



The 49th Annual IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Microarchitecture, 2016

## **MICRO-49**

October 15-19, 2016, Taipei, Taiwan

# **Micro-49 Survey Results**

October 15 – 19, 2016

Taipei, Taiwan

<http://www.microarch.org/micro49>

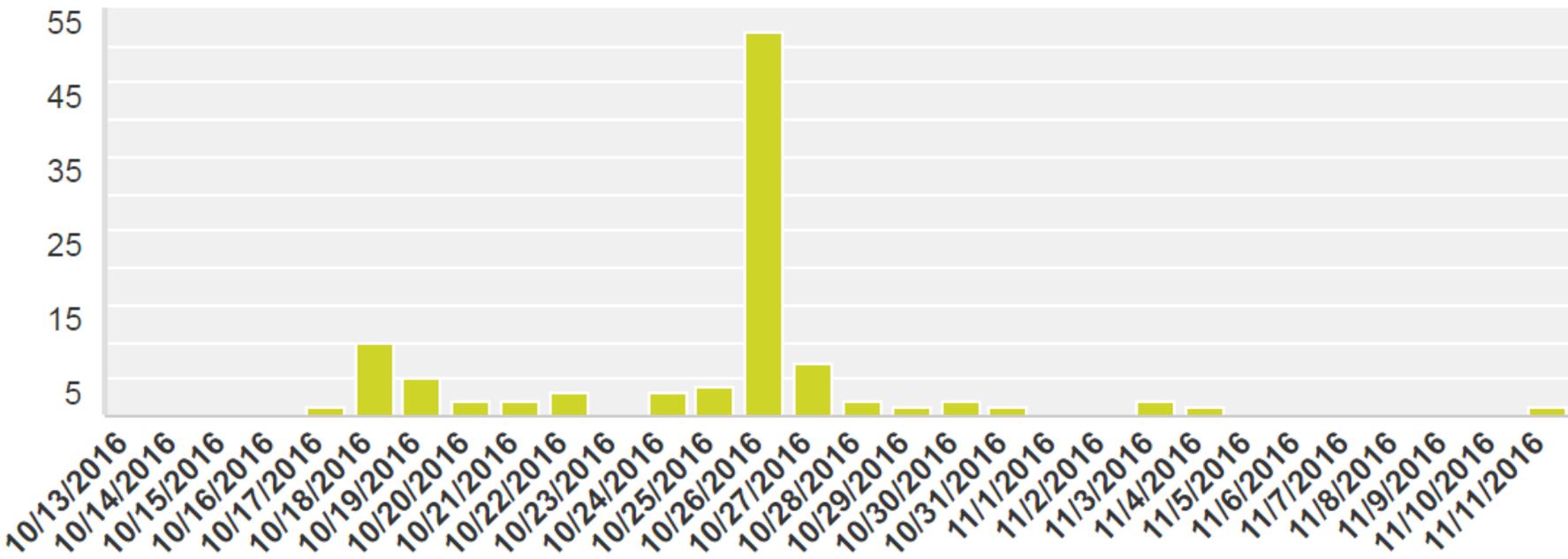
# Survey Questions

1. What was your overall impression of MICRO?
2. What was your impression of the MICRO Workshops and Tutorials?
3. What was your impression of the poster session?
4. What are your preferences in terms of paper selection and program style?
5. What was your view of the Howard Hotel for conference activities?
6. What was your impression of the excursion to the Shung Ye Museum and National Palace Museum?
7. What was your view of Taipei as a venue for Micro?
8. How do you view Micro's new October timeslot vs recent history of December?
9. How would you view Micro sharing a joint venue with conferences like PACT?
10. Please provide any other comments.

