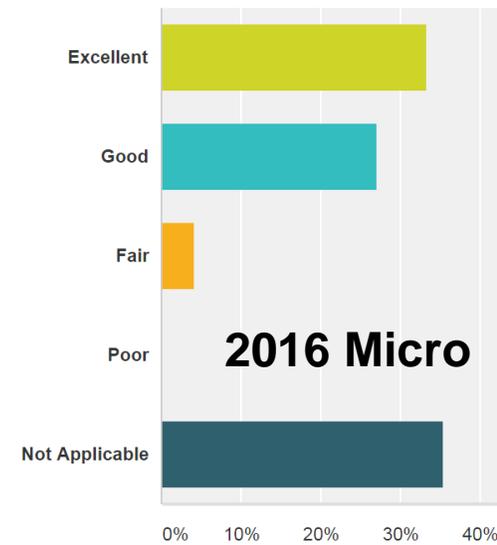
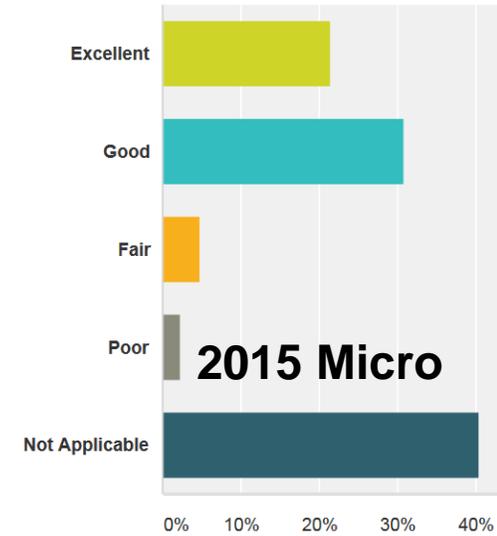
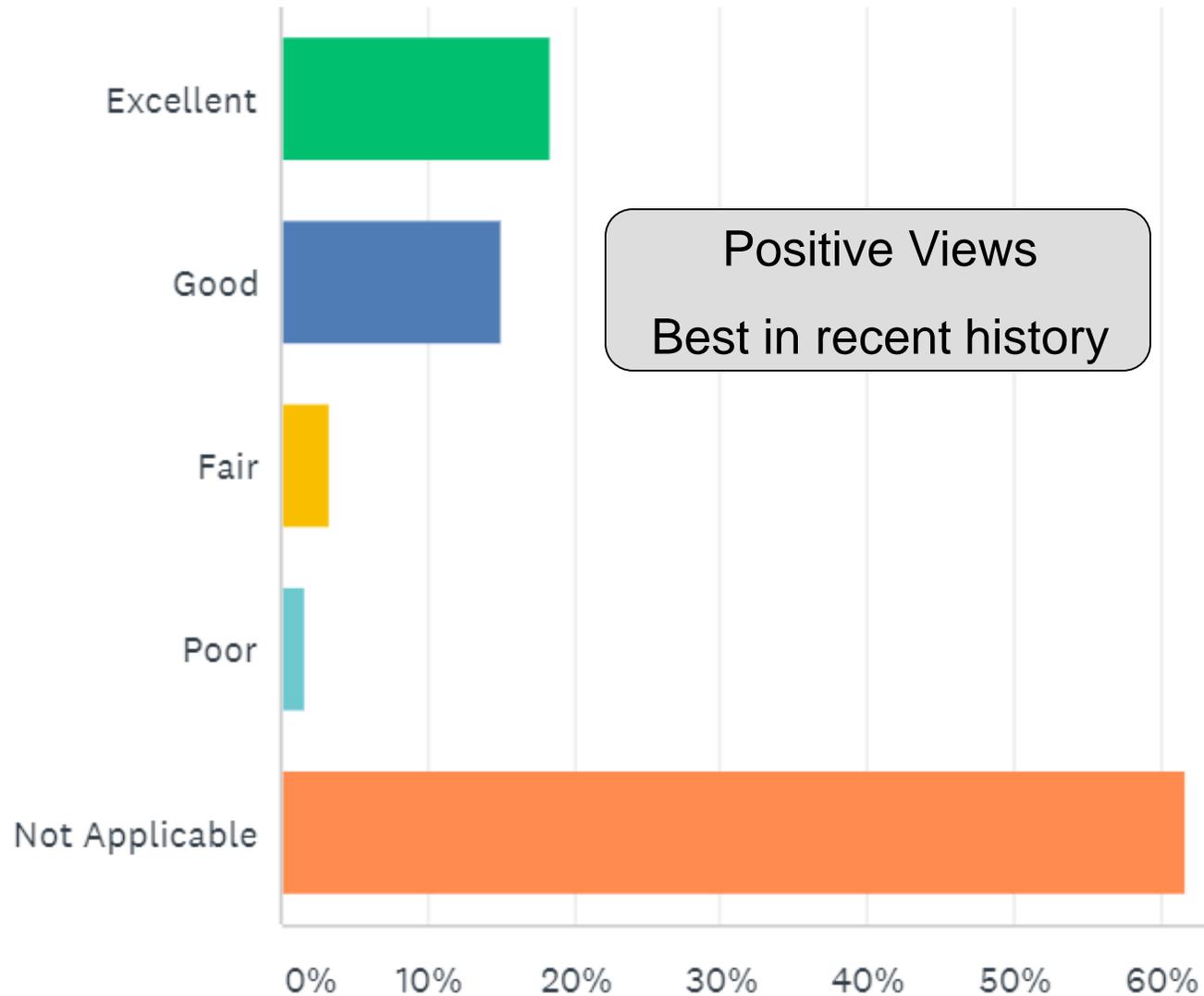
3. Poster Session – The Good

