Micro-48 Survey Results

December 5 – 9, 2015

Waikiki, Hawaii

http://www.microarch.org/micro48

43 Respondents

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H9T5CQS

Survey Questions

1. What was your overall impression of MICRO?
2. What was your impression of the MICRO Workshops and Tutorials?
3. Did you agree with the best paper nominations?
4. What was your impression of the poster session?
5. What best matches how you read MICRO conference papers?
6. The types of papers published in MICRO, ISCA, and HPCA are largely similar
7. What was your view of Waikiki as a venue for Micro?
8. What was your impression of the Hilton Hawaiian Village?
9. What was your impression of the luau?
10. Please provide any other comments.

Some Key Feedback

- Mostly very positive, but would like a few things done differently.
- Strong enthusiasm about Hawaii, but some dissent.

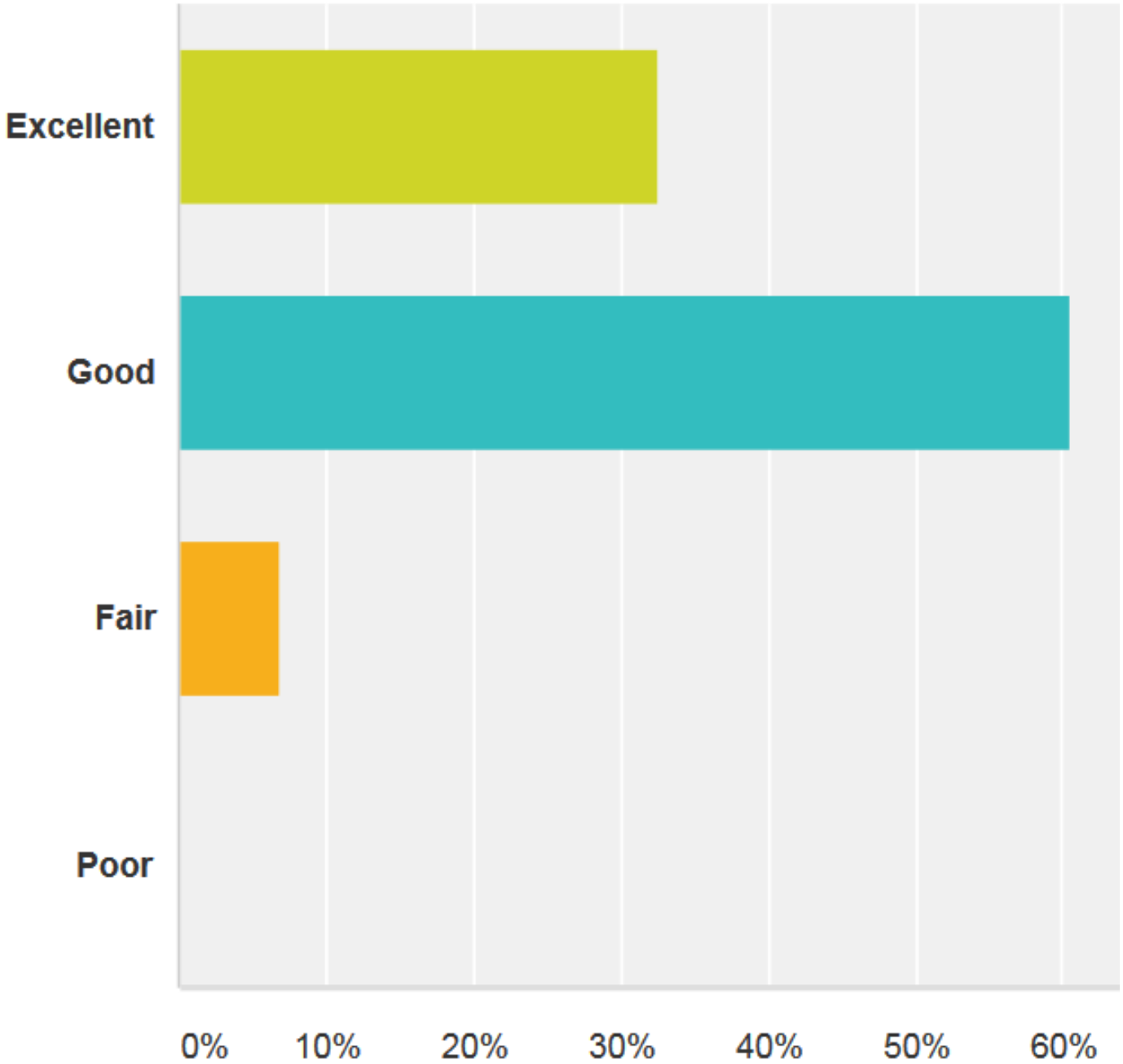
- Two comments on 16-minute talks: *one pro, one con.*
- General support of nominations for “Best Paper.”
- Poster session good, but a bit loud and cramped.
  - Generally better reviews than previous poster sessions.

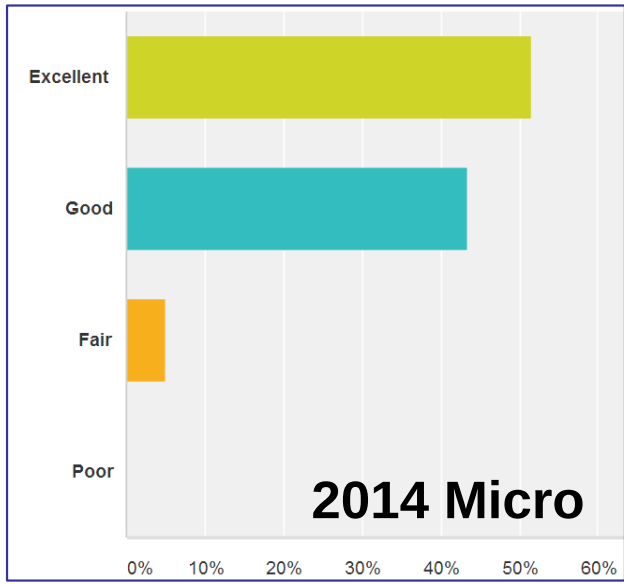
- 20% of people read papers ahead of time → Some issues with getting PDFs.
  - **Note:** ACM allows Open downloads starting 2 weeks prior to conference
  - **Example:** http://www.sigsoft.org/resources/opentoc.html

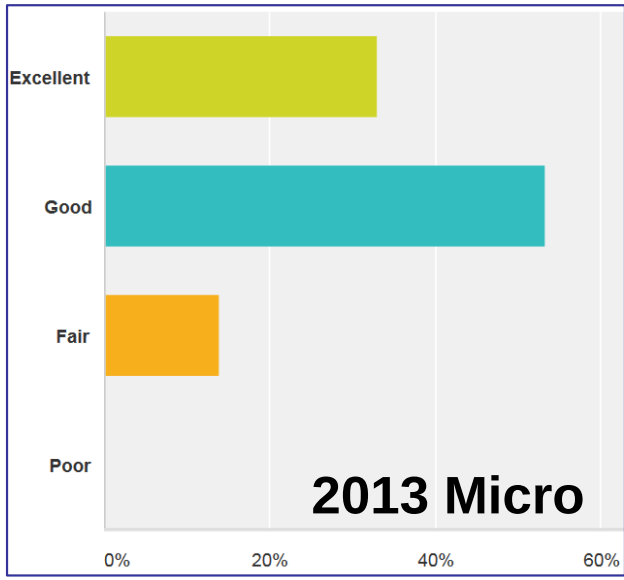
- 57% agree or strongly agree that Micro, ISCA, and HPCA papers are similar.
- 43% are neutral or disagree.