# Survey Response over Time

Responses Volume

10/13/2016 - 11/11/2016



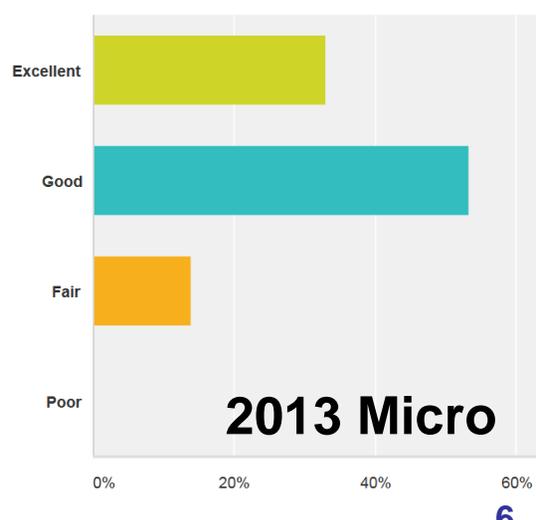
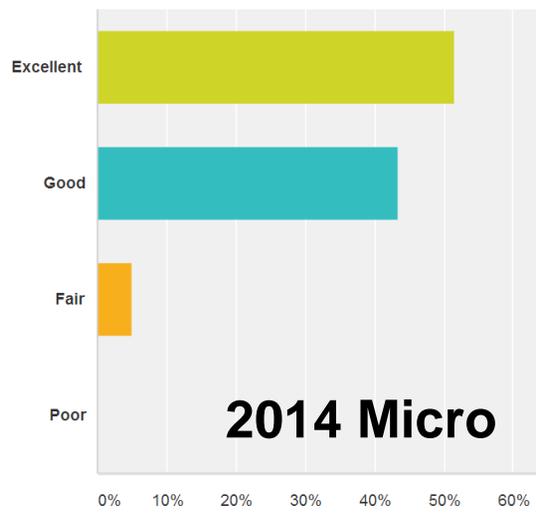
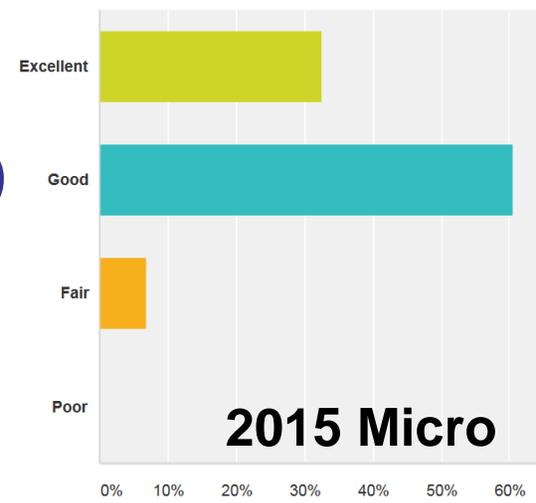
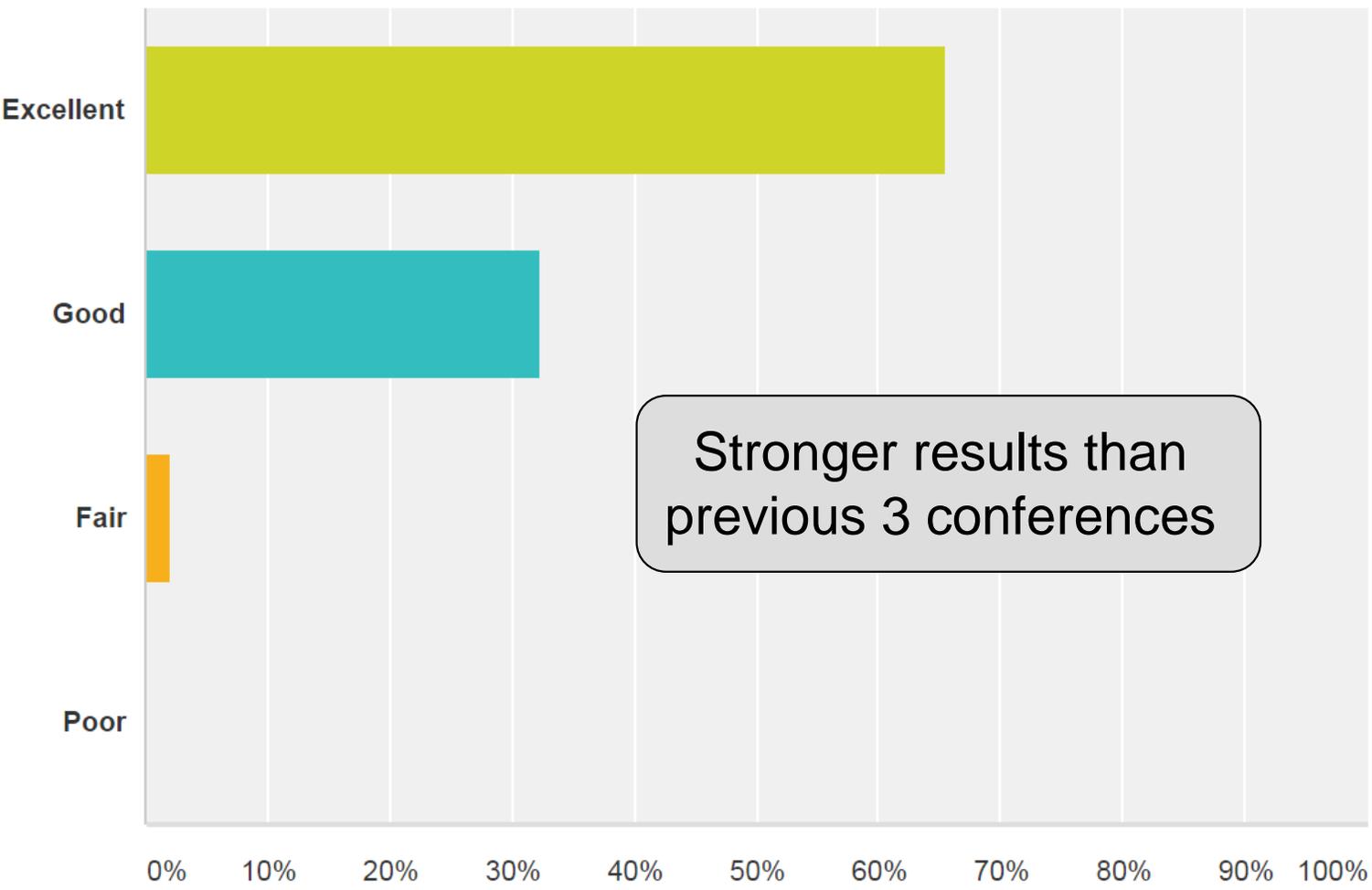
# Some Key Feedback