1. Nice to get to talk to people about their work and follow up.
2. A lot of time was set aside for them and that was good
3. Spacious and close to refreshments -- great setup!
4. Please keep the SRC in the future!
5. The location was great, convenient to the breaks and sessions, and a comfortable space with a high ceiling (good for acoustics)
6. Enjoyed the fact that the posters were continuously available
7. a large variety of subjects = something interesting for everyone,
main issue = too noisy, but that's the usual problem for poster sessions

3. Poster Session – The Bad

1. More space for the poster area would be nice. Also it would be great if the posters could be left up throughout the conference.
2. It was a little cramped for space.
3. The two rows of poster made a tight place and it was hard to go around the back row.
4. Two rows were too close together, hard to move between
5. There could have been more space between the rows
6. Too crowded / hot / loud. Poster sessions need more space.
7. I would have appreciated a more visible labeling of the posters so that the ones of interest are easier to find.
8. There could have been some organization in poster placement. It was random and I couldn't even find the poster I wanted. There could have been at least session based poster ordering.
9. Poster session felt fairly short, and timing was somewhat unfair to those presenting in the last session of the day on Monday/Tuesday (voice worn out, anticipating presentation, and unable to redirect interest after talk to follow up at a poster session, though I guess this last disadvantage applies to Wednesday's presenters either way).

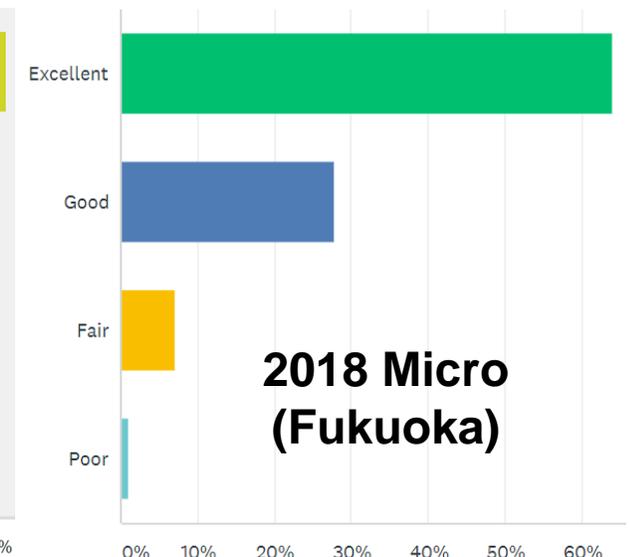
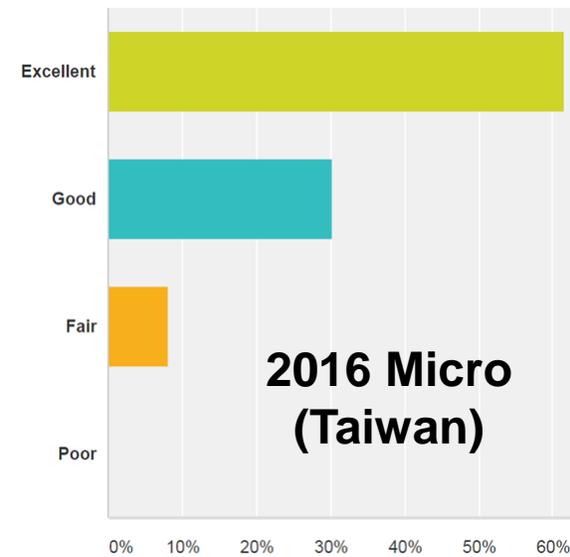
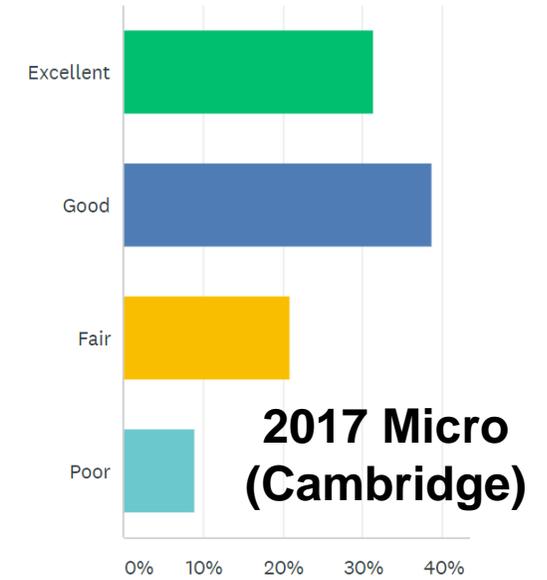
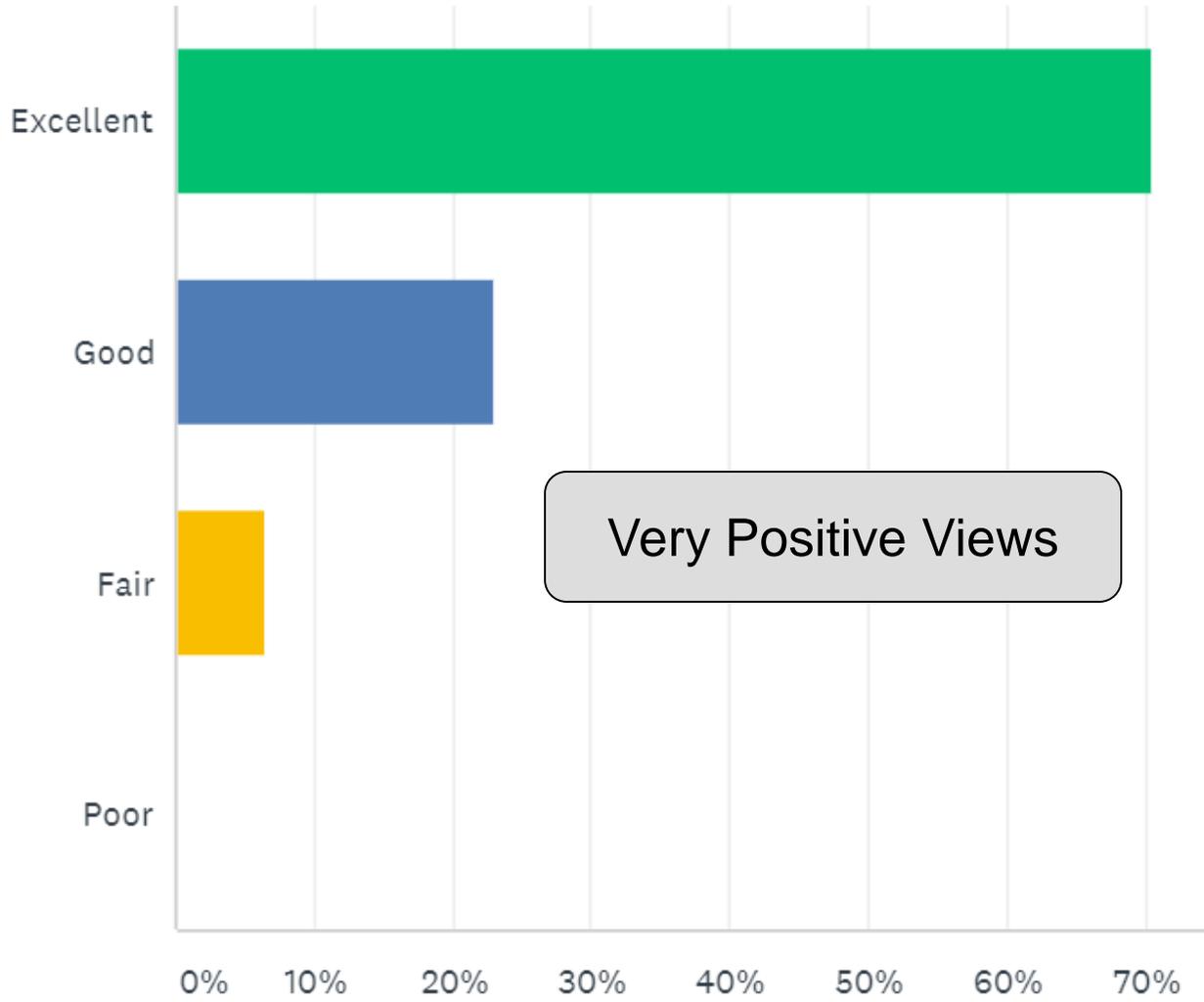
4. Workshops and Tutorials