- Some concern about vegetarian options.
- Some concern about gender diversity and sexism.
- Other requests for changes in future Micro’s: *See slide 10 for posters, 19 for other.*

1. Overall Impression of Micro







1. Overall Impression of Micro

Style:

- Some presentations were dull

NOTE: *Comments from 4 separate commenters*

Content:

- The quality of papers presented was pretty good.

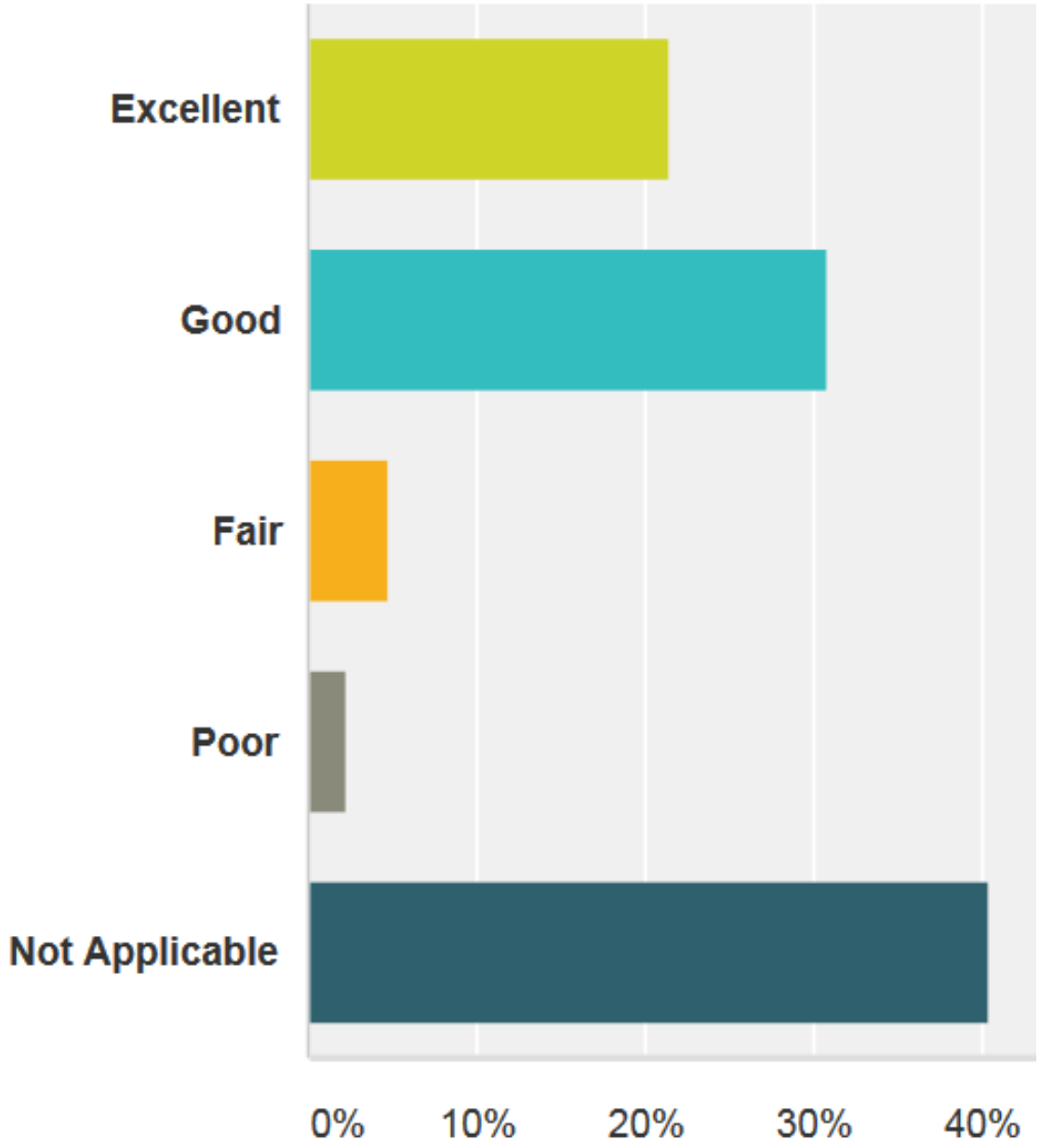
Food:

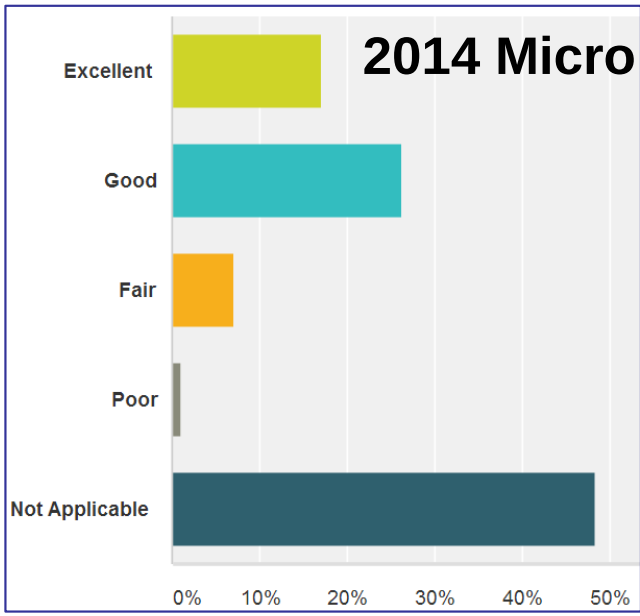
- Please folks it is not rocket science; how many years will it take before our community starts to feed vegetarians something to eat. It was HORRIBLE vegetarian food. Why even bother asking for vegetarian option on the registration if no one even bothers to even care for it.