- Conference very well received:
  - Organization, venue, food, excursion
  - Strongest ratings of last 4 years
  - Many superlative comments on conference organization
- Good views on workshops and tutorials.
- Mixed views on poster session.
- Extremely positive reaction to Taipei site.
- National Palace well-received, Shung-Ye less so.
- 60% favor keeping current Micro practices on number of papers accepted and timing and # of tracks in program.
- October date for MICRO vs December:
  - 50% positive on October
  - 30% neutral
  - 20% negative – but almost all comments favor December
- Co-Locate MICRO with PACT or Other Conferences:
  - 40% positive on co-location
  - 40% neutral
  - 20% negative

# Some Suggestions for Future Micros

1. Provide slides, not papers, on memory sticks.
2. Emails in the evening are really helpful to know what is going on.
3. Use Siri or other software to provide live English-to-text conversion.
4. Have banquet on the first day.
5. Have more space for posters.
6. Have keynote speakers working in other fields that are closely related to systems, e.g. people working to build efficient systems in Vision, Graphics, Image processing, Databases, etc.
7. Pair student speakers with a mentor so students get a chance to talk and learn from senior members in our community.

# 1. Overall Impression of Micro

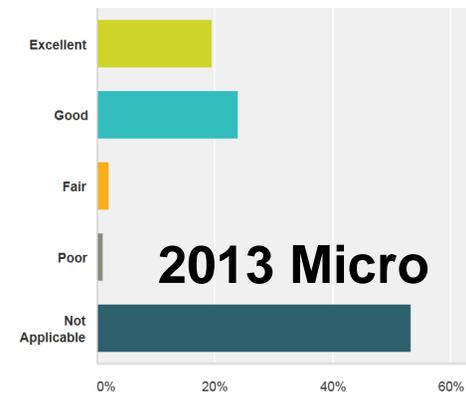
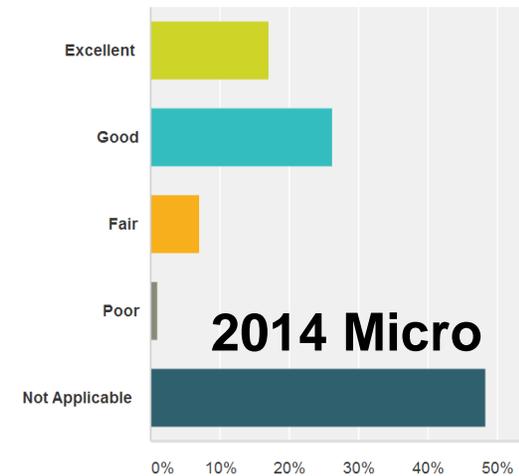
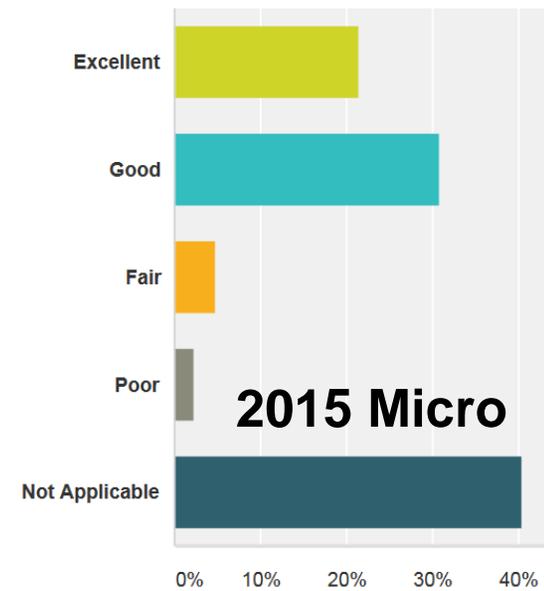
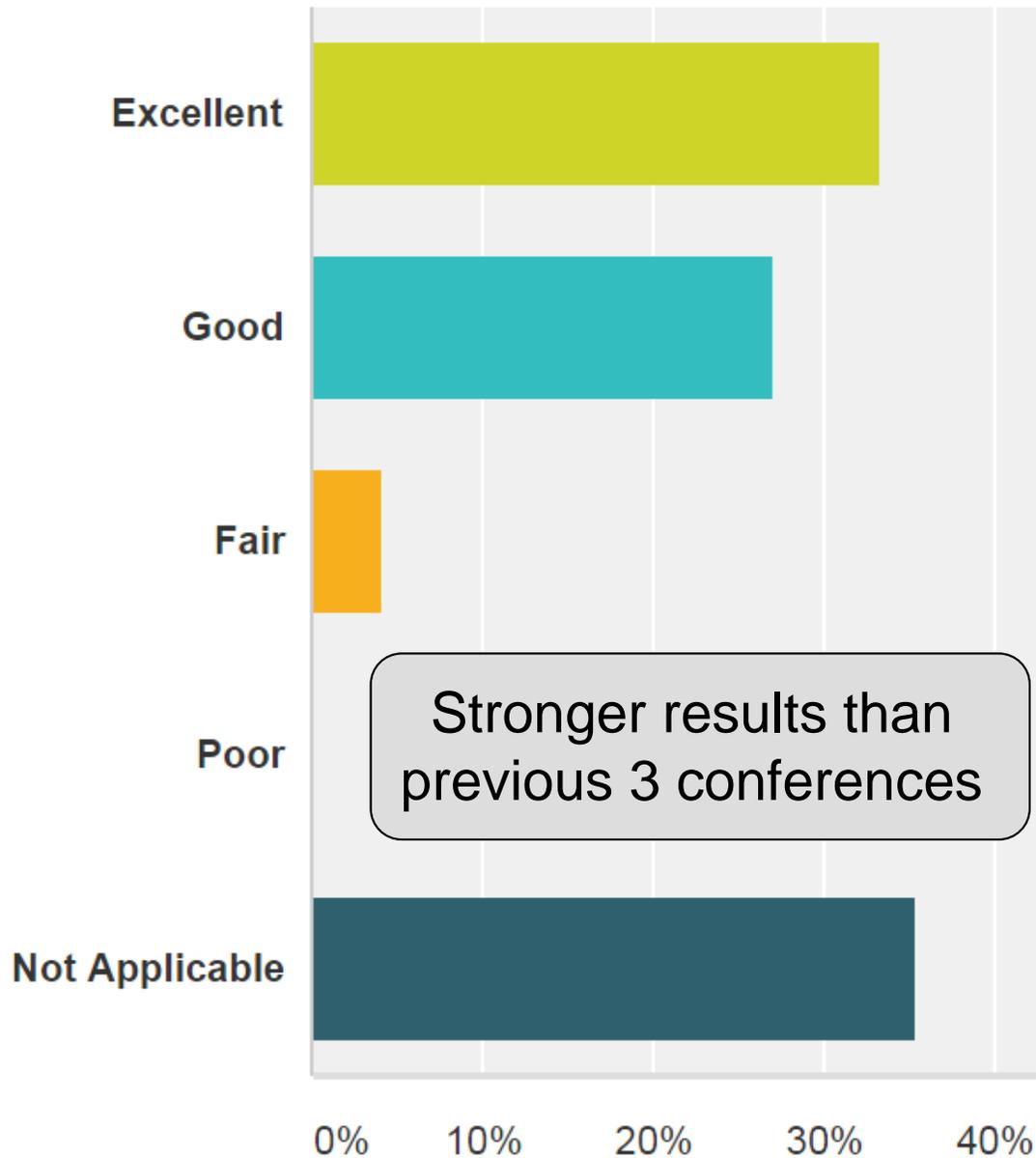


