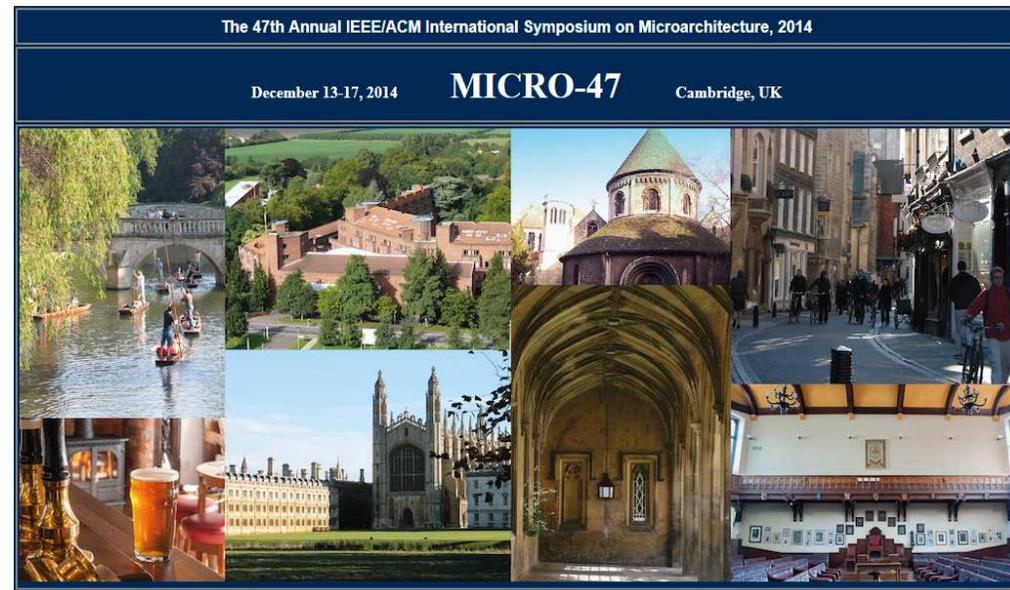


Micro-47 Survey Results

December 13 – 17, 2014
Cambridge, England

<http://www.microarch.org/micro47>



Survey Questions

1. What was your overall impression of MICRO?
2. What was your impression of the MICRO Workshops and Tutorials?
3. What was your view of having the best paper session as the final session of the conference?
4. What was your view of the "Hot Topic Debate" on "Is It the End of the Road for the Von Neumann Architecture?"
5. What was your impression of the poster session?
6. What is your view of having the third conference day (Wednesday) be full a day instead of a half day?
7. What was your view of the Conference4me smartphone app & paperless approach?
8. What was your impression of Robinson College, Cambridge as a venue for MICRO?
9. What was your impression of the guided Cambridge tour and punting?
10. Please provide any other comments

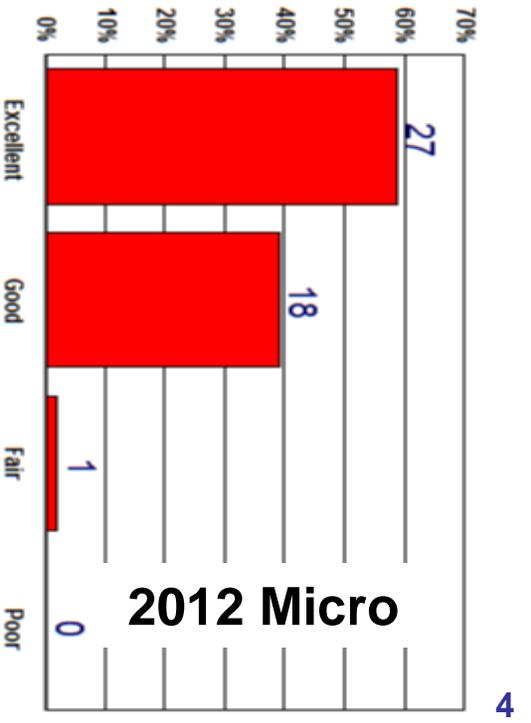
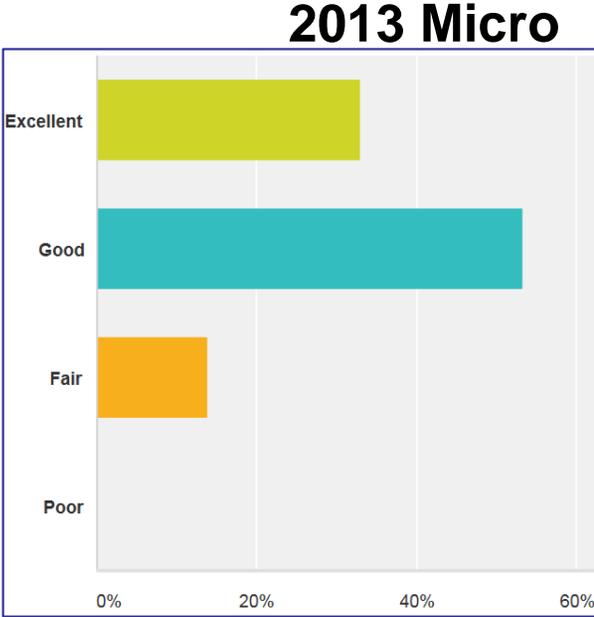
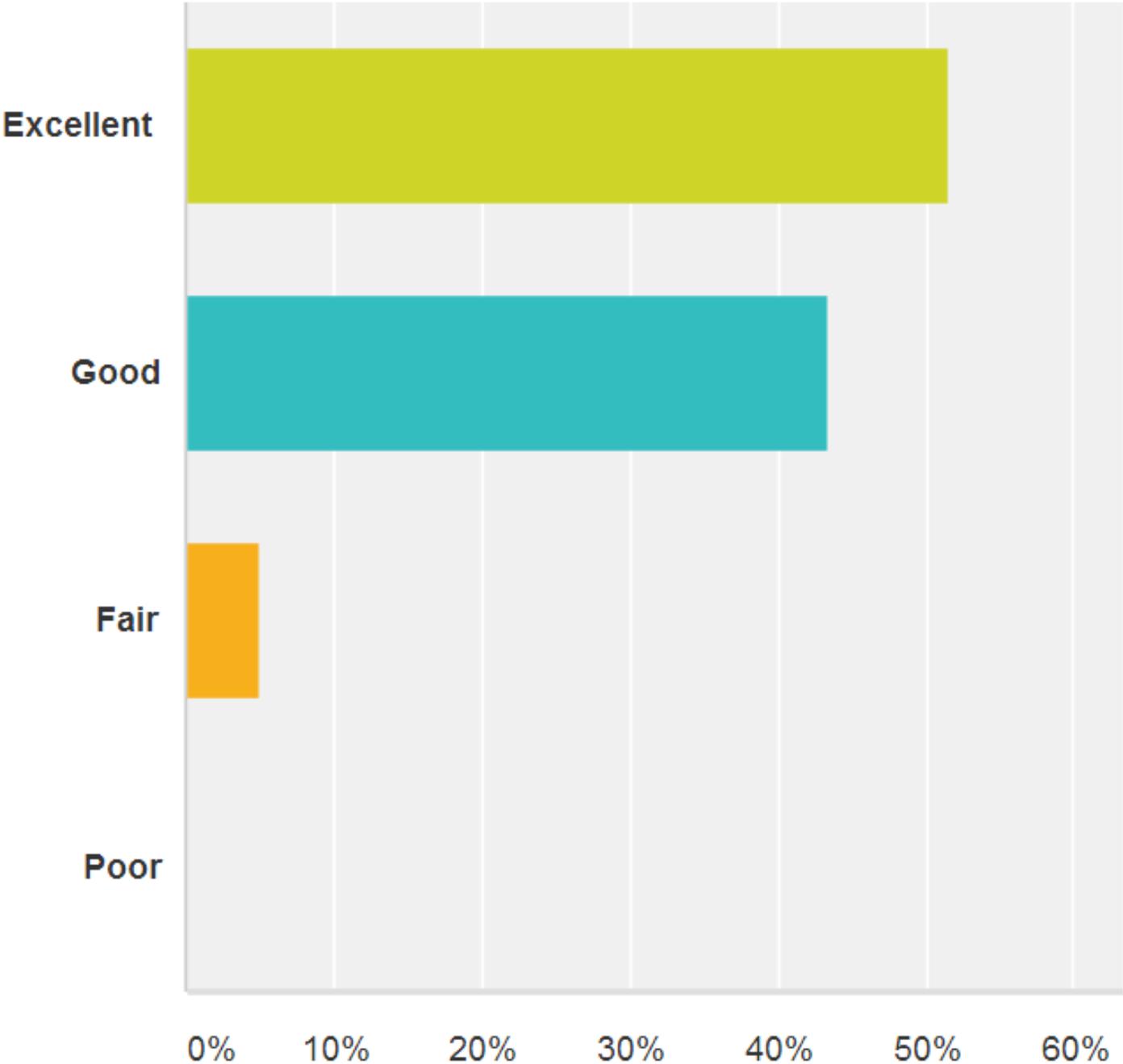
For questions 1-9, the choices to mark were:

- Excellent Good Fair Poor N/A (for some questions)

Some Recurring Comments

- Banquet at Kings College was great.
- Punting and tour were cold, but excellent.
- Micro organization was excellent.
- General approval of paperless approach, but with caveats:
 1. App had a number of shortcomings
 2. Paper schedules would be nice
 3. Not everyone has smart phones
- Mostly positive response to von Neumann debate, with some dissent along multiple dimensions.
- Mixed reactions on paper quality and best paper quality.
- Mixed reactions to best paper session at end of conference.
- Mixed reactions to full day of events on Wednesday and ending with a best-paper session.
- Poster session too crowded. Difficult for poster authors to get lunch.
- Conference halls too small.
- Difficult and cold to go between parallel sessions.
- Lightning session was too long:
 - Consider splitting session over 3 days or shortening individual talks from 2 minutes.
- Include conference registration option for Tuesday night dinner with random attendees.
 - *Suggestion*

1. Overall Impression of Micro



1. Overall Impression of Micro

Kudos

- very well organized
- Strong program!
- Rich papers and communication, Nice Lunch, Good place
- Micro47 was assembled very nicely, with several interesting format aspects I have not seen in a conference before. The "flash paper" presentations were very interesting.

Mixed

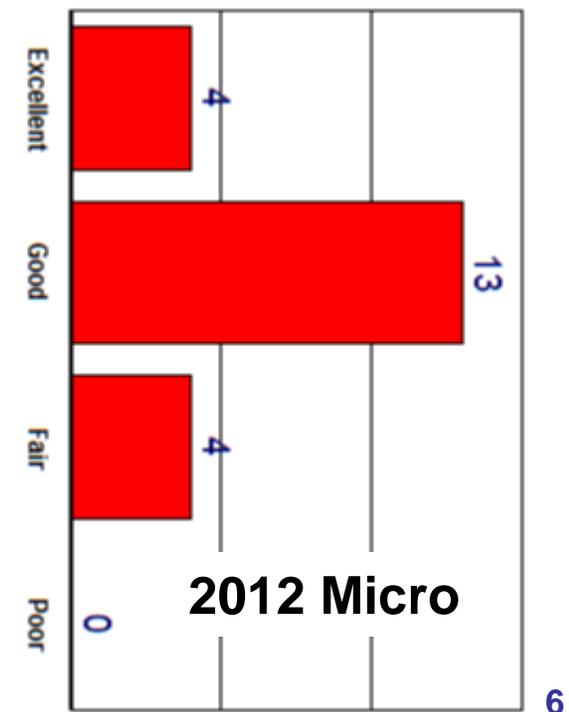
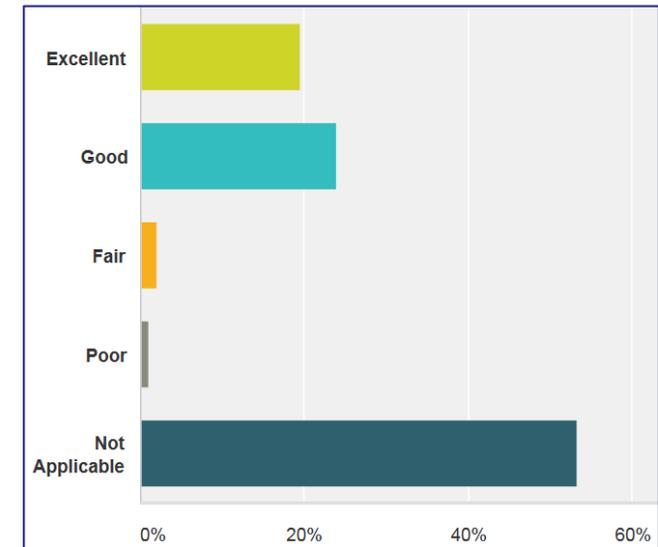
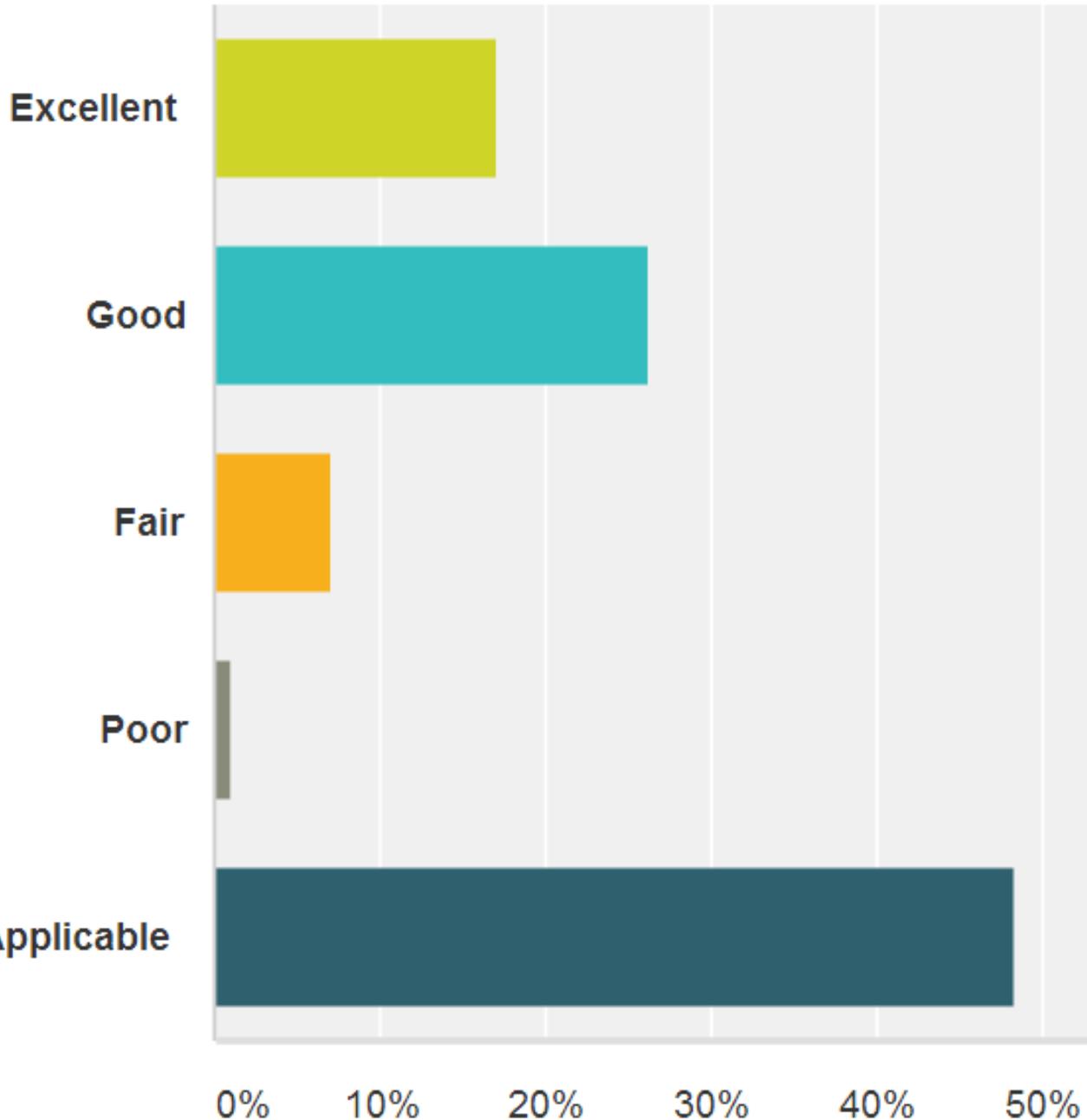
- Town was beautiful and charming. The actual conference venue was sub-standard (see more comments below).

