

# LICS 2020 PC Chair Report

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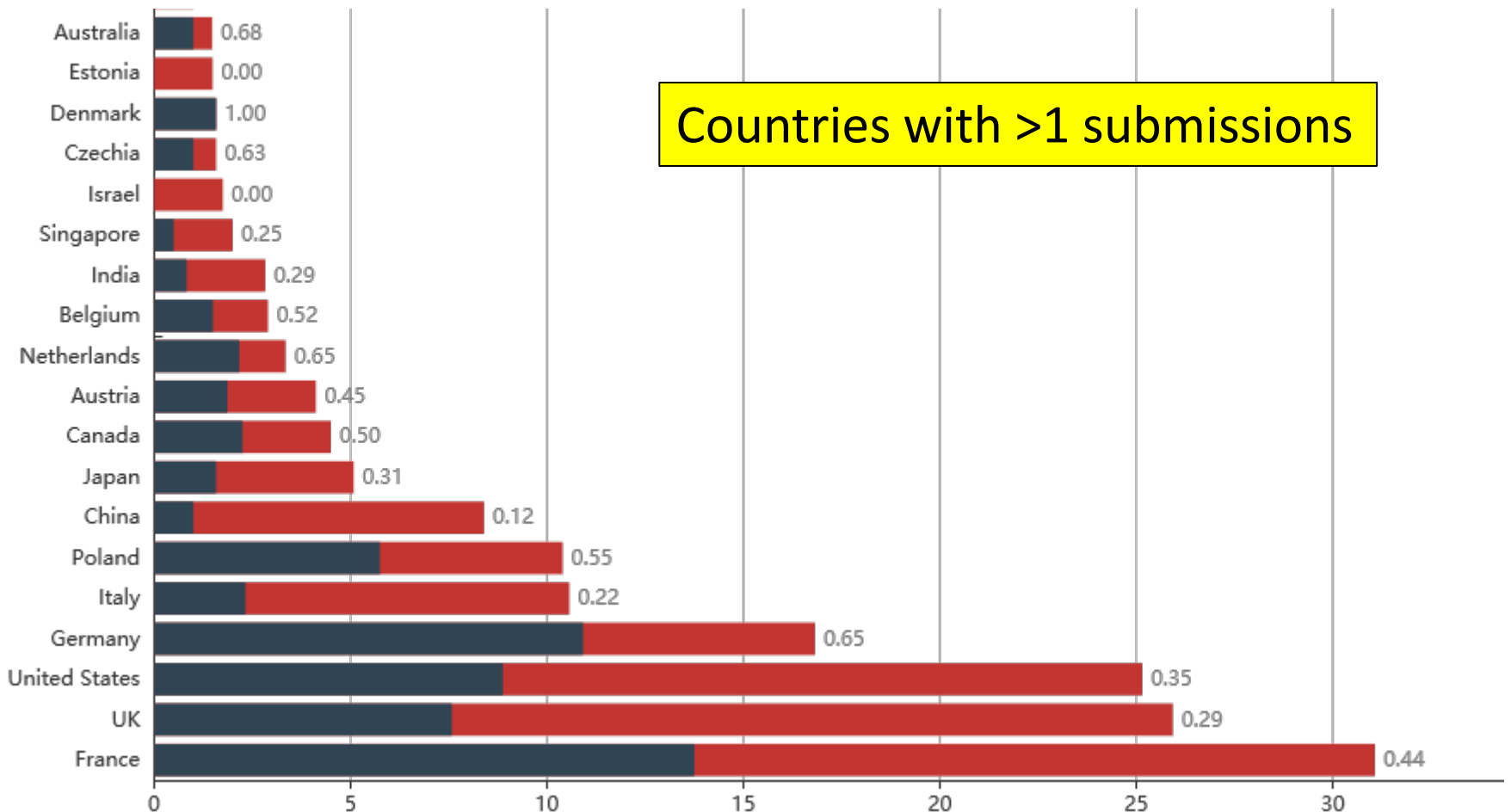
The University of Tokyo