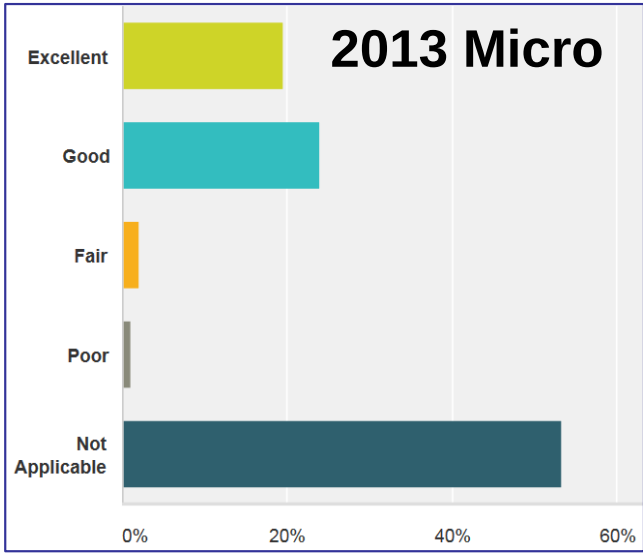
Gender Diversity:

- Most talks were great. However, I'm concerned about a glaring lack of diversity in 2015. By my count (I hope I'm wrong), not a single session chair, nor award-ceremony presenter was female. The level of diversity among MICRO presenters seemingly matched the typical (but low) rate we see in tech---that fact is fine---but the visible figureheads were 100% male.
  - [Comment also made by same person in Question 10 on *Other Comments*]

2. Workshops and Tutorials







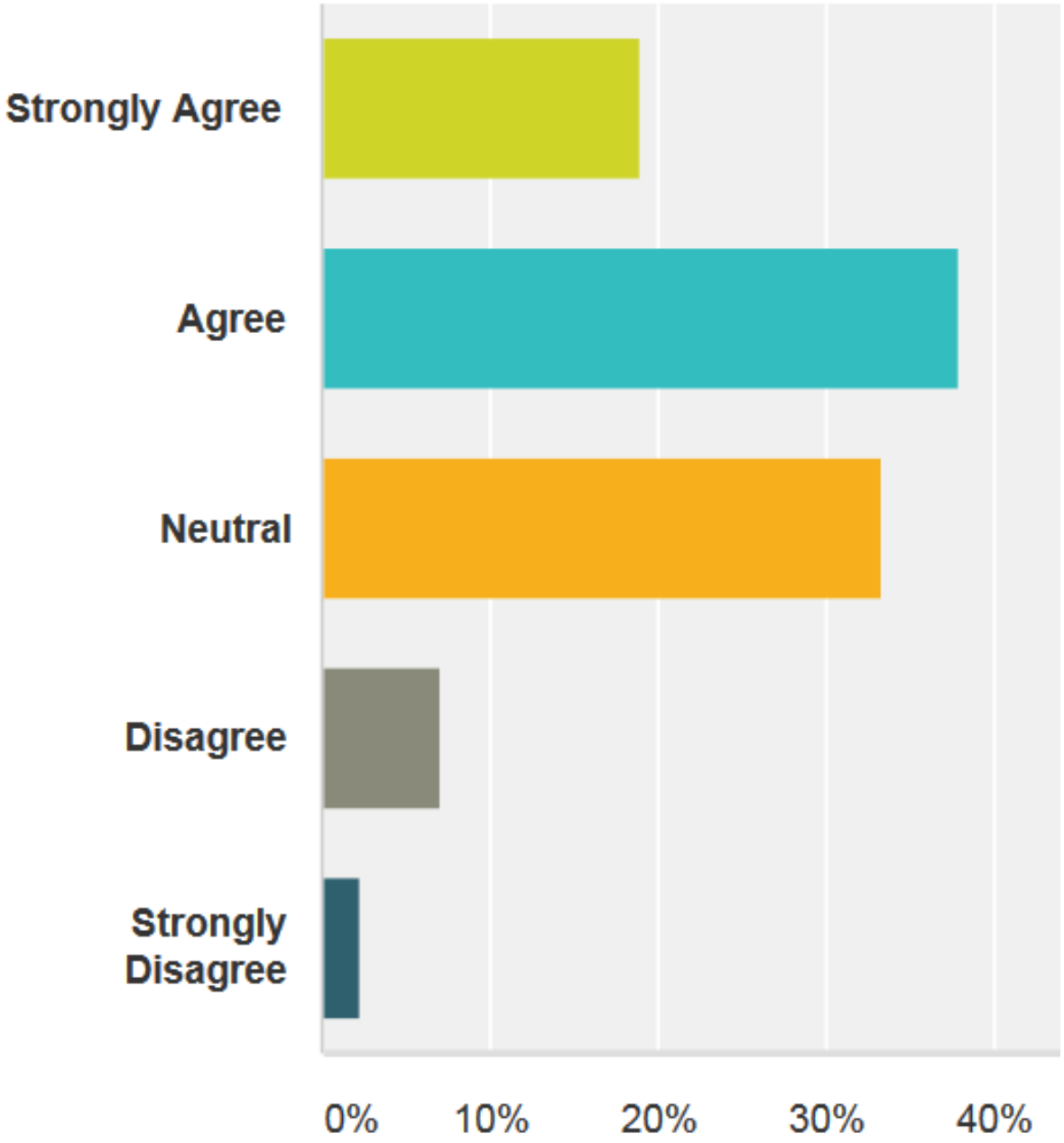
2. Workshops and Tutorials

- NOPE was especially good!
  - *[Gave “Excellent” Rating]*

- Tutorial of intel graphics' first two presentations were good. But the last one is less prepared and contained more marketing terms.
  - *[Gave “Good” Rating]*

- Not much of technical material was covered in the tutorials
  - *[Gave “Poor” Rating]*