4. Workshops and Tutorials – Comments

1. Firesim was great, wish it was a 2 day tutorial.
2. Good content but in the tutorials where there was a lab portion, it felt a bit rushed.
3. Seating arrangements with tables would have been nice.
4. I did not attend them
5. Unfortunately I could not attend

5. Impression of Hotel / Convention Center



5. Hotel / Convention Center Comments – Good

1. The venue was really nice
2. Nice place. It was convenient to access the convention center from hotel.
3. Convenient and spacious. Good acoustics.
4. Very professional
5. Very nice venue, easy to find your way around.
Collocation of posters, breaks, parallel sessions was ideal.
6. Plenty of room to talk and plenty of refreshments
7. Loved the proximity to each other, the covered skyway,
and the immediate area for restaurants, etc.

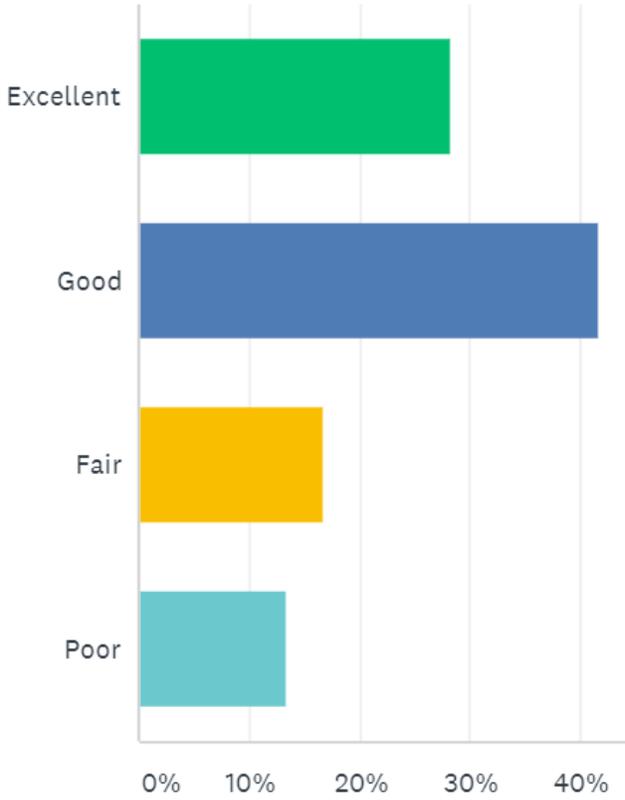
5. Hotel / Convention Center Comments – Bad

1. Got lost a lot
2. Would have been worth mentioning that the Hyatt was also connected.
3. The rooms were much too dark and blue. (Depressing) The speakers were standing in the dark. The audio quality was poor. One room was too cold. The breakfast was great the first day, okay the second day, and so-so the third day. (Fruit plates day 1, chunks day 2, whole fruit day 3.)
4. Columbus was fine, but please avoid Hilton food in future. More than a few group members got sick on different days, went away when we avoided hilton food. (It was obviously food, as anyone with food sickness will know).
5. It'd be nice to have a juice option at breakfast, and a wider food variety at the coffee breaks. There wasn't enough food at the business meeting--it disappeared quickly