# 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)

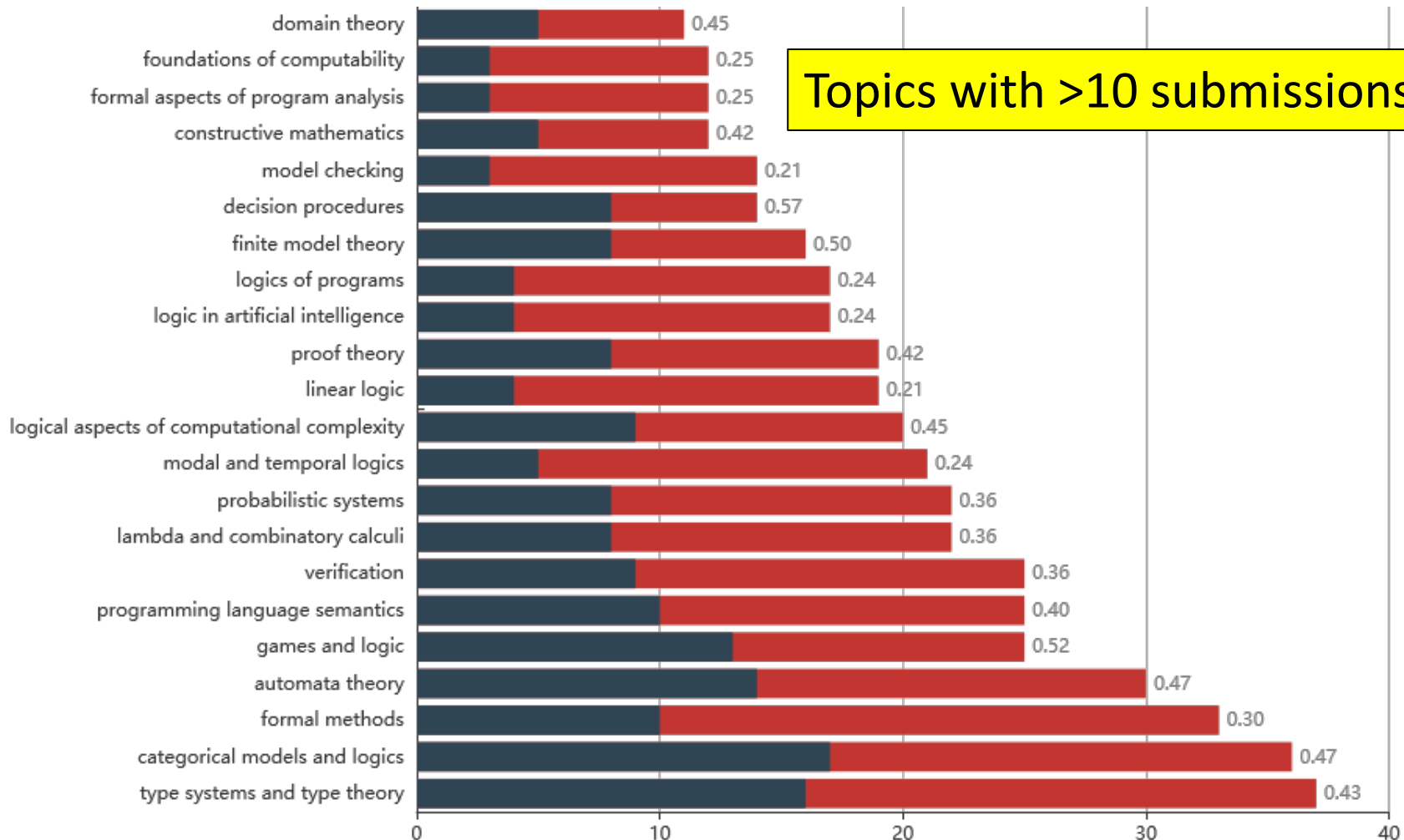
# Submissions

- 192 abstracts, 174 submissions
- 69 accepted papers (39.6% acceptance ratio)



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# Statistics of Last 10 Years

	Abstract Submissions	Submissions	Accepted	Acceptance Ratio
LICS '20	192	174	69	40%
LICS '19	189	154	60	39%
LICS '18	263	217	92	42%
LICS '17	270	224	89	40%
LICS '16		191	85	45%
LICS '15		176	61	35%
CSL-LICS '14	256	212	74	35%
LICS '13	214	165	57	35%
LICS '12		171	60	35%
LICS '11		114	37	32%

# 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:

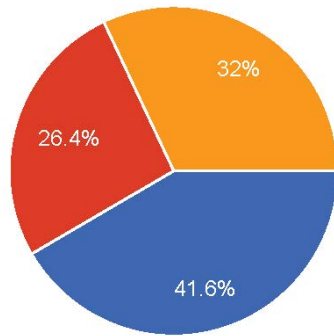
- Some authors did not declare conflicts (even against PC members) properly, despite a few reminders
- Too much cost for (> 500) conflict checks
  - > automated conflict checking will be required.