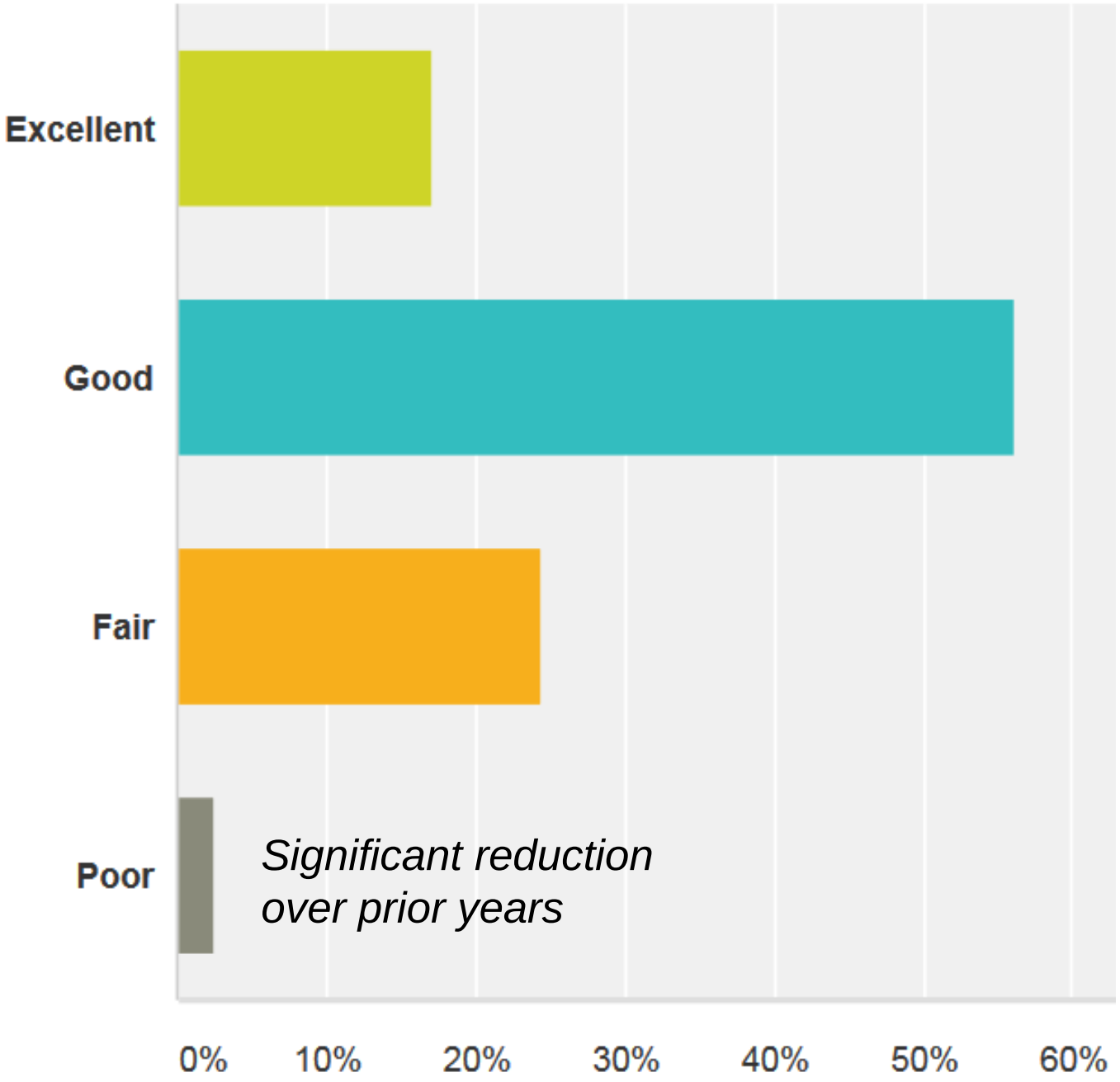
3. Did you agree with the best paper nominations?

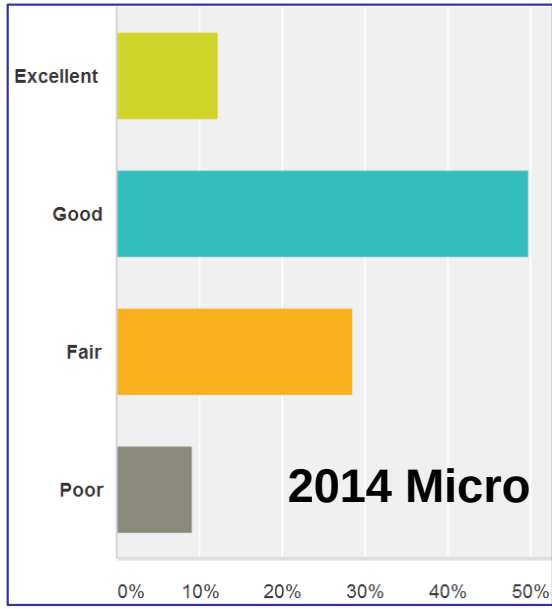


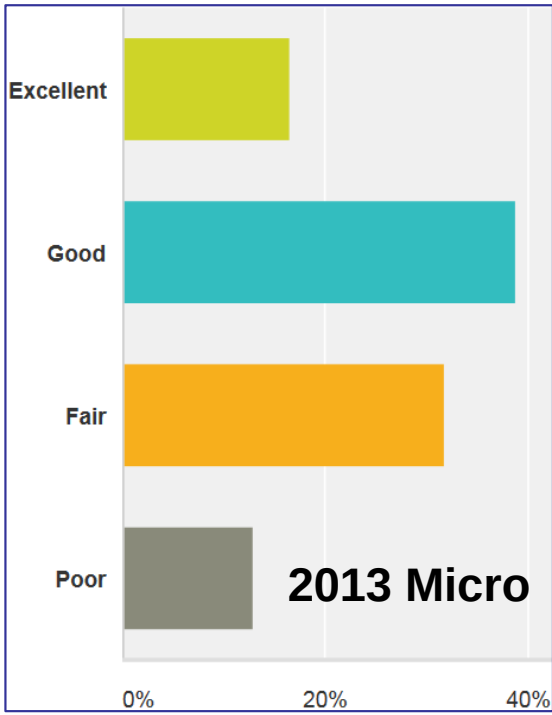
Comment 1: The paper that won the best paper award was clearly better than the other two (at least in terms of presentation). I am not sure if the other two were truly better than other work presented at the conference.

Comment 2: Majority if not the only questions for the best papers were asked by the session chair -- this should be a good sign! ;)

4. Poster Session







4. Poster Session

Good:

- Great opportunity to clarify aspects of a paper

Neutral:

- not able to attend

Mixed:

- Idea is OK, was way to cramped...
- It seemed like not that many people actually came to the posters. I like the idea of a poster session though.