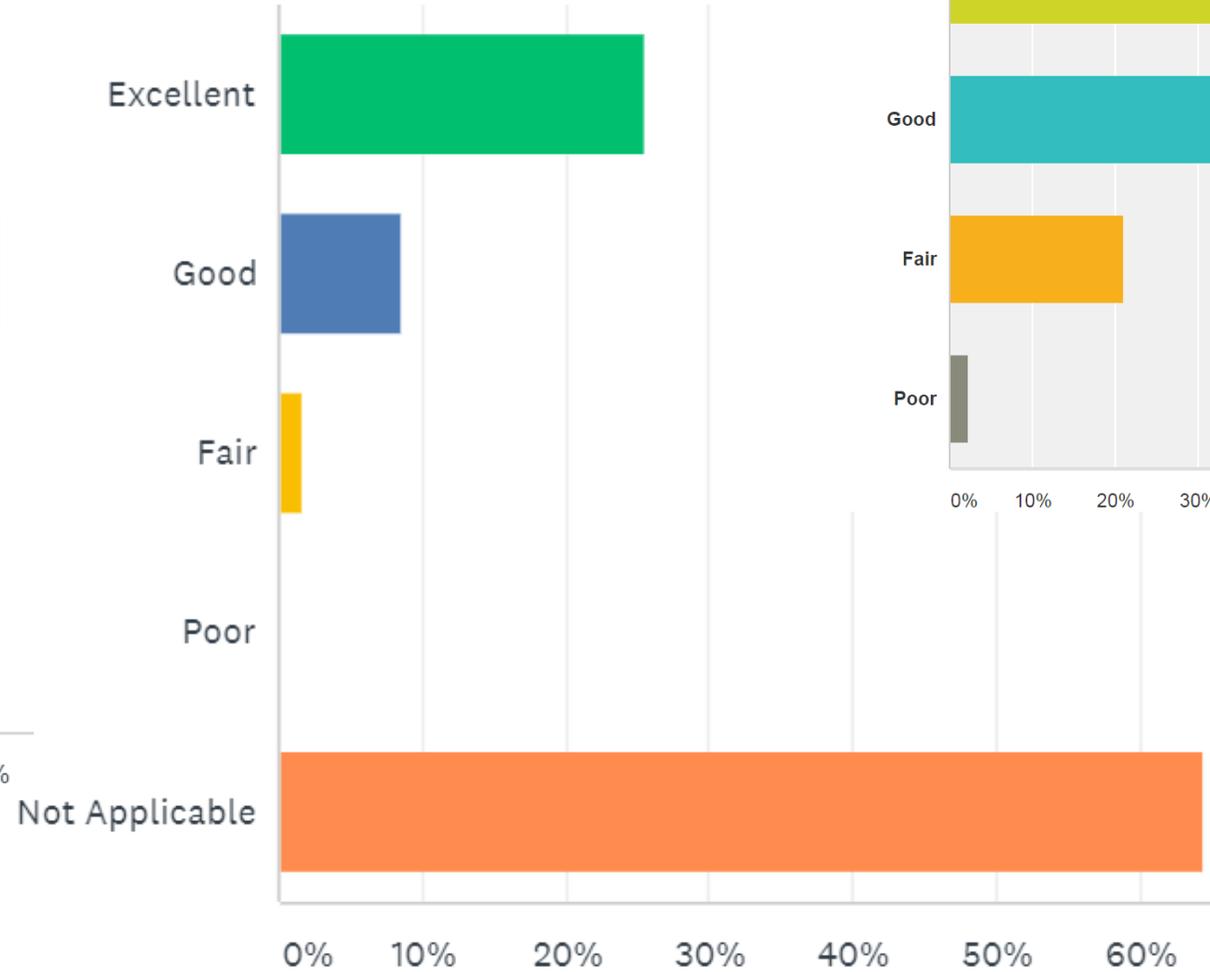
6+7. Social Events

2016 Shung Ye Museum, Natl Palace Museum?

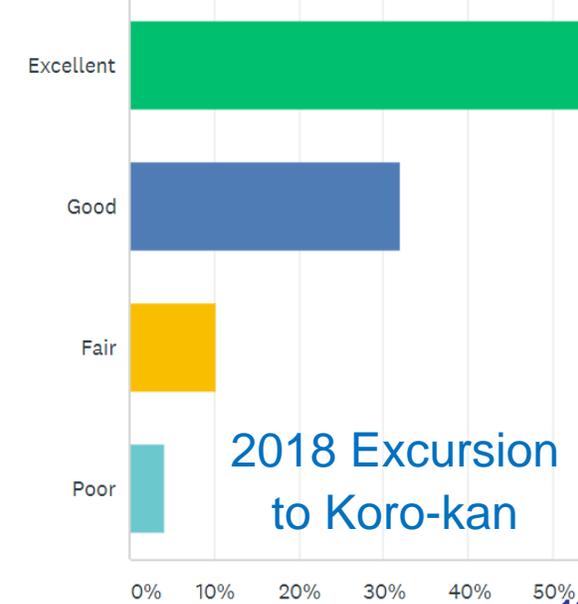
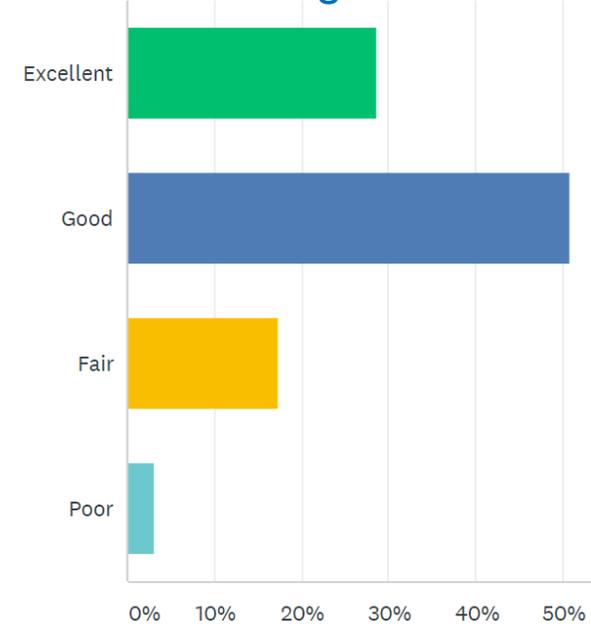
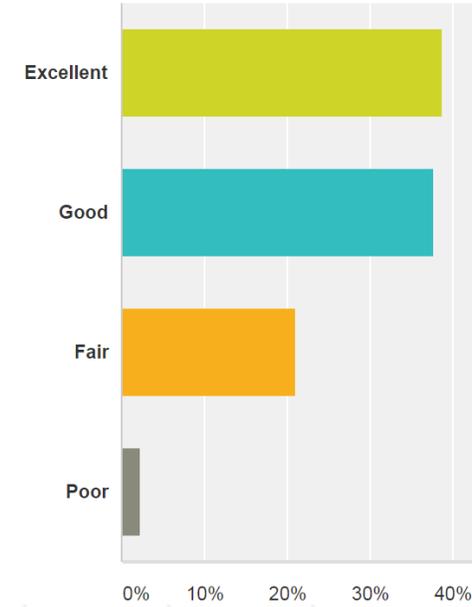
2017 Boston Aquarium, Evening Panel



**Central Ohio
Science Museum
2019 - Tues**



**Air Force Museum
2019 - Wed**



**2018 Excursion
to Koro-kan**

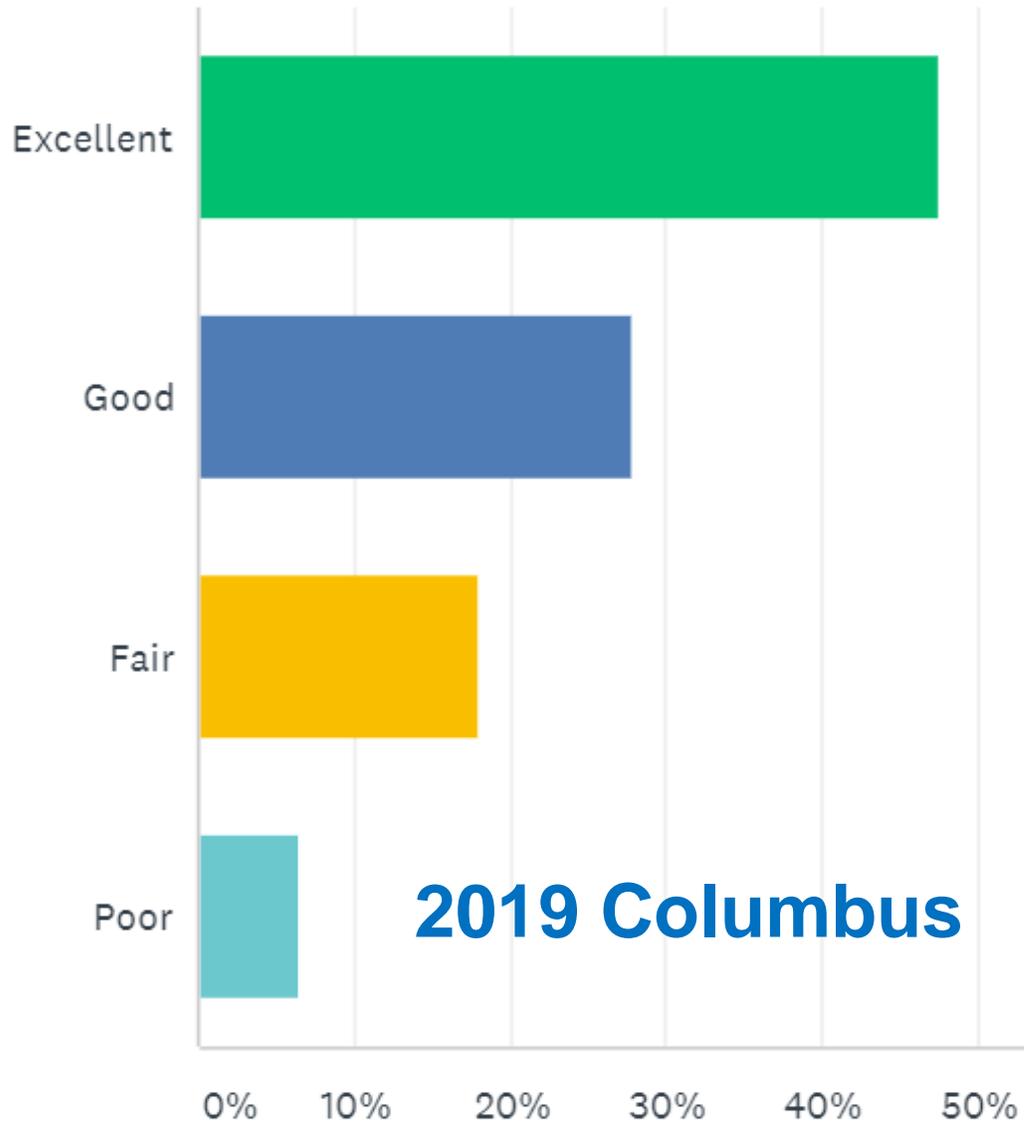
6. Science Museum Comments

1. Initially had reservations, but it was surprisingly enjoyable :)
2. Nice but not the most memorable outing.
3. yet another science museum - the fun was in networking
4. the food was not good
5. Boring museum and poor food. We stood outside for over an hour because no one told us we could go in.
6. Little for adults to explore. Food options were limited.
7. COSI was not very exciting - seemed aimed at kids more than adults.