Complaints

- Going outside to go from session A to B was really annoying.
- Program was disjoint and papers had minor impact, in general
- I want more core architecture papers. Why does everybody like uncore intensively, while core is mostly ignored.

2. Workshops and Tutorials

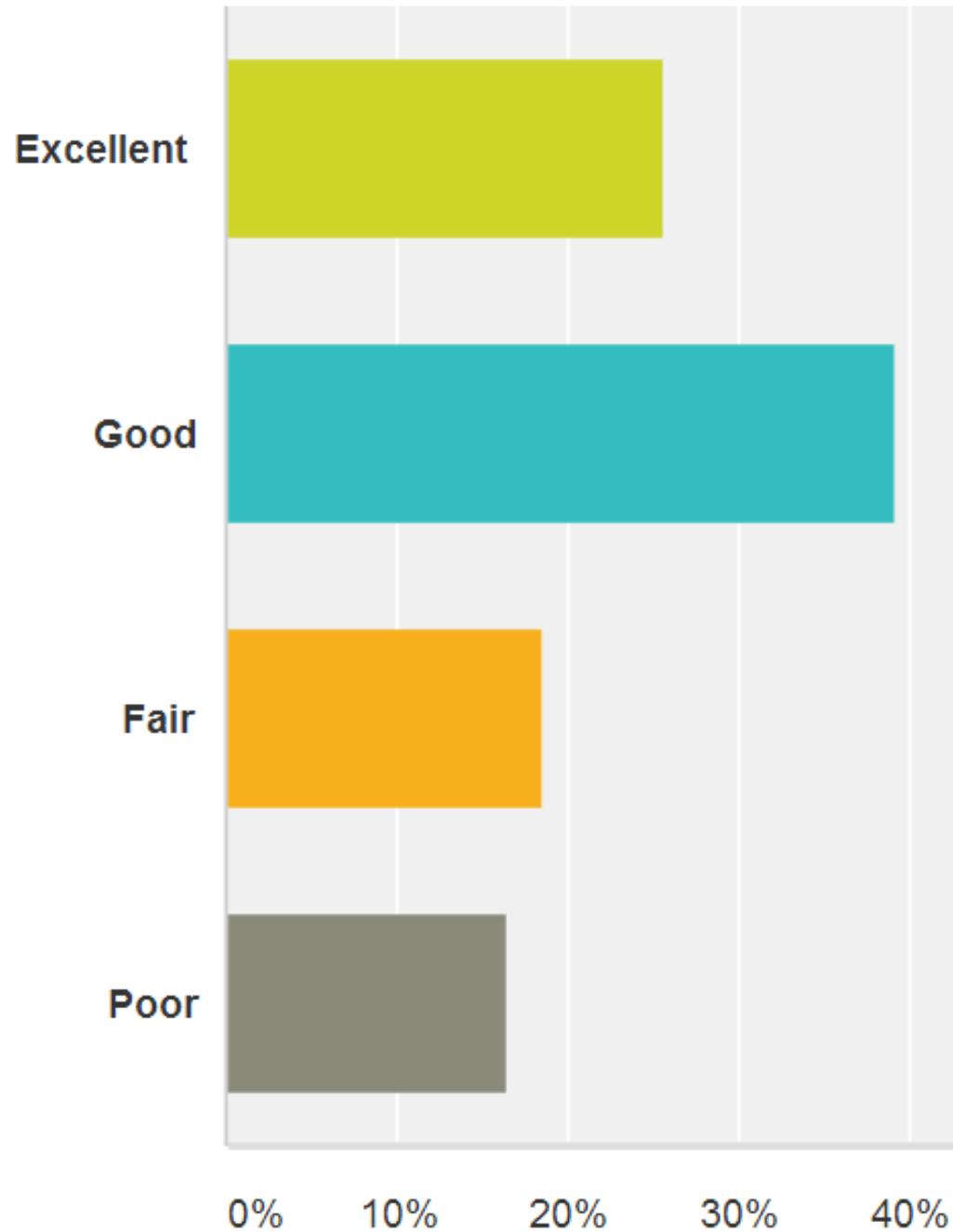
2013 Micro



2. Workshops and Tutorials

- Compact size
- Some really good sessions over the weekend - glad that I attended.
- I Didn't attend, but felt that the number of workshops and tutorials was quite low

3. Best Papers in Final Session



3. Best Papers in Final Session

Kudos:

- It was surprisingly very well attended.
- attendance was above my expectations
- Made me stay to the end, which is a good thing for all those presenting on the last day.
- I think this was a great idea to try to keep people around for the whole thing. However, I think it needs to either be a regular feature of all of the major conference, or well emphasized early on to have full effect.

Kudos to a Best Paper Session, but prefer session at conference start

- Would have preferred to have it in the beginning. Was too tired by the end
- I would prefer to have it earlier (I was too tired to pay full attention to the presentations)
- I think making it the first session would give the papers more visibility.

3. Best Papers in Final Session

Complaints – General:

- Particularly poor since last day was a full day
- Not a good idea. Too many people missed it.
- Many people go back before this session
- I had to leave, and I think I was not alone.
- it was too long, like many other sessions with more than three papers.
- However I saw many audiences leaving before and during the session

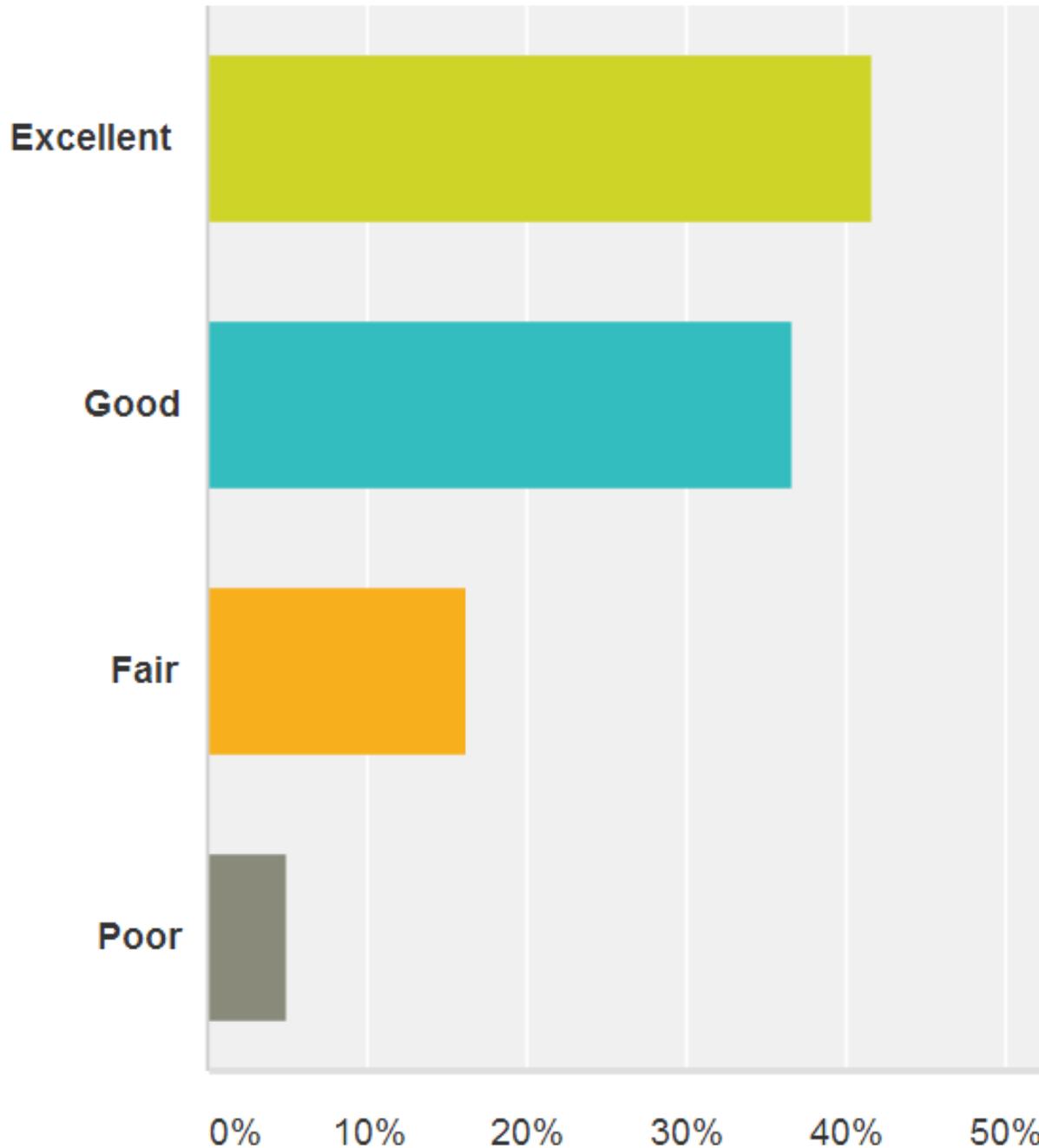
Complaints – Travel:

- It was too late I think, many people left before that for their flights. It might be better to put it in the time frame that everyone is there for sure. For example, before the social activities.
- Wish I could have made it but I couldn't arrange my travel plans so that it would fit.
- On one hand good to have more people attending, on the other makes scheduling travel a little more difficult
- It was fine but paired with the fact that the last day was a full day, it made catching a flight that day impossible.
- encourages people to stay to the end of the conference
- Good in theory. Some problematic if it is in the afternoon for an international conference as it is generally not possible to stay that long if returning on Wed.
- Robinson College did not allow greater than a 5 night stay, and the latest flight on Wednesday meant I missed the session entirely.

Complaints – Quality

- The quality of most of the best papers was weak (except the paper that was selected as best paper).
- I would like to see better papers. I did not like some of the selected papers...

4. Debate – End of Road for von Neumann Architecture



4. Debate – End of Road for von Neumann Architecture

Kudos

- This was just plain fun! I found the "Debaters" interesting and quite amusing.
- It was fun and informative.
- I enjoyed the format and the venue.
- Good to have the debate outside the conference venue, as part of the excursion
- Interesting discussions. It should be more sessions like that in the conferences. It opens minds, opens the community, and the young ones also learn a lot.

Unable to Attend

- not applicable
- Wasn't able to attend so can't comment.

4. Debate – End of Road for von Neumann Architecture

Mixed

- Moderator was only half-present
- the first half an hour was excellent

Staging

- Interesting but no conclusion
- It was fun. But didn't go back with new insights.
- Entertaining, but - us usual - free of any meaningful take-aways.
- Question was a bit indirect, which meant a lot of time was spent debating what it actually meant!
- This seemed to be a nice idea in theory, but in practice it seemed to boil down to just everyone having their own view on what the question was supposed to be.
- Venue, atmosphere, and debate participant were excellent. They seemed to be violently agreeing, though.

Debate Content

Scheduling

- Nice venue and interesting event. But the "entertainment" events were too concentrated, would have been better to separate the tour/punting, debate, and banquet.

Debaters

- It was a fun event, and Guri Sohi was awesome. I loved that he really got into the role, and delivered his position in a style that one might expect of a formal debate. Also, I'm somewhat disappointed that you didn't include at least *one* female speaker.

4. Debate – End of Road for von Neumann Architecture

Complaints

Debaters

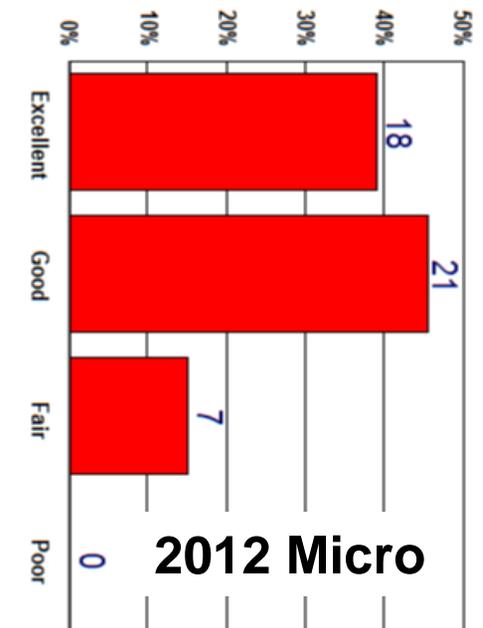
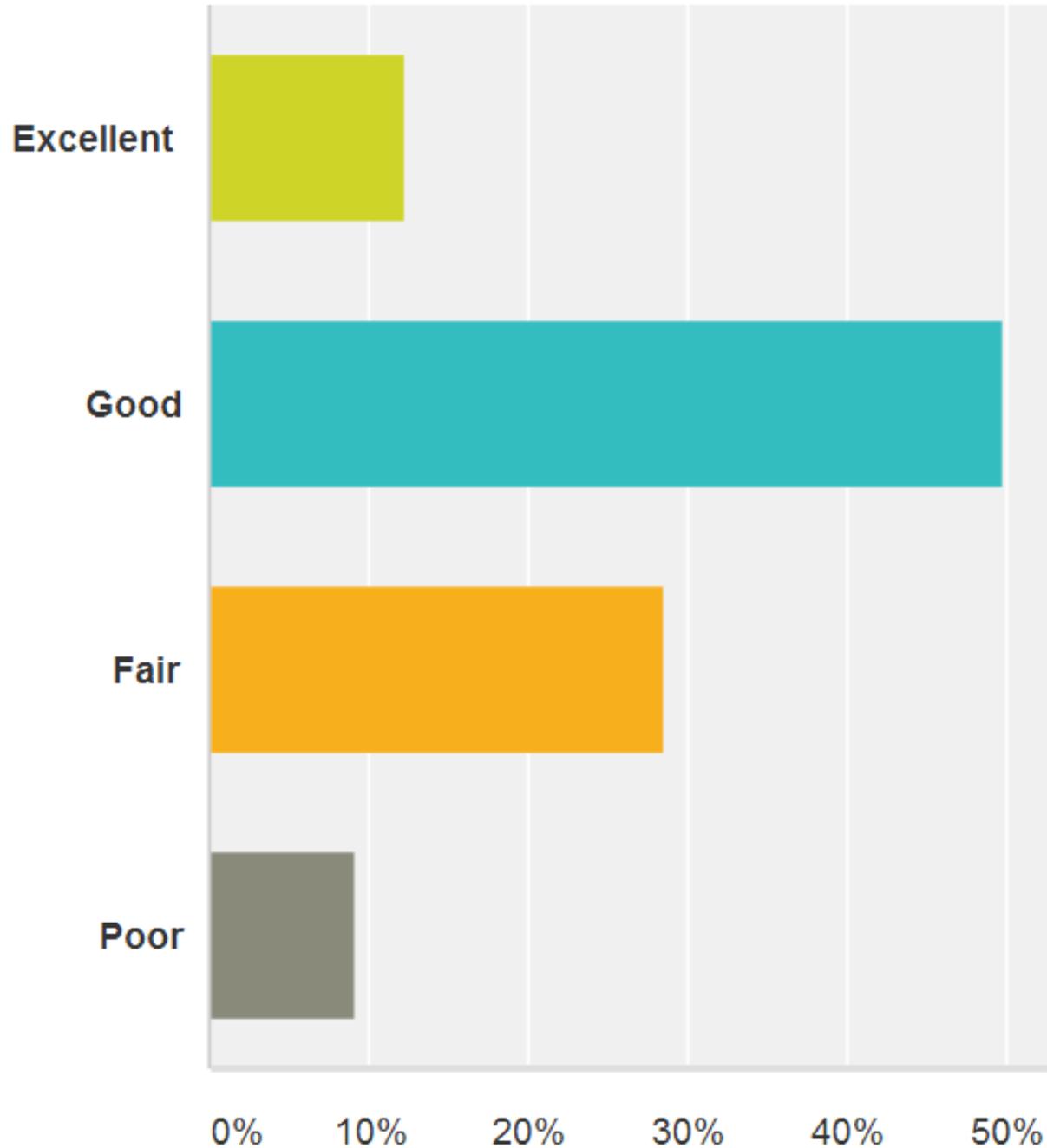
- Not good, little to no insight was gained, waste of time. Sick of hearing Yale Patt open his mouth.