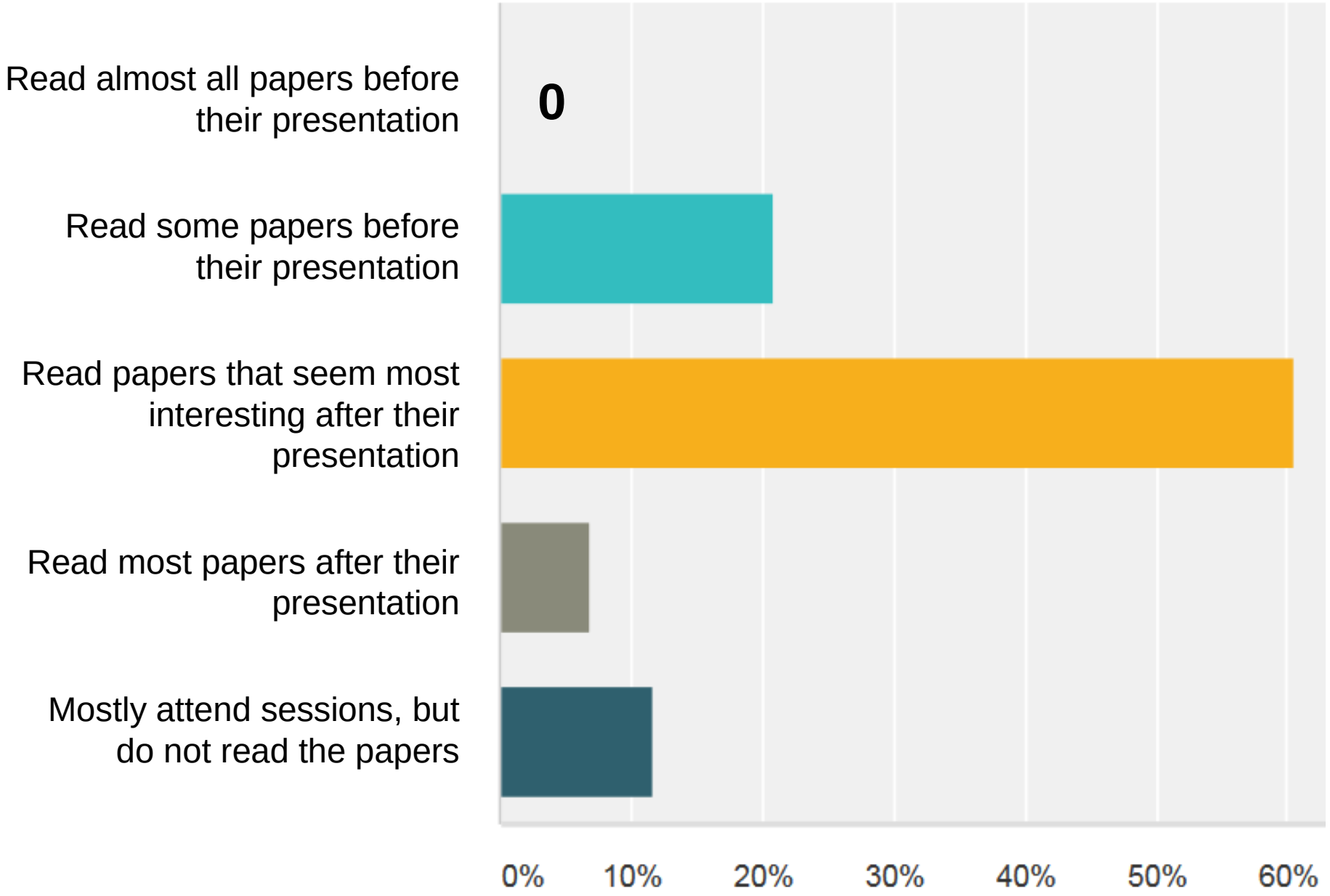
Bad:

- Too loud to have real discussion.
- Some papers were not presented in the poster session

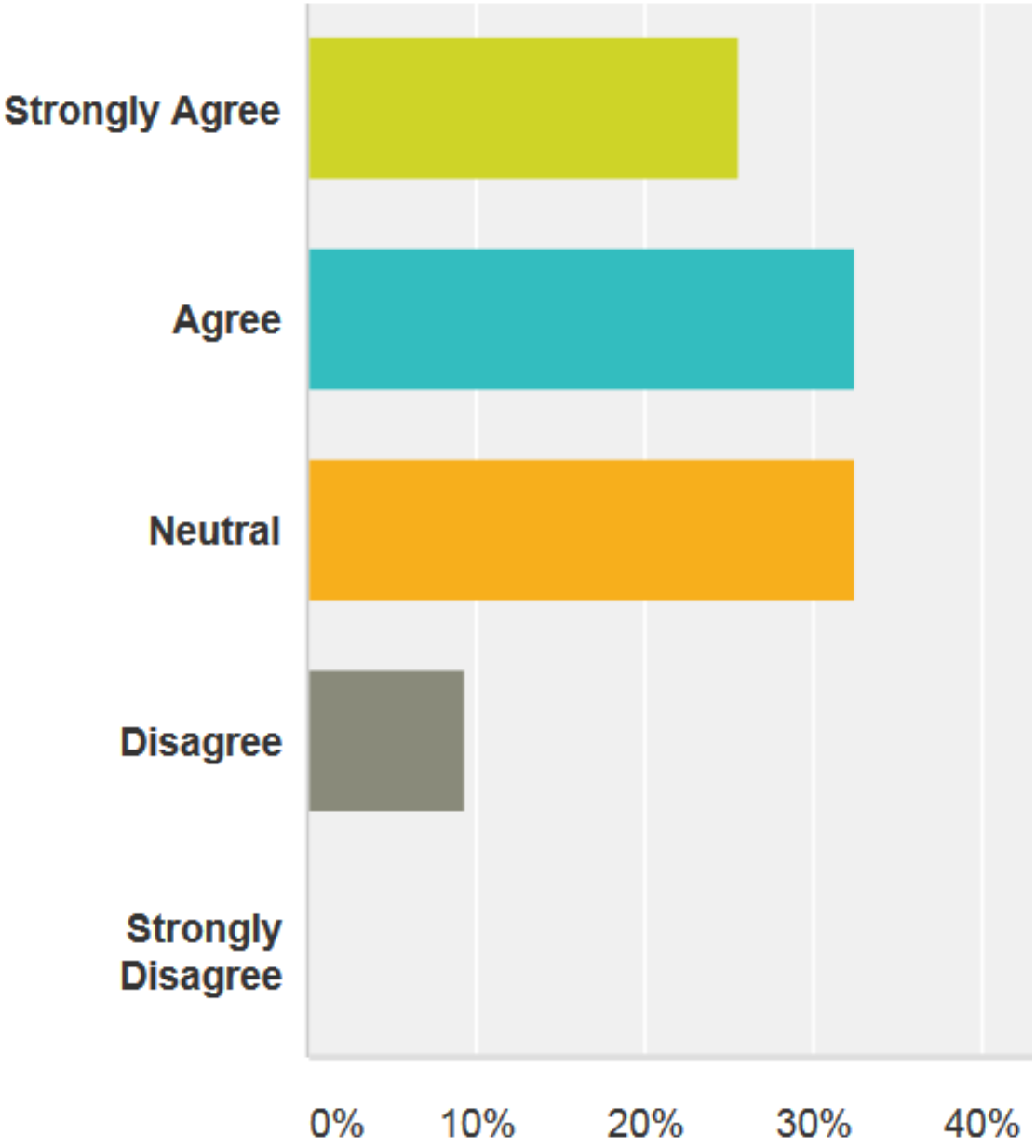
Recommended Changes:

- It would have been better to have it last day after all papers are presented.
- It was too short and not enough time for presenters to see other students' work
- Split poster session would be good. That way, the presenters have an opportunity to see other posters as well.