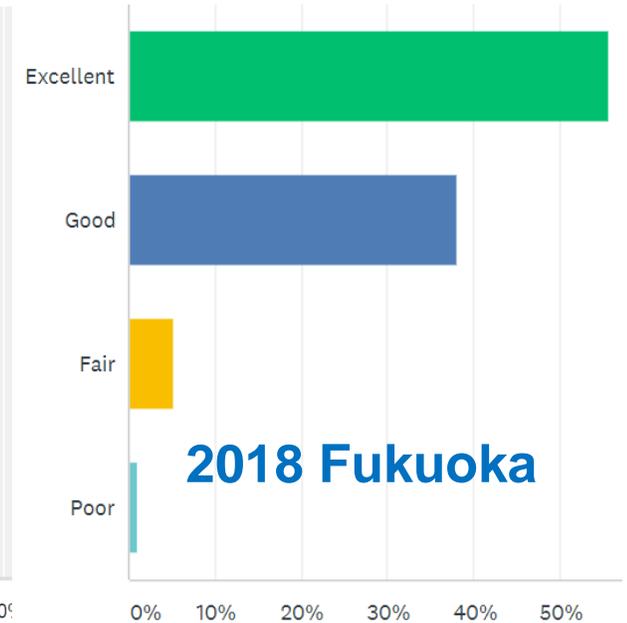
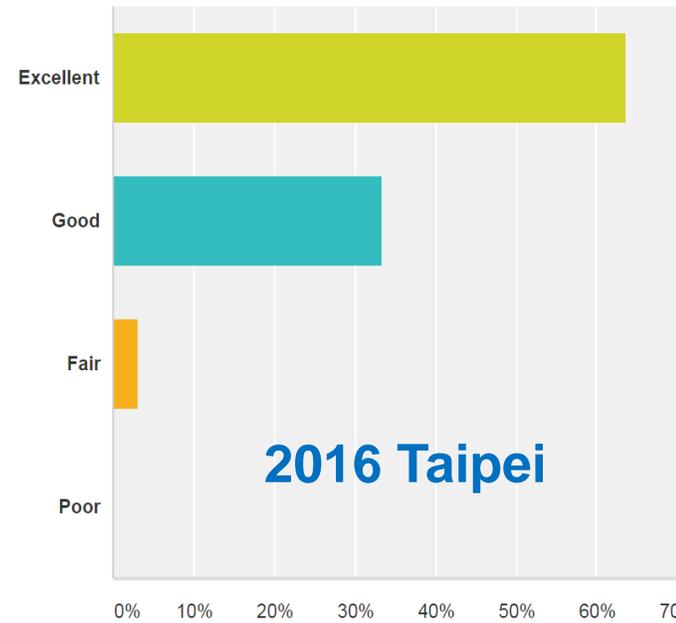
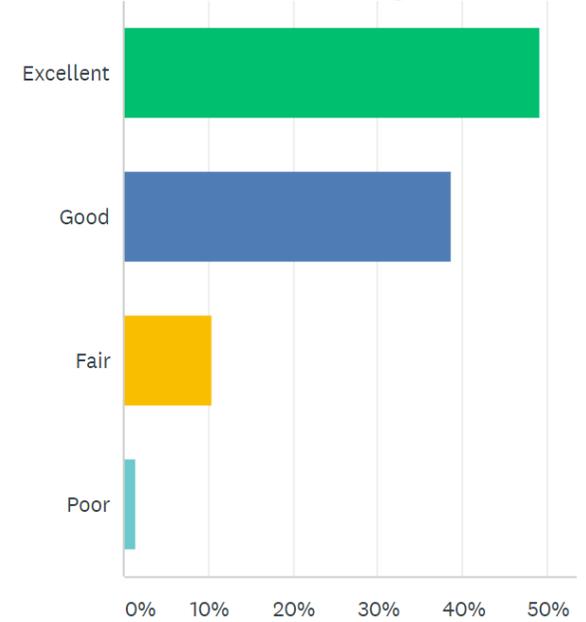
7. Air Force Museum Comments

1. Great destination, thanks for arranging it!
2. Very interesting content and went way better than expected.
3. I would have loved to join but had booked my flight to leave early
4. Wish I could have gone - perhaps having a second bus that would leave the museum ~1hr earlier would have been good.
5. Due to changes in my schedule I was not able to attend the excursion, but from a past visit I know that the US Air Force Museum is one of the best technology based I've seen.
6. Too much to see, not very social, but very nice. It really encouraged me to stay for the last day.
7. Provided opportunity for more connections to be made.