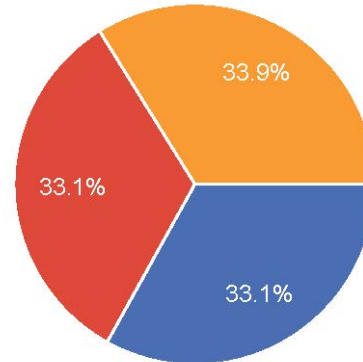
# The Result of Survey on DBR

- Favorite Review Model for Authors

before LICS 2020



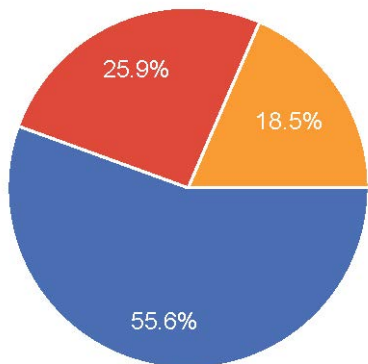
after



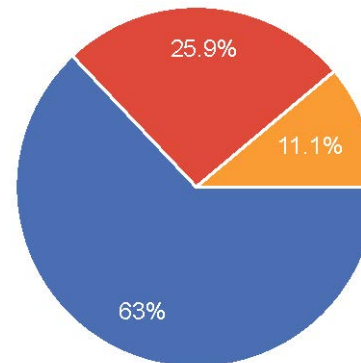
- single-blind reviewing
- lightweight double blind reviewing (where the identities of authors are disclosed after rebuttal)
- strict double blind reviewing (where the identities of authors are hidden until the final decision)

- Favorite Review Model for PC members

before



after

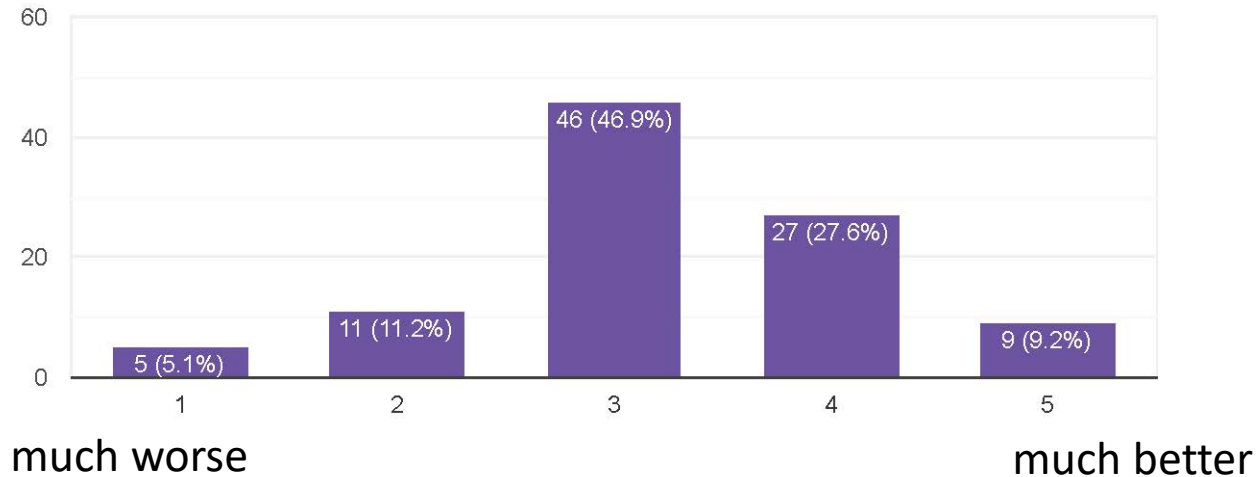


# Arguments for/against LDBR

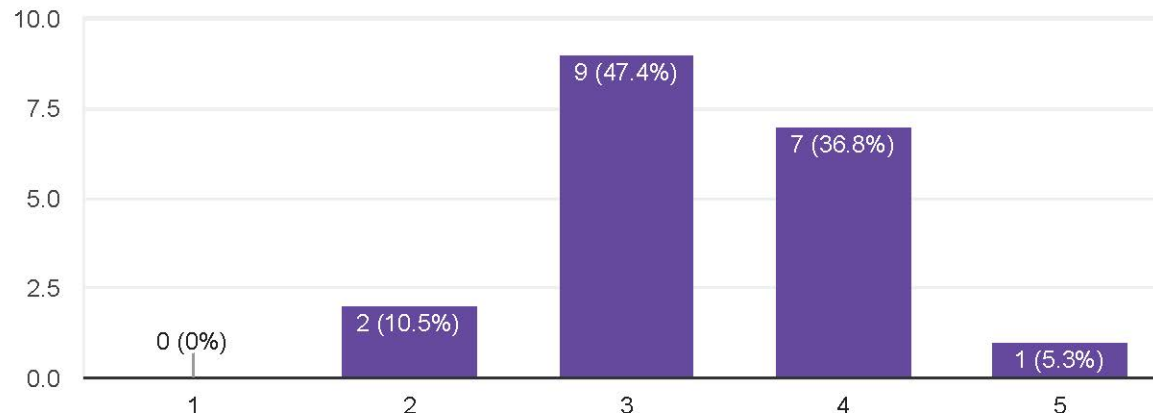
- For: reduced bias
- Against
  - From authors
    - Incomplete anonymity (small community size, availability of arXiv papers, etc.)
    - Cost for declaring conflicts and anonymizing submissions
  - From PC
    - (huge) cost for conflict checking
    - Incomplete anonymity
    - Unclear benefits
    - 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