Topic

- Need to find a better topic.
- It was somewhat an irrelevant discussion at the end of the day...
- The debate seem not to follow the question so it was hard to follow what the debate was all about. My personal view is that the term "specialized architectures" does not translate to "not Von Neumann architectures".
- The question was poorly framed, which is why all the panelists had to redefine it
- The topic was way too ambiguous, everyone was defining it to ease their speeches. I think it would be more interesting to choose a real controversial topic, either general of research or concrete of computer architecture.
- Perhaps the topic should've been more concrete (what's the definition of Von Neumann Architecture in this context)
- Although it was fun to 'play the game' of debating in such an awesome place, the debate itself was awful due to the lack of proper definition of 'Von Neumann Architecutre' and also due to the sloppy job of the moderator.

5. Poster Session

2013 Micro



5. Poster Session

Kudos

- Great chance to meet with presenters and ask questions. Very good part of the conference.

Request

- poster session can last a bit longer.

Complaints other than Crowding

- Should not coincide with lunch
- Many of the posters were not up when the session started. Perhaps having them placed in advance of the session would be an improvement.
- Too much work for presenters. Not sufficient amount of time. Presenters didn't even get a chance to eat! Awful and horribly planned!
- While I like the idea of a poster session, the execution is generally poor. The room was too crowded and the acoustics were not good. Plus, having it over lunch made it difficult for presenters to get food.

5. Poster Session

Mixed – Like Poster Session, but too Crowded

- Excellent idea, but the room was too crowded
- Room was too cramped. posters were good.
- A little crowded, but a good chance to chat with researchers
- Good idea to have a poster session. Room was too small though.
- Good idea. Better if more space to move around. Half the time I was trying to navigate around others or let others navigate around me.
- Not as bad as Davis, but the space was still somewhat cramped. However, that's just a comment about the execution. I still think it's a great idea and provides students with an additional opportunity to interact and gain visibility, so we should continue doing this.

Complaints – Crowding and Possible Fixes

- Quite crowded. Perhaps split it up into multiple days?
- Problem with the space. Papers should be grouped based on sessions so we can easily find specific papers.
- Too crowded - should be a best poster award - then everyone would be more focused.
- I like the poster session idea as carried out in Micro 2012 -- unless there is room, I prefer only accepted papers for further discussion with the authors.

Complaints – Crowding and More

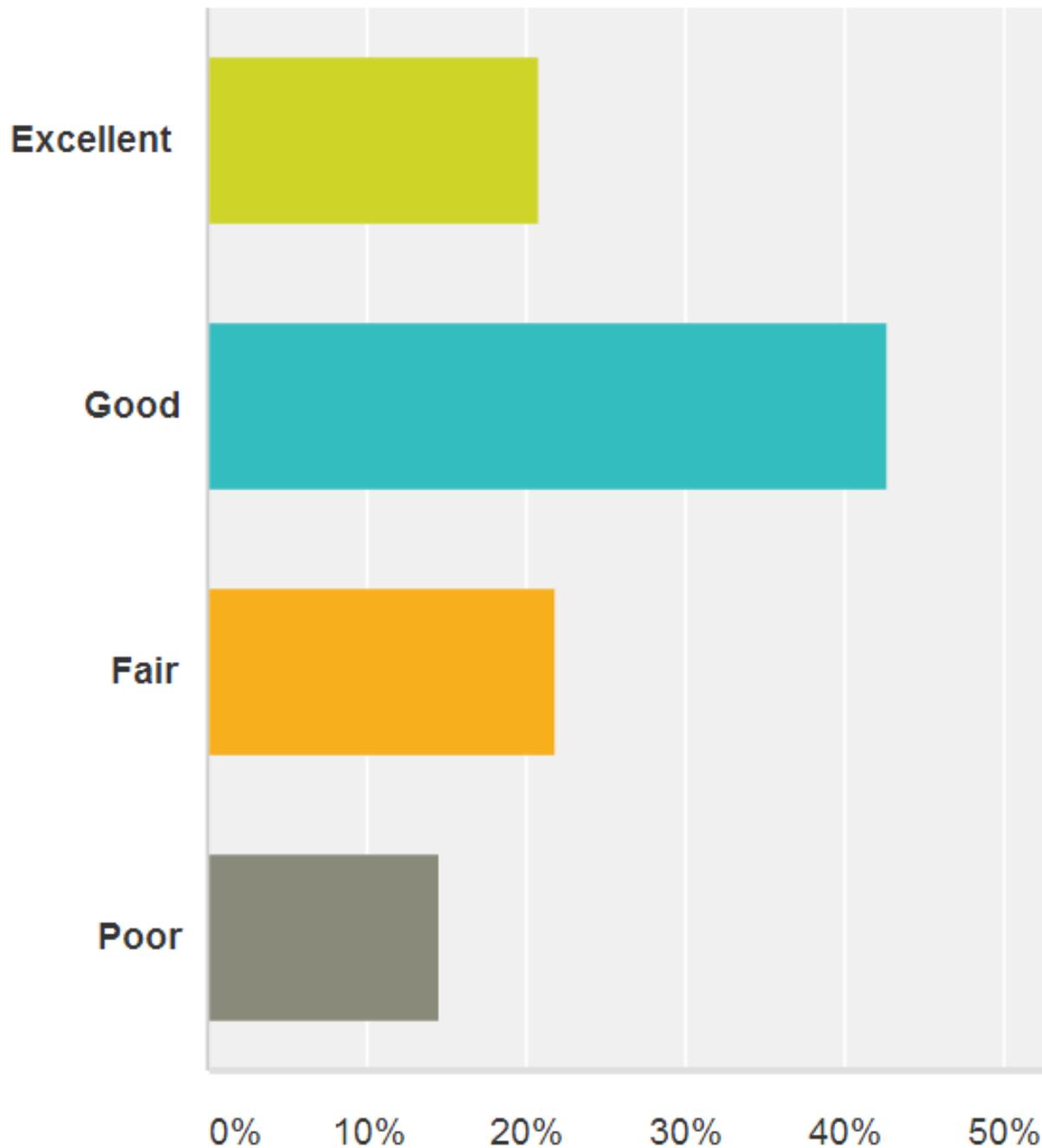
- It was not all that useful. Mostly people got busy with lunch, the hall was overcrowded and not many people had the enthusiasm to visit all the posters.

5. Poster Session

Complaints – Crowding

- Too cramped, please don't make that a Micro tradition!
- The place was too cramped
- The area where the poster session was hosted was too small
- The room was small and tight with limited space.
- IMO, not enough space for so many posters.
- Room a little too small
- But the space was too small and crowded
- Too narrow space
- The room was small for that amount of papers.
- There was too little space in the room
- venue was too crowded; very hard to move around
- There was not enough space to walk around and talk to the poster presenters.
- Way too crowded!
- It was a little bit crowded of a space.
- Maybe a little of additional space would have been good.
- A little tight in that room
- Insufficient Space
- area was too crowded to effectively look at posters and have a discussion
- It think there was not enough space, too many people for that space.
- The room was too small.
- Too loud circumstance
- The room was too small -- it was hard to move between the posters.

6. Full Day on Wednesday



6. Full Day on Wednesday

Kudos

- full day is better
- If there are papers to present, that's ok.
- This was fine given the long outing on the second day.
- There is a great deal of material covered, and a rushed pace is an unneeded pressure. Considering the distance that most traveled, a 1/2 day versus a full day is of very little consequence, in my opinion.
- It is probably necessary as our community keeps growing. I don't want to see three concurrent sessions.
- I liked the idea. However, the attendance on the third day was still not high. As a result, most of the papers were presented in low-attendance rooms.
- It is a good idea as it allows having the middle day of the conference more relaxed, however I understand it may be a little more problematic for travel

Complaints

- bad idea because many people go back early.
- Due to hotel accommodations it was inconvenient to have a full day.
- Few people stayed until last sessions
- There should have been a warning about that. I have heard many people that booked their flights thinking that the conference was finishing earlier so they missed the best papers session.
- I think it would be a harder sell in the US, but given that most people weren't flying out until Thursday anyway, it seemed to be fine. I think the conference should also consider shortening the presentations from 25 down to 20 minutes (it would also make it easier to remember when talks start/end).