8. City Chosen for Venue



2017 Cambridge / Boston



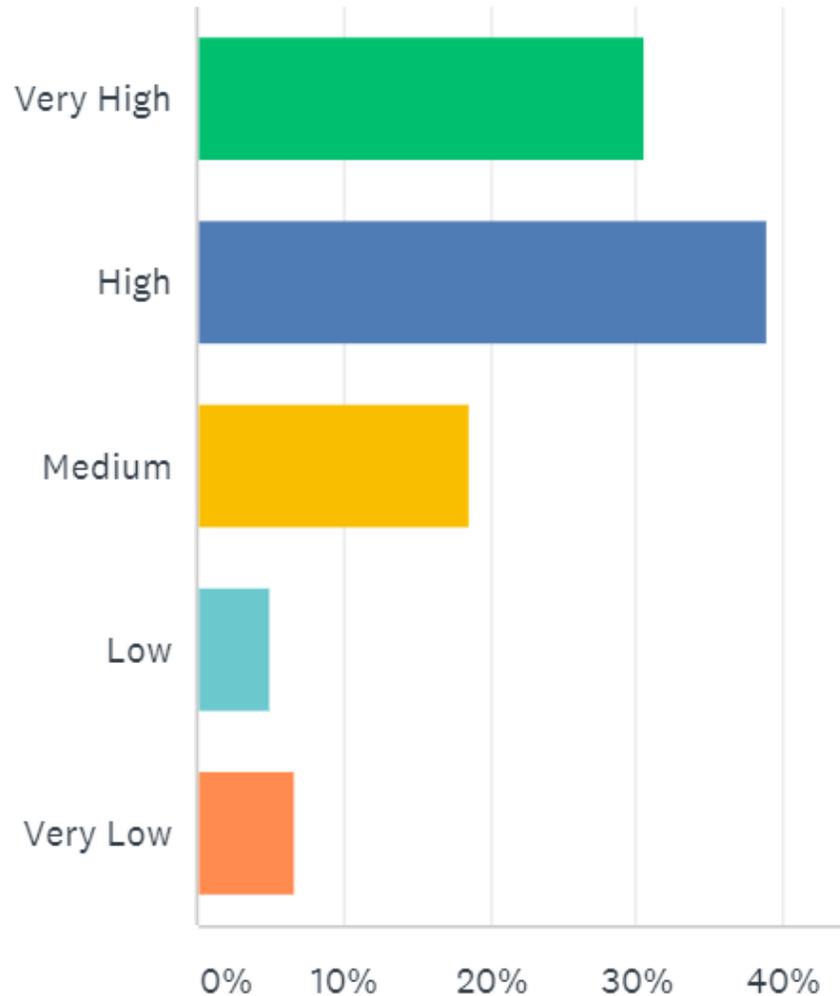
8. Comments on Columbus – Good

1. Very nice city, almost centrally located.
2. It was the first time in Columbus for me and I was pleasantly surprised how nice the city is.
3. Convenient, central location, easy driving distance to many universities with active MICRO-related research programs. Downtown was very nice, North Market definitely worth a visit also.
4. I was positively surprised of Columbus - very nice place, I had never been there (even close)
5. A bit chilly ... 4Q conference is a challenge. Otherwise, very good. Good airport location.
6. Easy to get from the airport to the venue.

8. Comments on Columbus – Bad

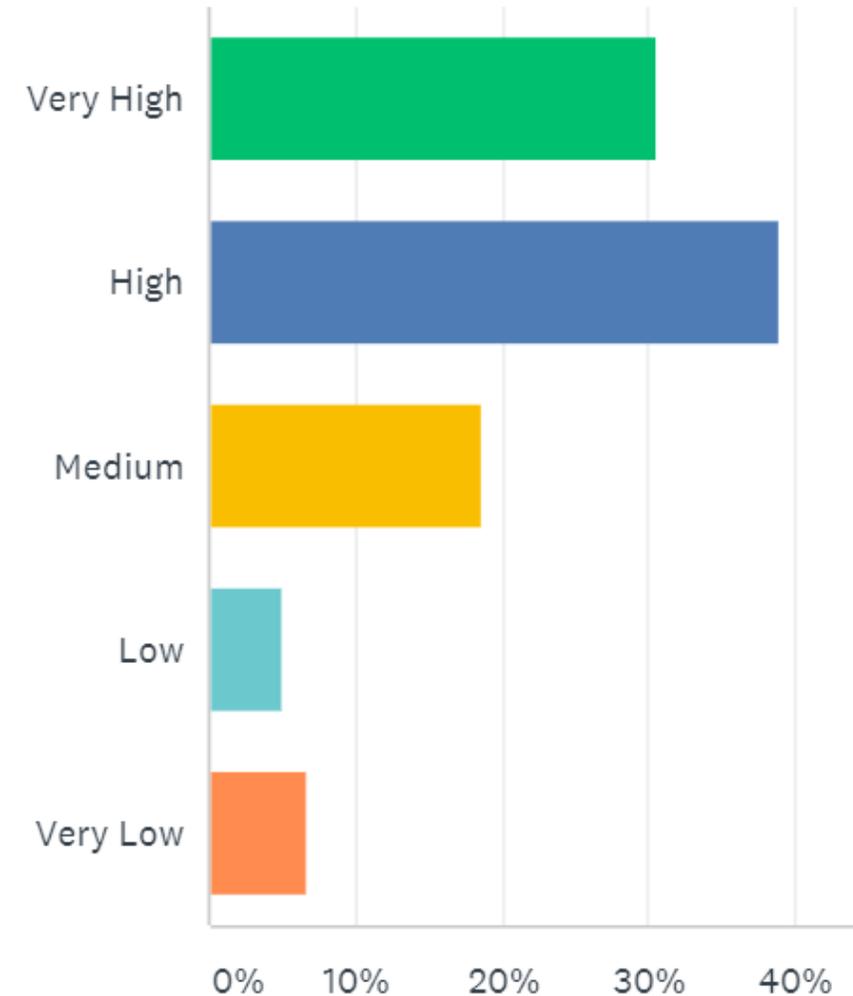
1. Only difficulty was availability of flights
2. Hard to get to from international locations
3. Was rather difficult to get to from where I was traveling.
4. Too far for non-US people. The transit process is really tough physically. So I want MICRO to be held in a place that has a hab airport.
5. It was cold, I prefer warmer locations.
6. Didn't feel like there was much to do in the downtown