# 1. Overall Impression of Micro

1. Organization was top notch.
2. If not the best, at least it is a tie.
3. Great venue, great organization, great program.
4. Venue was outstanding, papers were so-so.
5. Tremendous experience. The organizers did an incredible job.
6. Extremely well organized, extremely accommodating, and overall a very pleasant conference.
7. A good technical program, though perhaps a little heavy on machine learning papers. I didn't get a lot from the lightning talks -- it seems like we could've had more time in the technical tracks if the schedule wasn't packed with those.
8. 20 minute talk slots is great (perhaps can drop to 18, but I don't think less); Lightning session is excellent; Program didn't disappoint; venue and effort around it terrific!
9. Technical program was nice. Yale Patt's rant against blind reviewing was appalling. Food was overly plentiful, but would have been nice to have less ridiculously saltyness (and drinks other than Tang). National Palace Museum was nice, but the other one was a waste.

*Most comments  
very positive*

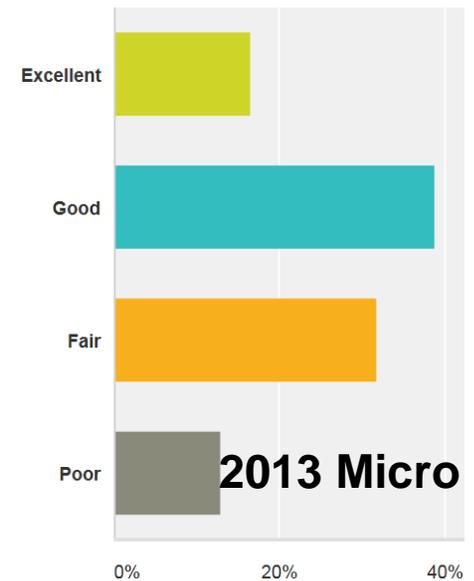
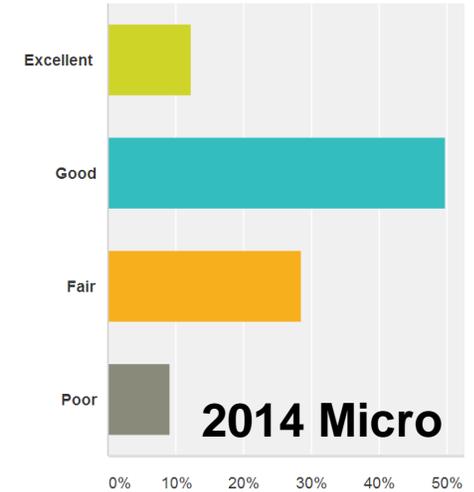
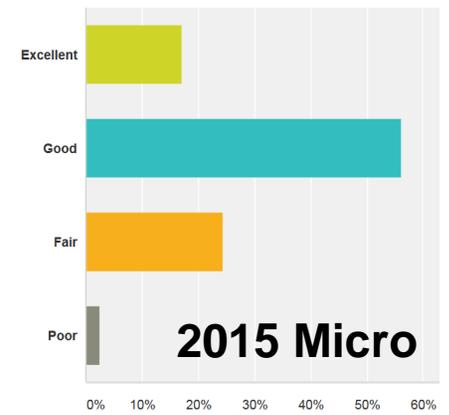
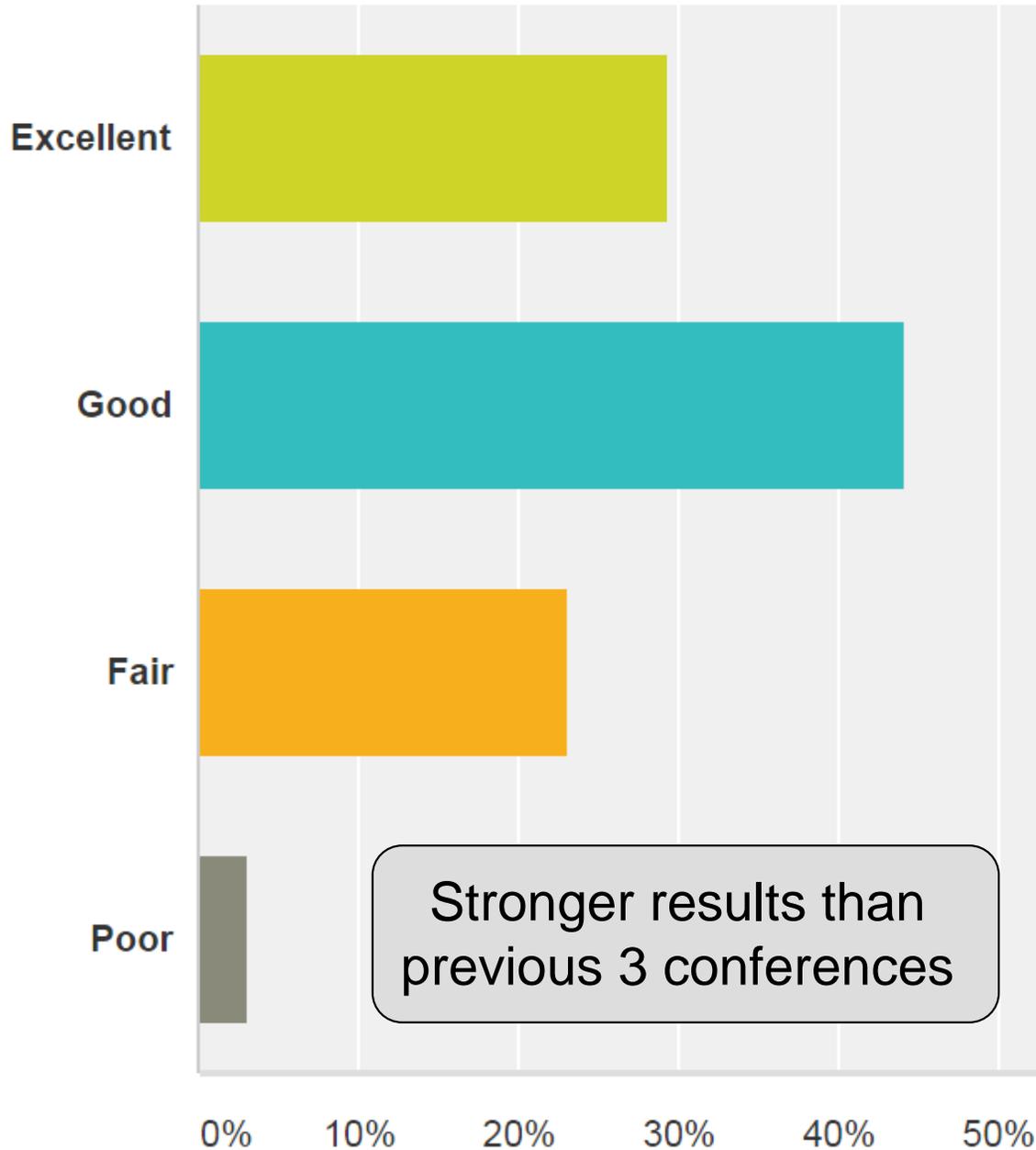
## 2. Workshops and Tutorials