6. Full Day on Wednesday

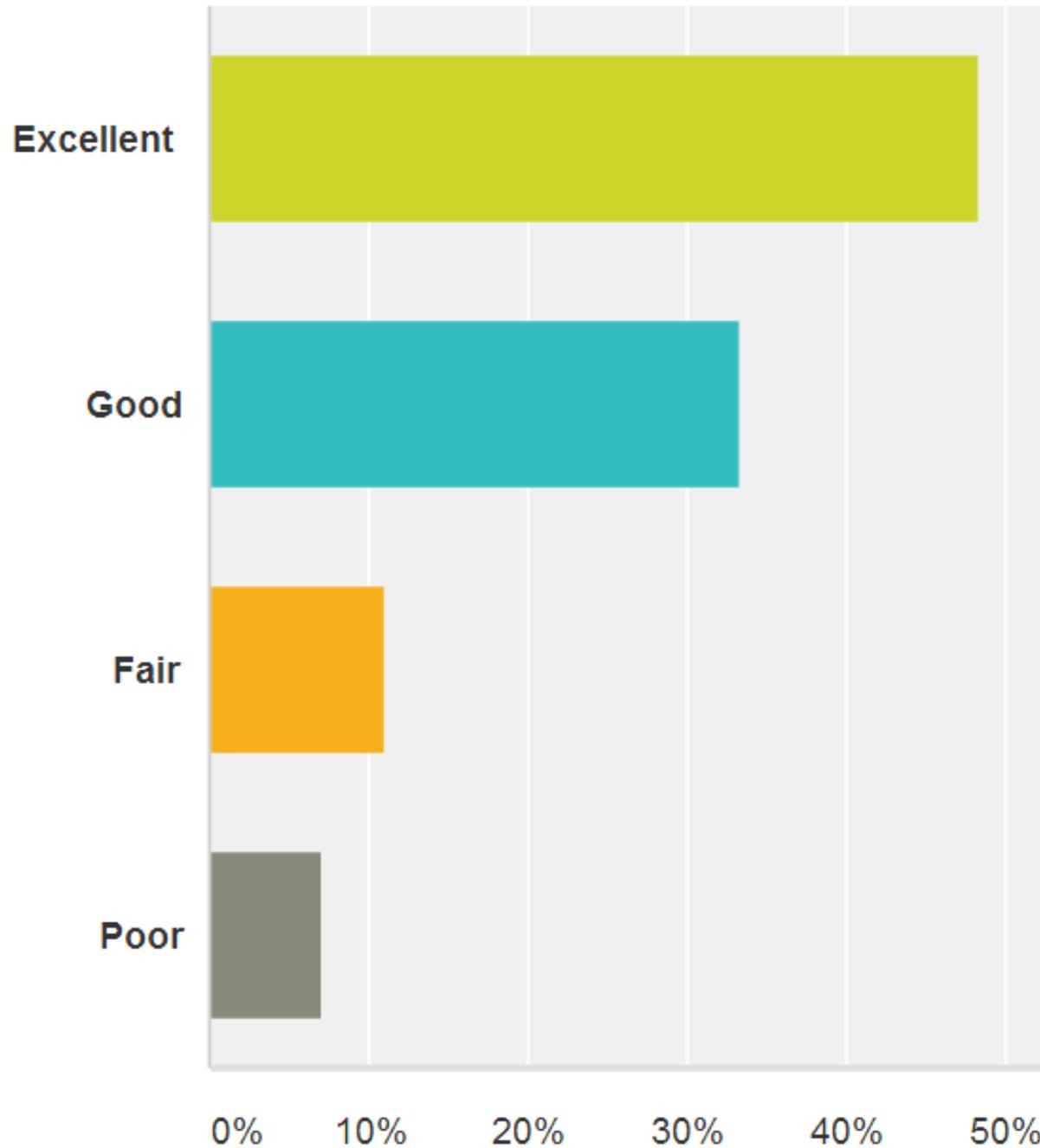
Mixed

- was ok because of travel mostly being the next morning, but in general wouldn't like it.
- Good in theory as it allows more in the conference (poster session, lightning talk, longer excursion), problematic for travel for international conference, especially around holidays

Neutral / Observations

- No real opinion on this.
- Haven't been to other conferences so can't comment.
- maybe could end a little early?
- Extended my travel to a 5 day - not always possible.
- If a conference is in US on the west coast, it would be impossible for people to return to the East Coast on wednesday if they stayed to the end
- This (combined with best papers being last) made it impossible for me to catch a flight on Wednesday without missing the best paper session.

7. Paperless Conference4me Smartphone Approach



7. Paperless Conference4me Smartphone Approach

Kudos

- I like it very much!
- The app worked great, much more flexible and useful than a printed schedule.
- I didn't use it personally, but others seemed to like it.
- I'm fine with paperless. Didn't bother with the app, just used my laptop to look at the program

Mixed – Like paperless, but App needs improvement

- App needs some work, but paperless is fine
- good but some information (e.g. author name) is missing
- Excellent, but some author(s) name was missing in paper's author list.
- App had some minor issues, but this will continue to improve. It was a good first step. I'm glad that someone in our community decided to give this approach a try.
- Very convenient. More info of the city is needed. Be able to organize after session meetings via the app, etc..
- just need an option to add notes to items in the app and export later
- A very useful tool. It would have been nice if it would also work off-line. To conserve battery, I deactivate my wi-fi connection. I would like to view the schedule, however, it wouldn't show it unless it was allowed to check for updates.
- good start, it's constant updating every time you opened the app was annoying. it should do that in the background.
- Paperless is OK. But the app only works well with Internet connection. Why can't it download the schedule when connected and then show sessions while disconnected?
- App was useful, though a bit basic and not very well polished. I felt cheated I didn't get a paper copy of the proceedings!
- I'm in favor of the paperless approach. I didn't find the app so useful, I just printed the program and annotated what sounded interesting during the lightning session.
- could have done more...

7. Paperless Conference4me Smartphone Approach

Paperless Proceedings Ok – Paperless Program Not Ok

- App was OK. Would really like to have a paper program.
- I think it is convenient to have a paper copy of the program (two-sided, not a big waste). But proceedings can be paperless.