9. What is your confidence that major conference submissions are reviewed properly according to rules on conflicts, double-blind reviewing, etc? – 1



1. Mostly the process works great, but there's no doubt that an occasional violation creeps in.
2. I got the feeling that too many "okay" papers were accepted. I'd rather have fewer but better papers so I can see more of the whole rather than focusing on just sub-fields.
3. Alas too many submissions and too large a PC; too bad R2 was killed.
4. De-blinding due to arXiv, workshop proceedings, and overly obvious self citations are increasingly compromising double blind reviews.
5. The process can be improved (there are recent events that are troubling), but overall I have a high confidence that issues such as conflicts and double-blind reviewing are done properly for the majority of submissions.
6. see other comments

9. What is your confidence that major conference submissions are reviewed properly according to rules on conflicts, double-blind reviewing, etc? – 2



7. I saw a few bad papers presented (I read them too) from "powerful" people. There is clearly still people pushing in their friends good papers (or at the very least, afraid to reject papers from well known people).
8. The current approach for reviewing papers has not scaled up from MICRO's early days (~100 submissions on a focused set of topics) to ~350 submissions from a very broad and totally unfocused smorgasbord of topics. Assembling a PC that has sufficient balance of seniority (maturity of viewpoint), geographic/gender/ethnicity diversity, sufficiently-broad expertise, the willingness to work carefully and thoroughly to review and discuss papers, and a penchant for ethical conduct throughout the process, is simply not possible. This is a fact our community needs to face sooner rather than later, and we need to start moving towards a publishing model that better serves our community and elevates our currently rather embarrassing publication process to some semblance of a scientific standard.

10. Other Comments – Good

1. Thank you Radu. Your organizing was amazing.
2. I'd like to specially thank Radu for his very well done job in organizing the conference. Everything were organized very well!
3. Special thanks for the General Co-Chairs!
4. One of the best conferences that I've ever attended in computer architecture!
5. Thanks for all your hard work for a successful conference.
6. Thank you for organizing! I enjoyed it.
7. Thanks to the organizers, you did a great job of providing keynotes and a well organized conference! By the way, this was my first Micro conference - should have tried earlier!
8. Overall enjoyable experience!

10. Other Comments – Bad (A)

9. Having to get lunch after the last session ended at 12.15 and be ready for a bus at 13.00 was unnecessarily stressful.
10. The lightning talks are a waste of time. Most don't add insight, not to mention that it's hard to absorb anything after half an hour. They also ran over time and killed the first morning break. It would be best to drop them and make the rest of the program less dense.
11. Issues with projector are a major concern. I was a speaker and the projector did not work for my laptop. I even came early before my session to get it checked but no personnel came to my help at that time. Due to this I had to swap my talk with another. Some of the people even missed my talk due to the swapping. It was also my first time and I felt bad for this incident. I hope there can be a small check-up time before each session with the personnel to avoid such issues during sessions. Another minor issue was there could have been more water bottles instead of sugar drinks.

10. Other Comments – Bad (B)

12. It is unclear that the non-core architectural domains are being reviewed properly. While it is important for MICRO to accept papers that cover unconventional domains, the papers should still have a micro-architectural component (even if that component is only abstractly talking about uarch implications). Furthermore, if there isn't sufficient expertise among the PC members to clearly decide that an out-of-area paper is good, then it should be rejected on the grounds that it does not fit the venue. These papers should be peer-reviewed in conferences and journals that directly apply to the out-of-area field by the correct experts. MICRO should only be accepting the papers that are clearly contributions/relate more heavily to uarch design. It seems odd that there needs to be a uarch track at MICRO.
13. The doors for the presentation rooms should be closed during presentations. It was sometimes very noisy during the presentations from talking in the main area. The projector (in hall B I believe) had a bad defect in the projection. The left third of the projection was discolored and there was a sharp line between that portion and the rest of the projection. It was very distracting. Projectors should be checked beforehand for issues like that.

10. Other Comments – Mixed

14. Great work by the organizers! This MICRO was a pleasure to attend overall. The awards lunch was disappointing as so few of the recipients were there.
15. - lightening sessions were mostly hard to understand due to high overload of information. I suggest putting a limit in the number of slides. - the logistics were handled perfectly, food, breaks, and other things.
16. There were some AV issues with new MacBook Pros in at least 1 of the presentation rooms. The third keynote by Lynn Conway was INCREDIBLE! So enlightening and impactful, really eye-opening for those (students in particular) who didn't know her story and impact. I only wish this could have been a provocative, Monday or Tuesday keynote to the conference, as this would've made more of a statement, been better exposure for the whole community (higher attendance), and served as a conversation starter among attendees throughout.

10. Other Comments - Suggestions

17. We should consider publishing comments for accepted and rejected papers. I heard complaints about rejection because the work was too close to reviewers area (reviewers identity almost always leak in some way.)
18. Don't infer people's affiliation if one is not provided (or at least ask for the correct affiliation in that case).
19. The proposal on allowing author comments during the rebuttal/discussion phase was intriguing. But this is a non-trivial load on the PC, especially if each PC member is handling 20 papers. Such a proposal (and most of the review process) only works well when the load per PC member is low. Ideally, the PC load should be less than 12 per PC member.
20. Everything was perfect, but please allow me to give a suggestion. The idea of the lightning talks is excellent, but I would eliminate the lightning sessions and ask the authors to submit their lightning talks much earlier so that the PC can, for a calm advance planning, send them to the attendees way before the event. Planning after watching so many 90s talks one after the other is a bit confusing..... But, overall this was a great conference!!!