## 2. Workshops and Tutorials

1. Emerging memory tutorial was very impressive.
2. ANN was great; the rest could be improved.
3. I would like more hands on.
4. The workshops were generally OK, but the location was only adequate. The hardware-for-ML talk seemed overbooked, and the second day could have used more options.

# 3. Poster Session



# 3. Poster Session – Part 1

## Positive

1. Poster session was very interactive and great.
2. I liked the poster session much more than the lightning talks. It gave us a chance to interact with authors of interesting papers and ask them questions. It was a bit odd that some authors had presented already while others had not, however.
3. I hope this is done in all conferences moving forward. If it was possible, I would have preferred to have it again on the second day to get enough time to talk to more presenters.
4. Useful time to spend with speakers in areas of interest.

## Crowded

5. Crowded
6. The space for the poster session is not enough
7. not enough space in the room
8. It as very loud and cramped, I did not get much out of it.
9. Location was too tight. My poster location was actually hidden in a corner.
10. A bit crowded. Also, some posters got really bad positioning (in a back corner) and thus didn't get many visitors passing them.
11. Overall it was good, but some posters were in less optimal locations than others, meaning some posters got a larger audience simply because of location.

# 3. Poster Session – Part 2

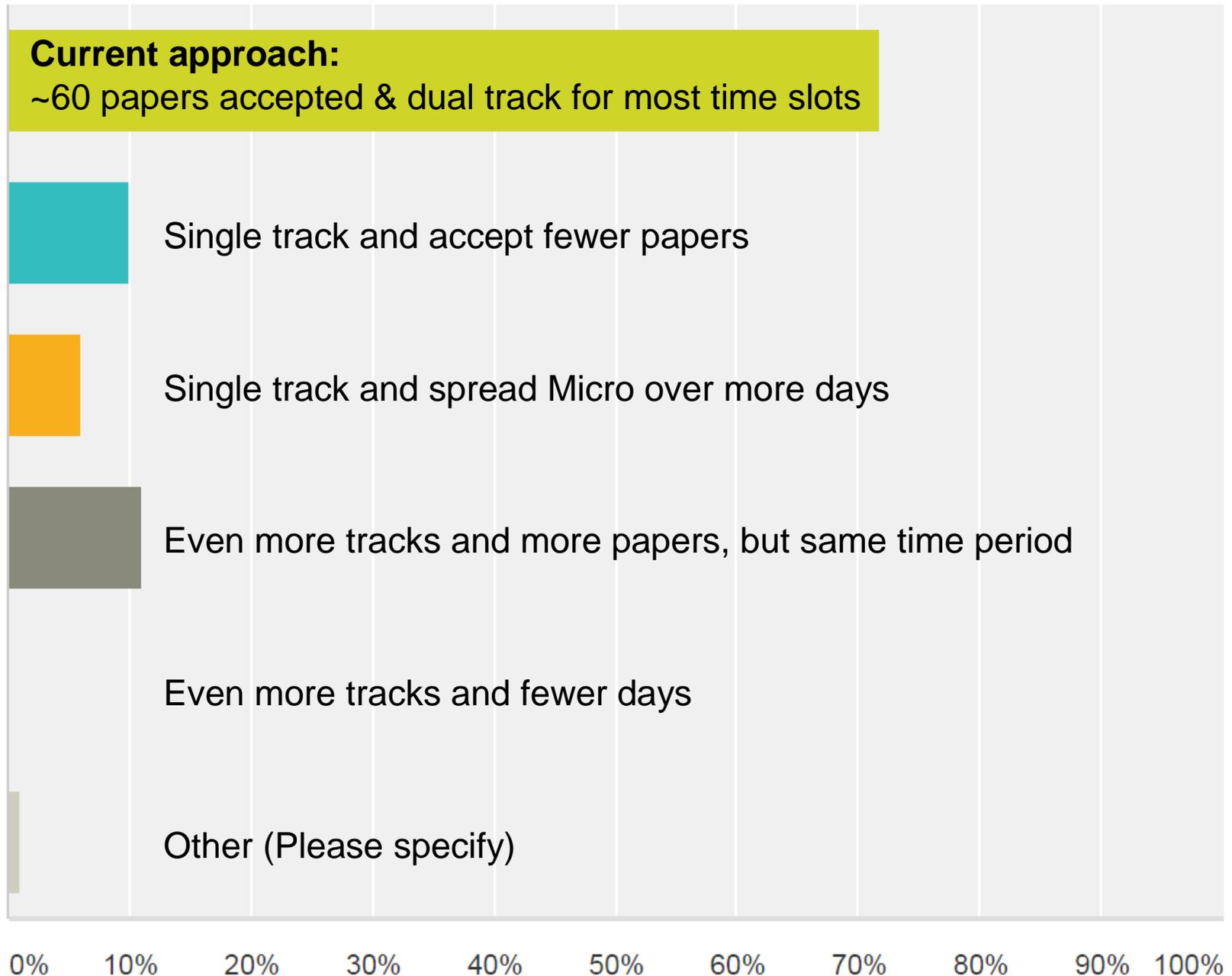
## Scheduling of Session

12. Having posters so early in conference seems weird
13. The poster sessions need to be closer to presentations to maximize impact.
14. I think authors who were scheduled to present right after the poster session were very tensed and tired after talking for almost two hours. They were hoping that the poster session would be scheduled at the end of the day.
15. The poster session should happen later in the conference, after lightning talks and after most of the main talks, so that authors spend less time explaining the work and more time on actual (offline) questions. Also the space could have been more open; some posters were stuck in corners where barely anyone went.
16. Poster session on Monday, when only one third paper are presented, is not the ideal schedule. I recommend two poster session on first two days (by having a longer break).

## Other

17. I don't think that authors of papers for the main conference should have to present posters. In many forums, posters are for borderline papers and to allow students to attend the conference.
18. Not necessary.
19. Didn't attend

