LICS 2020 PC Chair Report

Naoki Kobayashi
The University of Tokyo
Program Committee

• 34 PC members, 11 women (32%)
• From 18 countries
  – 7 from France
  – 5 from UK
  – 3 from US
  – 2 from Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan
  – 1 from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Estonia, India, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Slovenia, Sweden
(Europe: 21, North America: 5, Asia: 5, Oceania: 2, South America: 1)
Submissions

- 192 abstracts, 174 submissions
- 69 accepted papers (39.6% acceptance ratio)
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# Statistics of Last 10 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Abstract Submissions</th>
<th>Submissions</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
<th>Acceptance Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’20</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’19</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’18</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’17</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’16</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’15</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSL-LICS ’14</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’13</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’12</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICS ’11</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conference Program

• 69 Regular Talks (Pre-recorded videos + Q/A sessions)
• 3 Invited Talks (of which 2 are joint with ICALP)
• 2 Invited Tutorials
• Award Session
  – Kleene award for best student paper:
    “Successor-Invariant First-Order Logic on Classes of Bounded Degree”,
    by Julien Grande.
  – Test-of-time award for LICS 2000 papers:
    • “Concurrent Omega-Regular Games”,
      by Luca de Alfaro and Thomas A. Henzinger.
    • “A Modality for Recursion”,
      by Hiroshi Nakano
Reviewing

• Lightweight double blind reviewing (more details in the next slides)
• 545 reviews (at least 3 reviews per paper)
• 307 external reviews, from 270 external reviewers  
  (cf. LICS ‘19: 338 external reviews/615 reviews)
• 2 months for the initial review  
  + 5 day for author response  
  + 3 weeks for PC discussions  
  (partially affected by COVID-19)
Lightweight Double Blind Reviewing

• Anonymous submissions (but authors were allowed to upload preprints to arXiv)
• Conflicts (with PC and potential reviewers) were declared by authors
• The conflict lists were visible only to PC chair
• PC members asked PC chair to check conflicts before asking for external reviews
• The identities of authors were disclosed after author response

Some Problems:
  – Some authors did not declare conflicts (even against PC members) properly, despite a few reminders
  – Too much cost for (> 500) conflict checks
    -> automated conflict checking will be required.
The Result of Survey on DBR

• Favorite Review Model for Authors

before LICS 2020

- 41.6%
- 32%
- 26.4%

after

- 33.1%
- 33.9%

- single-blind reviewing
- lightweight double blind reviewing (where the identities of authors are disclosed after rebuttal)
- strict double blind reviewing (where the identities of authors are hidden until the final decision)

• Favorite Review Model for PC members

before

- 55.6%
- 18.5%
- 25.9%

after

- 63%
- 11.1%
- 25.9%
Arguments for/against LDBR

• For: reduced bias

• Against
  – From authors
    • Incomplete anonymity (small community size, availability of arXiv papers, etc.)
    • Cost for declaring conflicts and anonymizing submissions
  – From PC
    • (huge) cost for conflict checking
    • Incomplete anonymity
    • Unclear benefits
    • Difficulty in bidding (without knowing which external reviewers are not in conflict)
Any Change on the Quality of Reviews?

- Authors

- PC members (who have served for past LICS PC)
Thanks

• Invited speakers and authors of submissions
• PC members and external reviewers
  – much more burden due to double blind reviewing and COVID-19!
• Local organizers, including:
  – Holger Hermanns and Lijun Zhang (conference chairs)
  – Kristina Scherbaum
• SC members, including:
  – General Chair: Dale Miller
  – Publicity and Proceedings Chair: Sam Staton
  – LICS ‘19 PC Chair: Patricia Bouyer
• ICALP organizers:
  – Anca Muscholl (SC Chair), Artur Czumaj (Track A PC Chair), Anuj Dawar (Track B PC Chair), Xiaotie Deng (Conference Chair)

More than 10 (?) online meetings and a lot of email discussions for relocation and organization of the joint conference

• Sponsors, including Saarland University and ISCAS