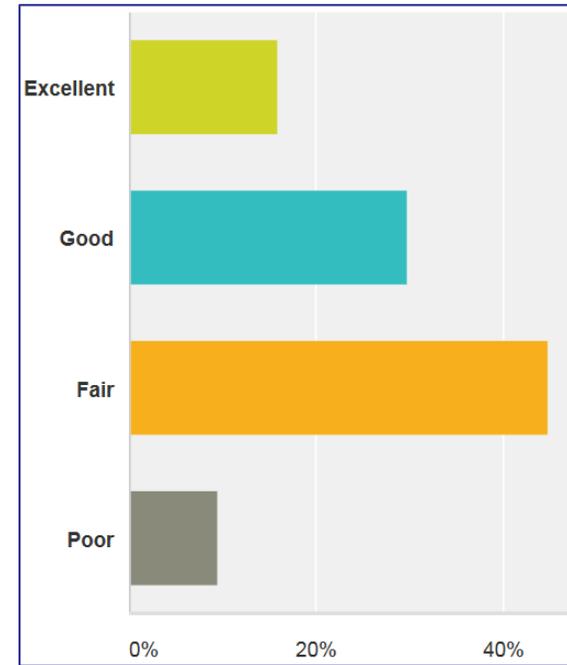
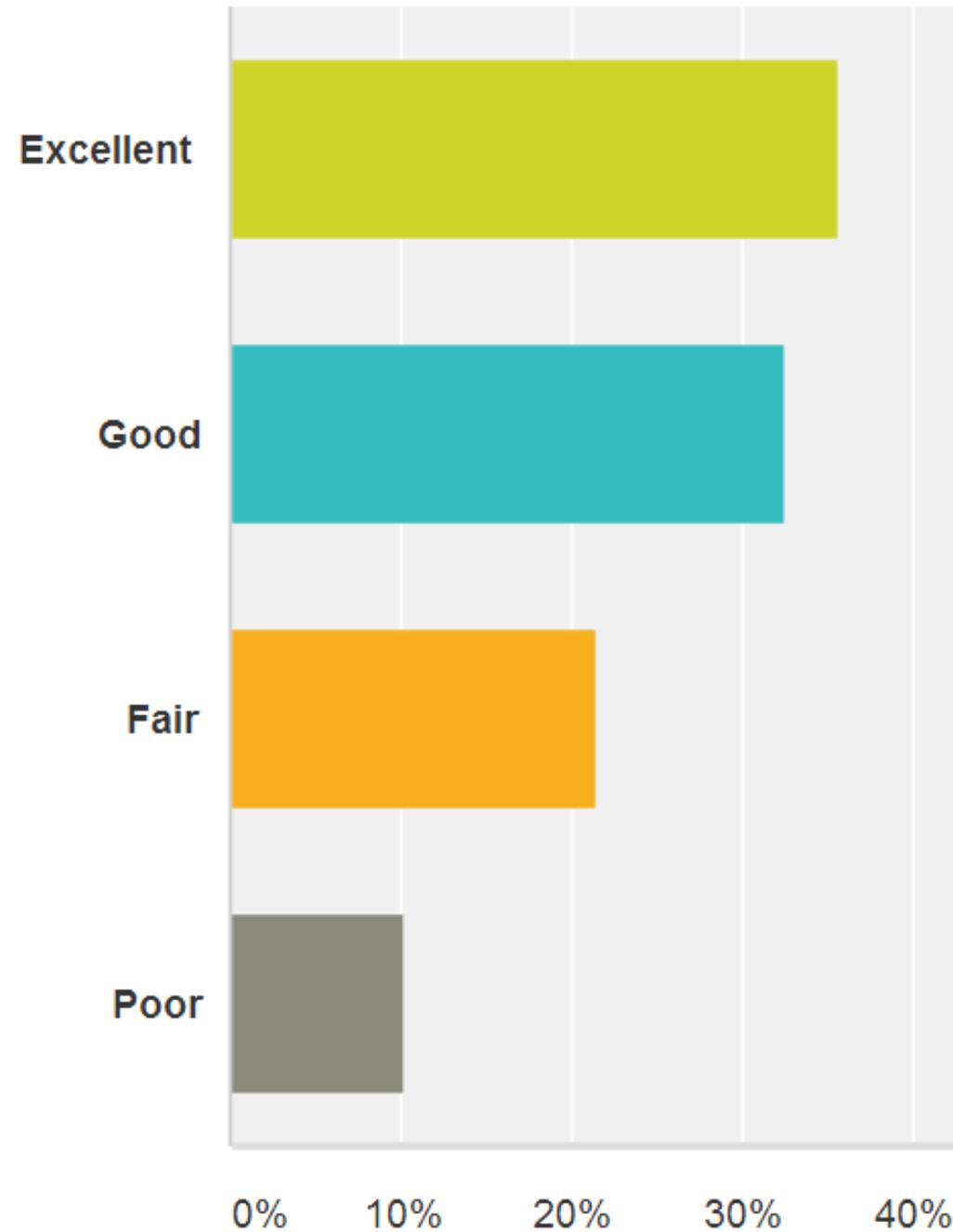
Smartphone Assumption

- Don't have smartphone
- The assumption that everyone has a smart device is false.
- Not everyone is caught up in this smart phone era; some would prefer a few sheets of paper with program, map of the area.

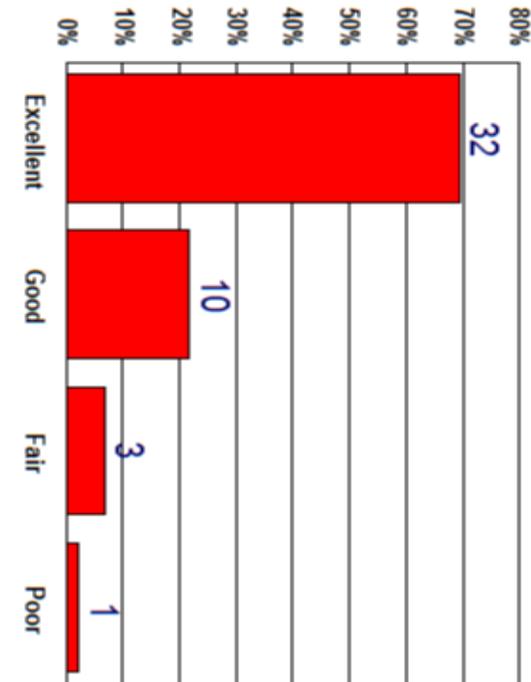
Complaints

- I prefer to have the actual proceeding
- I didn't find it useful

8. Robinson College, Cambridge as Venue



**2013 Micro,
Davis, Calif**



**2012 Micro,
Vancouver**

8. Robinson College, Cambridge as Venue

Kudos

- Really enjoyed the venue. Great choice.
- Very nice
- Meals were excellent.
- A wonderful venue! I particularly liked the close proximity of the hotel/meal accommodations, to the conference. The college/hotel staff were particularly pleasant, and helpful.

Mixed

- nice location but a little small for the attendance we had
- Cambridge is a nice place but overall, Robinson College doesn't seem to be a good venue for a conference.
- Overall great venue - perhaps the accommodation had a few wrinkles.
- Accommodation was good, but the session halls were less than great. Having to track outside to switch halls was an inconvenience, esp. given the weather
- Good venue, though audio setup in main room on first day seemed to have a lot of feedback. Projectors also seemed a bit low res/blurry.
- I loved the Cambridge's academic atmosphere. But the on-site accommodation and conference facilities were quite average. It was hard to switch between the sessions. Also, it was hard to network.
- Robinson College is beautiful but the space was tight, the parallel sessions were far from each other, and there was no good space for "networking" outside the session rooms.
- Cambridge is excellent. Robinson college was ok but in comparison didn't have the same atmosphere. Conference rooms were just fair--small and hard to get in and out. Seating is cramped. Combined with some very long sessions this was torture. Residence was just ok, but cant complain given the price. Second lecture room was very small -- unfair to authors in those sessions.

8. Robinson College, Cambridge as Venue

Complaints – Public Conference Spaces too Small

- Not having enough space in the main room to hold everyone seemed very strange.
- It's nice when the main venue accommodates everyone without an overflow room.
- Given the large number of attendees, the rooms were too small.
- Very hard to escape from the room. No sufficient chairs.
- the dinner hall was a bit small for the breaks and the poster session.

Complaints - Sleeping Rooms

- Problems with heating and internet
- The lecture hall style was a little awkward for moving from one session to the other in between talks. It was also a little odd to have college dorms as the conference hotel, leaving those of us who did not want that "experience" to end up in rather expensive hotels in town.
- Student rooms were not specially comfortable. Seeing the keynotes through a screen is not desirable.
- Limited access to local food options. Accommodations were spartan.