5. What best matches how you read MICRO conference papers?



6. The types of papers published in MICRO, ISCA, and HPCA are largely similar

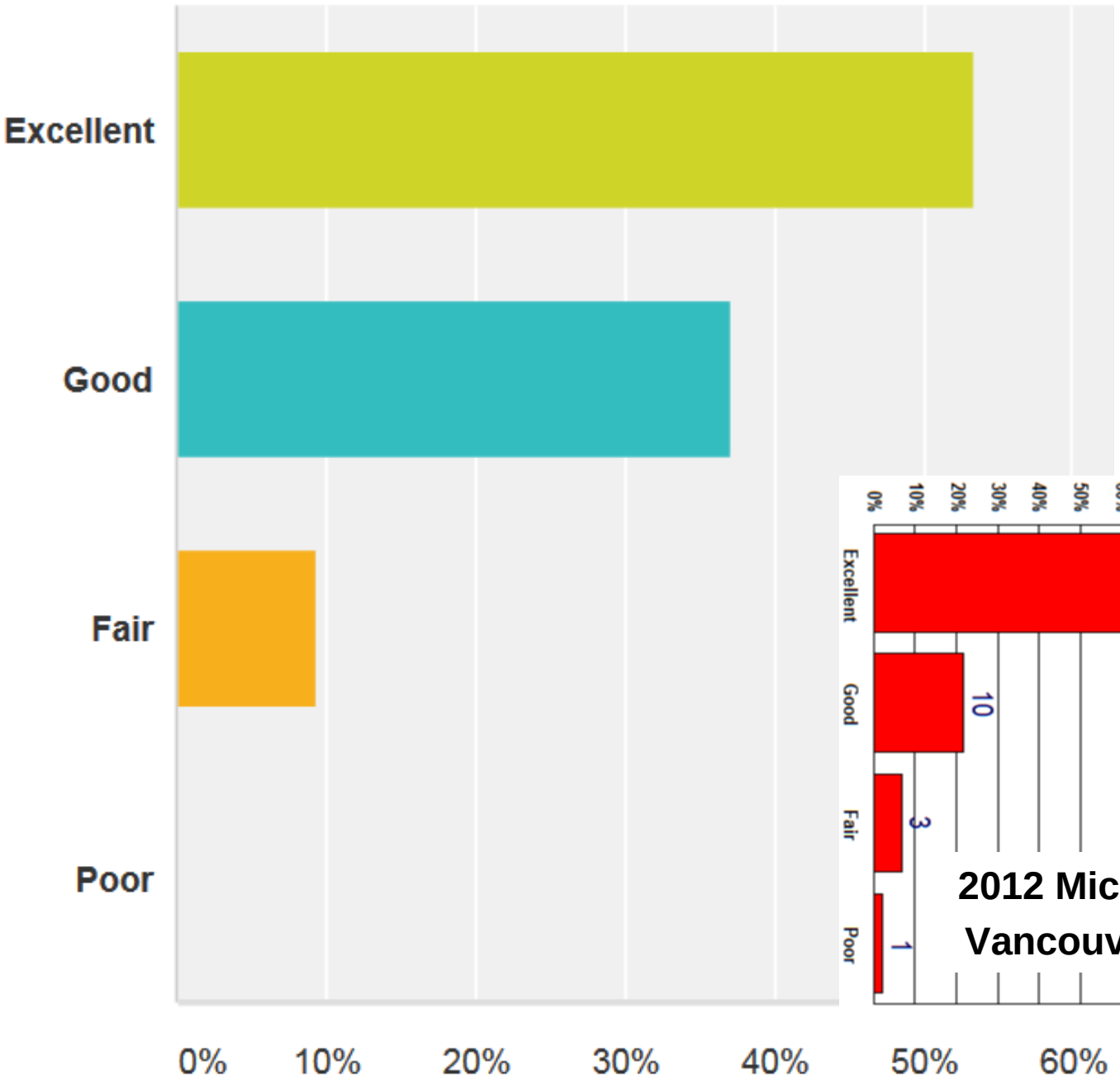


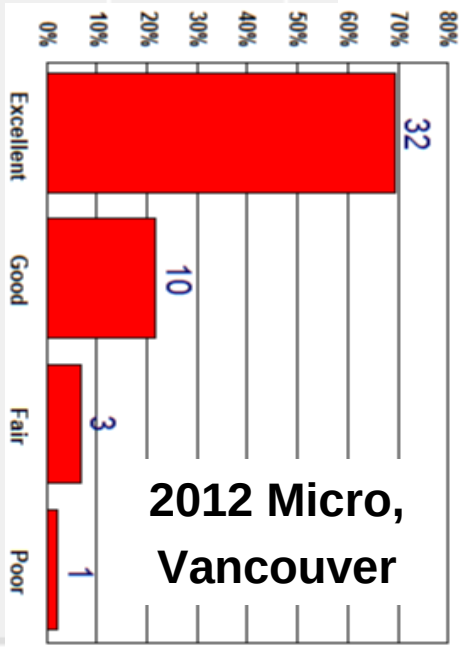
[Strongly Agree] And there's nothing wrong with that.

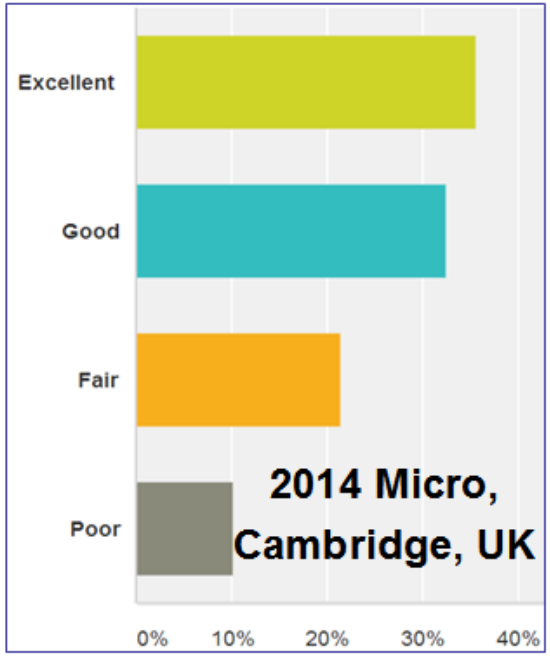
[Strongly Agree] What is the purpose of this question? There are plenty of other fields with multiple conferences. See SOSP and OSDI for example.

