

HPCA Business Meeting

Discussion for the HPCA 2019 Review Process

PC Chairs: Viji Srinivasan and Rajeev Balasubramonian

Dates:

- Submission deadline: August 3rd 2018
- Rebuttals/revisions: October 4-18
- Notification: November 5th
- MICRO'18 is Oct 20-24 and MICRO'18 notification is mid-July

Non-Controversial Policies

- Reminder of implicit biases before reviewing begins
- Adding a word count limit to submission guidelines
- PC will write a post-discussion summary for every paper
- Authors can submit a revised pdf during the rebuttal phase
- 2-phase review process
 - All papers get 4 reviews (2 PC, 2 ERC) in round 1
 - About 110 papers get one more PC review in round 2
 - Reduces PC load to 10+2 (important!)

Thanks to many earlier PC Chairs for suggestions and for introducing some of these practices.

Policies Worth Debating I

- PC will be given guidance about a suggested distribution of merit scores
 - For example, 4-5 scores of weak-accept-or-better among a PC member's 12 papers
- PC and ERC will assign ranks to papers
 - The ranks will be used for calibration and may influence discussion order at the PC meeting
- Empirical data: MICRO'17 had 41%/37% positive reviews

Policies Worth Debating II

- Optional suggestion to reviewers:
For re-submitted papers, authors have the option of submitting a second pdf with all the changes highlighted.
- This second pdf will *not* be visible to reviewers by default
- If a reviewer has previously reviewed the paper, they can request the second pdf from the PC Chairs
- Why?
 - Reduces load for reviewers; improves review quality
 - Forces authors to seriously consider feedback
 - Creating a second pdf should be trivial for authors

Policies Worth Debating III

- Current IEEE/ACM policy:
 - On-line pre-prints are allowed, e.g., arxiv, tech-reports
- Informal guideline to reviewers:
 - On-line pre-prints are not viewed as prior work
- There are some good reasons to post pre-prints; please weigh these against the significant downside that you are disrupting the double-blind review process
- In most cases, short papers in CAL and workshops may be preferred as an early checkpoint
- Note that the ACL conference does not allow on-line pre-prints:
<https://www.aclweb.org/portal/sites/default/files/SurveyReport2017.pdf>