8. Robinson College, Cambridge as Venue

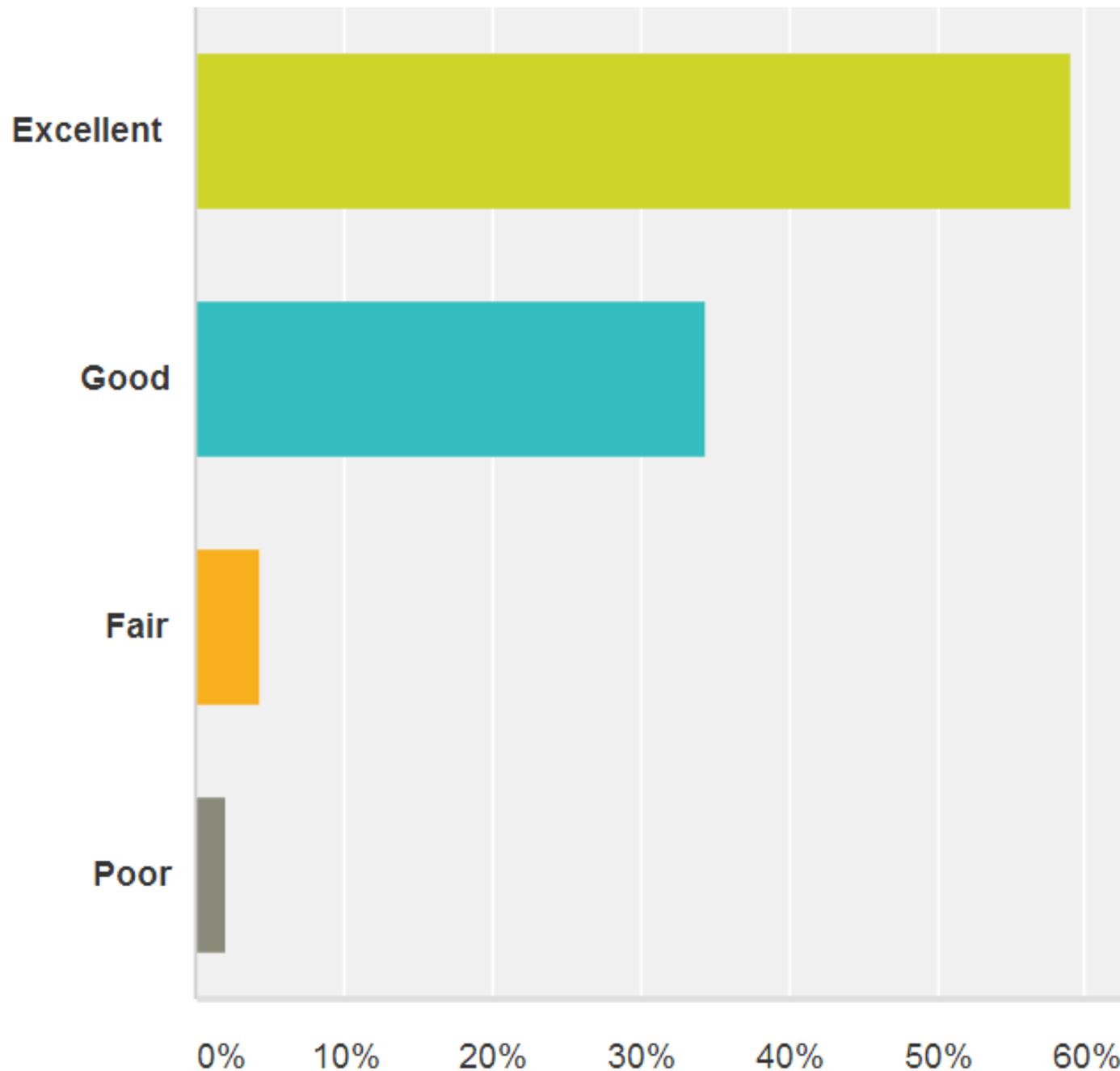
Complaints - Inconvenient

- Remote and expensive
- Very inconvenient from airport. Very inconvenient from city center. Poor accommodation.

Complaints – Other

- People were split between A and an sessions and having to go outside to go to the other session or get coffee was annoying.
- I understand that there were only so many options in Cambridge, but... The size of the auditorium was too small, the size of the secondary auditorium (Umney) was way too small, and the theater-style seating made it really difficult to get in and out of the rows of seats. There was no good place for congregating to have "hallway discussions". The distance between the parallel sessions was also not conducive to going back and forth to attend different talks. The rooms (for sleeping) were somewhat cold with no way to control the temperature. The College was also located a bit further from the city centre than really desirable (especially when walking back late at night in the dark and cold!). Like Davis last year, Robinson College as a venue goes was not bad, but far, far from great.

9. Punting and Cambridge Tour



9. Punting and Cambridge Tour

Kudos

- That was excellent!
- Best excursion in quite a while!
- Outstanding all around. Thank you.
- The punting and follow-on tour were enjoyable, and interesting.
- Loved it, in spite of the cold.
- Very funny
- The guided tour was an excellent idea.
- It was cold, but I enjoyed both activities a lot. Tour guides were excellent.
- This was very well executed. The tour guides were fun (although it seemed like some boats were unaware of the treasure chest of hot mulled wine at their feet!), the city was beautiful, and the dinner was a treat.
- A pleasant surprise, actually. The guided tour was informative and allowed me to take away from Cambridge a much better sense of Cambridge. The punting was a relaxing interlude.

9. Punting and Cambridge Tour

Mixed

- Was too cold, yet good
- Both the punting and tour were quite fun. In hindsight these should have been separated because the cold weather caused everyone in our group to start shivering uncontrollably halfway through the tour.
- Would be excellent except for temperature and the fact that the two tours repeated many of the same pieces of information.
- Outside was a bit cold for the tour though
- Good but cold weather
- Long though, and cold.

Did not Participate

- Did not participate
- Didn't attend so can't comment.
- Didn't attend
- not applicable

Complaints

- A bit chilly towards the end.
- Not appropriate for winter season.
- it was a bit cold, and I would have liked to see more science related stuff.

10. Other Comments

Kudos

All Around Good Show

- Great Lightning sessions, well run, great conference in general. Well done.
- Thanks for all the ours spent in organizing this great event. Thanks to everybody who was involved,
- Thoroughly enjoyed the conference. Thanks for organising.
- Good job for the conference organization!
- I thank the organizers for the effort that was put into making the conference successful. Indeed, it was a great success!
- Excellent organisation of the conference, another great year of Micro, actually the greatest of all that I've been to, thanks the committee for putting together such a great program and the local organisers for the three days in Cambridge.

- Great dinner at kings college. Good selection of papers.
- The dinner in Kings College was a highlight.
- Dinner at Kings College was probably the best meal I've ever had at a conference. The venue was also outstanding.

Banquet – Kings College

First Timer at Micro

- This was my first year to participate in Micro. I routinely attend other conferences (DAC, SC, Embedded Systems, etc), and found the size and content of Micro to be appropriately paced, and very informative. I do plan to add this conference to my "Wish List" for future participation. Thank-you for a job well done.

10. Other Comments

Mixed

- During the conference, I requested the help of the organizers for some minor things, and, unfortunately, their answer was very disappointing. But in general, the organization of the conference was excellent and I enjoyed a lot the location.
- Overall it was very good conference (at least for qualities of papers accepted). However, I think very long lightning session is very bad idea.
- In general, it was quite inconvenient to move from a session to a coffee break place (narrow stairs, had to walk to a different part of the building, etc.). It would have been much better if there's a place right outside the auditorium where people can get coffee and network with other people (just like typical other conference venues, such as hotel). Other than this, everything else was quite good. Thanks for your effort in organizing such an event. Best,

** First of 3 comments about lightning session being too long*

10. Other Comments

Complaints

- The registration fee was outrageous.
- I could not hear questions from audience. Prepare microphones.

Paper Quality

- Papers chosen for best paper nominations should either solve a long standing important problem convincingly, or inspire future work. But I'm afraid most papers that were chosen didn't really meet this criteria, IMHO. Perhaps, we need to find a better process for identifying such papers.
- The quality of many papers was poor in terms of novelty. Some keynotes started too early. The lack of power plugs in the theatres (esp. the secondary one) was very annoying
- Having micro this late in the year was very disruptive to my family's Christmas preparation as well as taking care of final exams; I will not attend again a week before Christmas. A week earlier would have been better.
- The lightning round session needs to be shorter. Two minutes per person is much longer than needed. The lightning round should really be an advertisement to entice attendees to attend the talks, NOT miniature versions of the full talks. If you really want technical details and results, attend the talk and/or read the paper!!! Two minutes gives too much rope for the speaker to hang him/herself with. Also, the wording of the instructions from Prof. Conte did not help. They seemed very rigid in terms of specifically what should be included in the slides (ex. "Problem that the paper seeks to solve; and, Description of the solution, including what's novel, and, if appropriate, its performance"). He may have meant it only to be a suggested format, but it seems like many of the presenters interpreted it as explicit instructions, which resulted in many dull and ineffective lightning talks. Only a few seemed to go off in their own directions (the "Wikipedia talk" for example was great). Dear Lord Almighty with the Blessed Virgin and all the Holy Saints in heaven above, that business meeting was horribly and unnecessarily long... Zzzzzz... The food served for lunch in the dining hall was uninspired. The same cookies day after day also got a little monotonous.

10. Other Comments

Suggestions

- Please break up the lightning talks to be each day. 2 hours is much too long. Just have lightning talks at the beginning of each day for the talks that day. Having a lightning talk, poster, and full length is an unreasonable amount of work for the speakers. Please get rid of the poster session.
- This is more of a suggestion for all conferences going forwards. As a faculty member, when I take my students to conferences, I'd really like them to use dinners on nights when nothing is scheduled to network with people they don't know, but they tend to just hang out with their labmates. One difficulty in this is that it's a bit hard/daunting for them to just find the people they should be networking with and have dinner with them. It occurs to me that it would be great for conferences to provide some way to facilitate such a thing---e.g., when you sign up for the conference, have a "would you be willing to have Tuesday night dinner with a random group of other attendees" check box, then make dinner parties (~3 faculty/industry people, ~4-5 students?) randomly from the pool.

The End