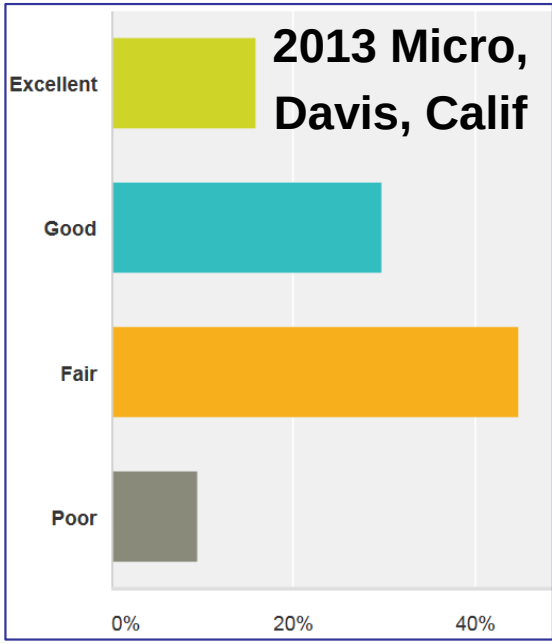
[Disagree] Micro has more Microarchitecture scent than ISCA and HPCA

7. Waikiki as a venue for Micro







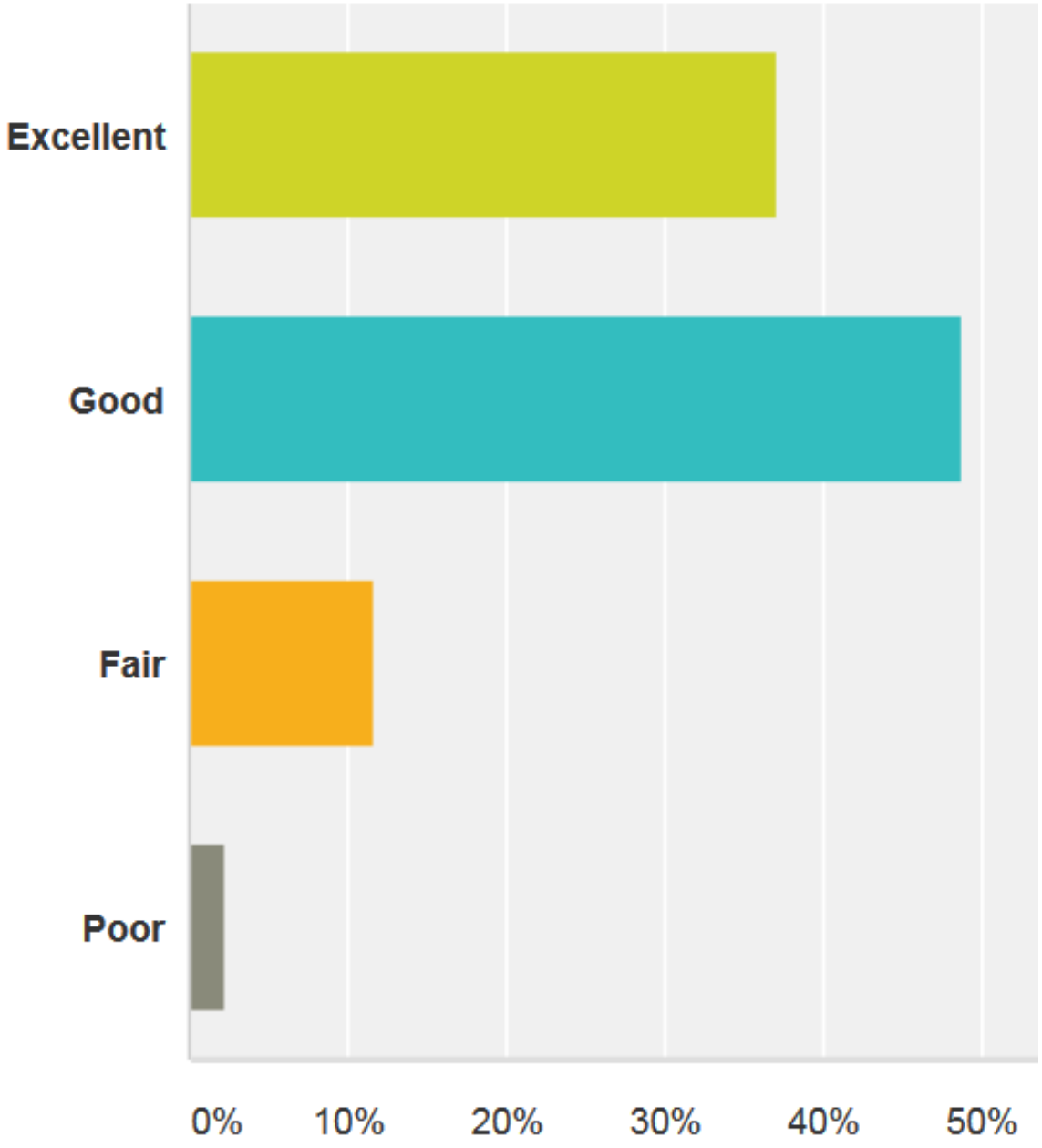


7. Waikiki as a venue for Micro

- Please make it the default location!
- Beyond excellent! We should return here asap!
- Gotta love Hawaii. Long flight though...

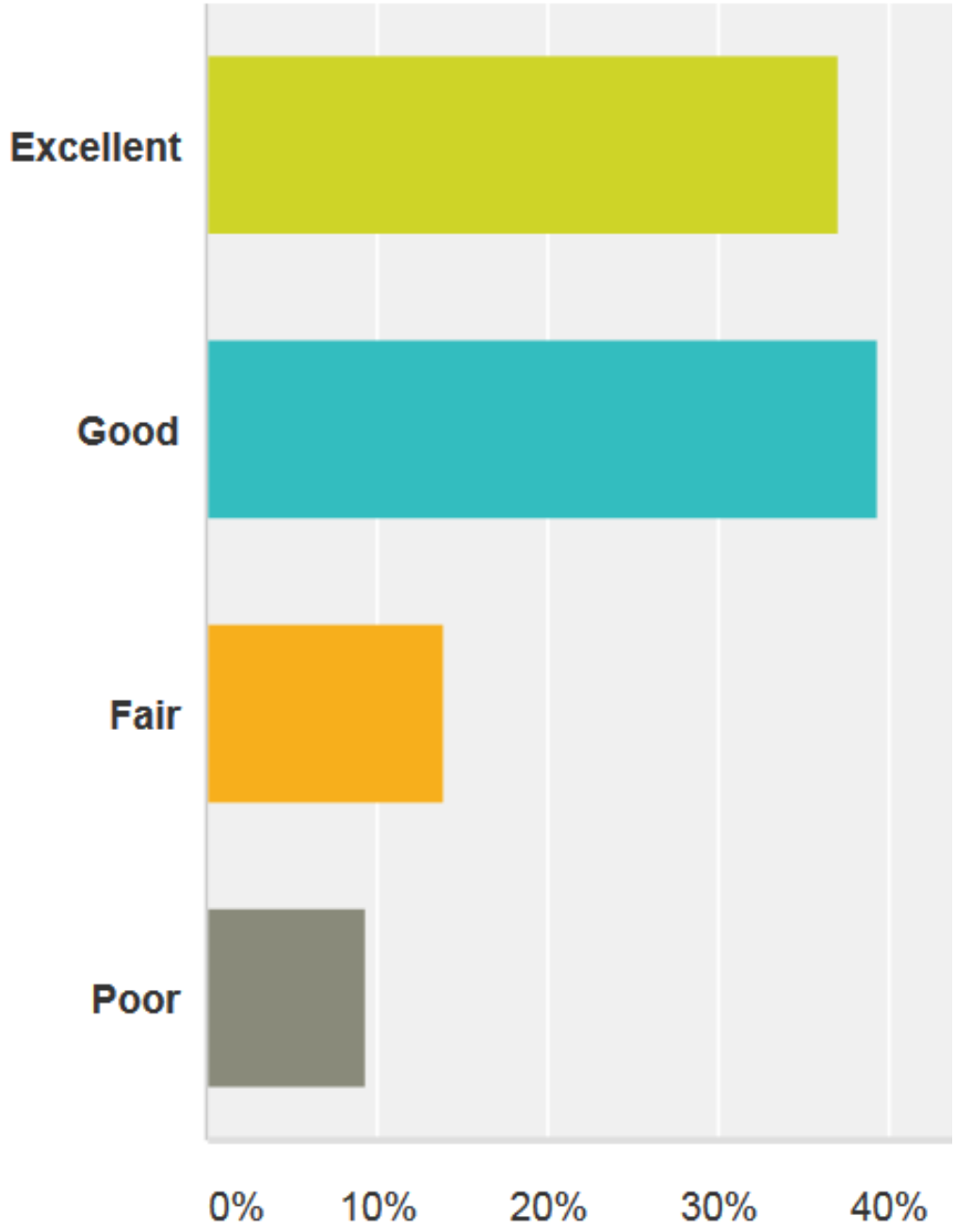
- Something less touristy would have been better to truly appreciate Hawaii. Just too much shopping and tall towers every where.
- Pretty expensive. Especially when travel grants were less than 1/4 of the plane flight. Also, over built up and kinda fake.

8. What was your impression of the Hilton Hawaiian Village?



- Excellent service
- Did not stay at the Hilton
- Too big.
- The conference rooms were bland.
- The resort was too large so that check-in was in a chaos.

9. What was your impression of the luau?



9. What was your impression of the luau?

Kudos

- It was great to see renowned researchers dance in the banquet. :)
- Good food, been to several luaus - entertainment was substandard. But glad you included a luau, it is a must if in Hawaii.

Mixed

- Quite a "touristy" event, but I appreciate the difficulty in scheduling an event for 300 people

Poor Food

- See my comments on food above. It applies to Luau as well.
  - [Comments about “HORRIBLE vegetarian food” in *Overall Impressions*]

Politically Incorrect:

- It is a form of cultural appropriation. Not good.
- Pretty sexist. I could have overlooked this if our community wasn't already biased against women. As it was, I think the luau was inappropriate.

Different person than raised gender diversity issues in *Overall Impressions* and *Other Comments*.

10. Other Comments – 1

Kudos

- Great venue and I hope we return here soon!
- Really liked all three keynotes. Nice diversity. Wed. was best. Consider some invited papers. Want to hear more from industry about what we are doing well and poorly. We are missing key known issues. 16 minute presentations were fine. Short but enough to convey key concepts. 8AM start was fine. Consider using Wed afternoon too. 2 hour lunches are good. Lots of networking time is appreciated. PC made good selections.

Laments

- I wish we had an excursion to another part of the island
- Overall meals were not good enough; almost same menus were served during the conference.
- The 16 minute talks were too short. It was very difficult to prepare and deliver for this format. If you're looking to go shorter than a standard 25 minute talk, go 20 but not less. Also, the breakfast provided was quite poor. There was no fruit and nothing with protein (not counting the cream cheese) to hold us over until lunch.

10. Other Comments – 2

Requests and Recommendations

- as a feedback, please provide snack during the break time.
- Are the keynote presentations going to be posted as stated?
  - [Note: All keynote presentations were posted by early January]
- I think you should give out fewer larger travel grants. Make them competitive and actually mean something.
- For future MICRO conferences, I recommend requesting that the hotel raise the height of the projection screens. From the middle-to-back of the ballrooms, it is very difficult to see the bottom of any slide.
- Please release workshop schedule/room earlier. I didn't see the info until the day morning. Please gave paper PDF access before the presentation. I cannot find the place to download paper PDF so that I cannot read before presentation.

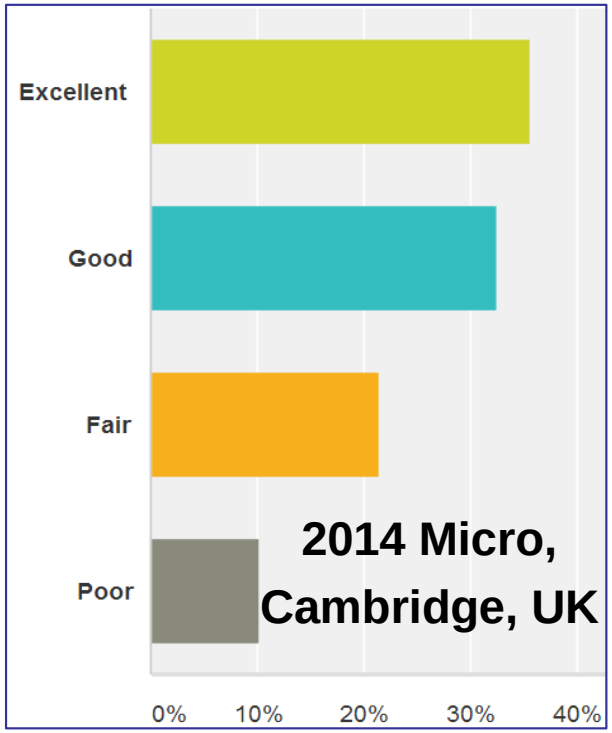
10. Other Comments – 3

Other Observations

- Good stuff. In many ways inspiring to follow the academic research. From an industry view you see that some work is concerned with concepts and ideas already investigated by industry. This might not be a bad thing, new aspects can be illuminated even if the basic ideas have been explored by industry previously. And I know that getting exposure to industry problem areas and previous work is a non-trival task for academia.

- Most talks were great. However, I'm concerned about a glaring lack of diversity in 2015. By my count (I hope I'm wrong), not a single session chair, nor award-ceremony presenter was female. The level of diversity among MICRO presenters seemingly matched the typical (but low) rate we see in tech---that fact is fine---but the visible figureheads were 100% male.
  - [Comment also made by same person in Question 1 on *Overall Impressions*]

The End


Excellent
Good
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2014 Micro,
Cambridge, UK
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