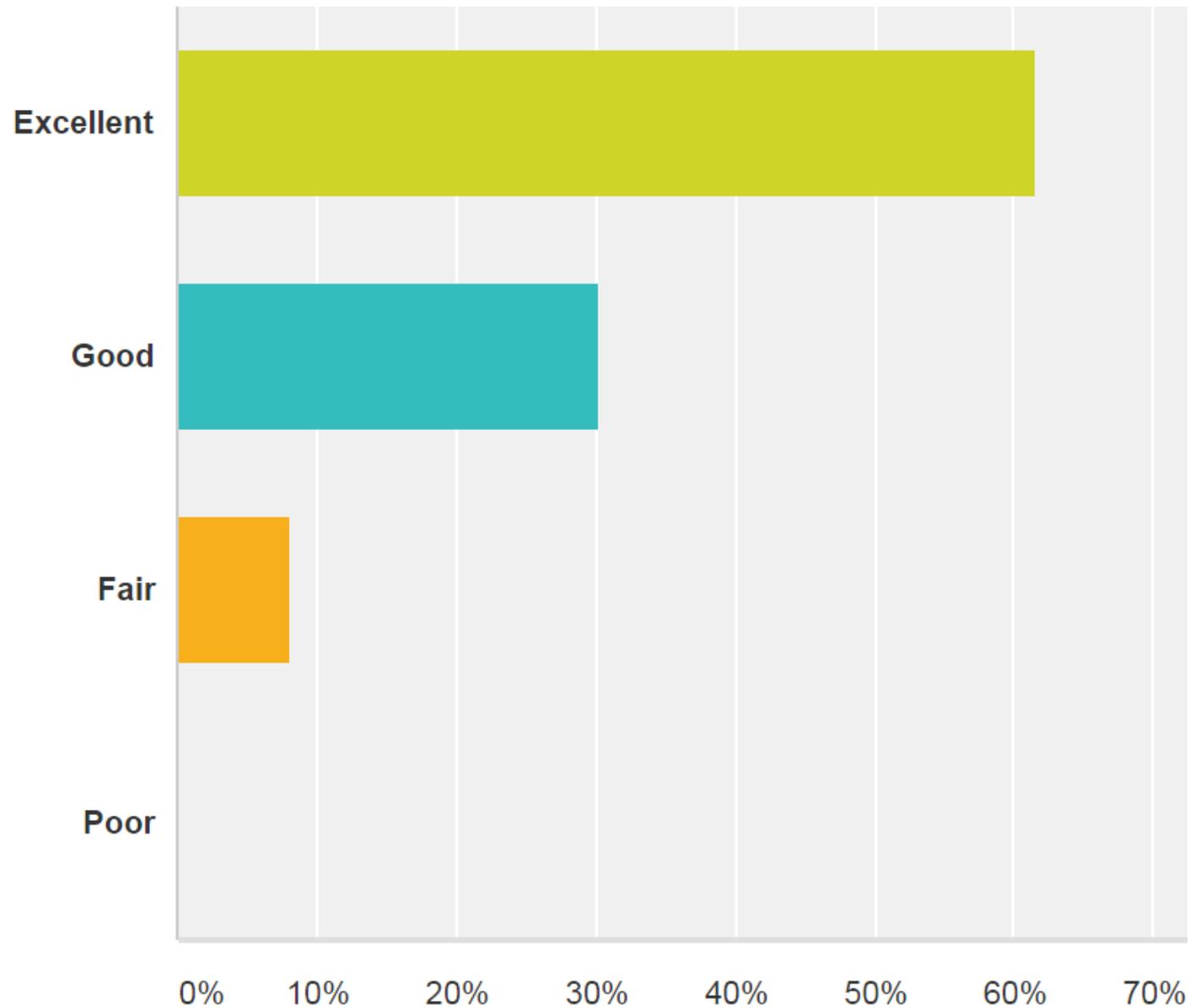
# 4. Paper Selection and Program Style



# 4. Paper Selection and Program Style

1. I would suggest 3 full days and more papers with two tracks.
2. More days, and single-track for the best papers and hottest topics
3. The exact number of papers should reflect a ~20% acceptance rate in order to accommodate the growth of the community.
4. There were too many papers and only a few of the papers were exceptional. I'd like MICRO to accept fewer but high quality papers.
5. More days will be difficult for me due to family and teaching constraints. More papers would be nice if there is enough quality papers that do not get to see the light of day.
6. Perhaps a few more papers but not more tracks or days. May rethink this but need to study/experiment with discussing more papers in PC and seeing if any actually might make it.
7. I think it's fine to make MICRO last longer, or at least to spend less time on things like lightning talks. You could even triple-track the conference (since it's not always the case that either session is of interest). I would much rather see more interesting papers published than decent papers rejected in an effort to conform to a fixed conference format.
8. Accept better papers. The quality of papers seem to be decreasing. I am not sure if the 60 accepted papers are the best 60 that were submitted. Many of them are quite incremental and have too much evaluation. Micro used to be a "good big ideas" conference. It is quickly going away from that and becoming an "accelerator for application X" conference.
9. It would be great if we could get back to 25-30 min main presentation talk time, Lightning talk does not convey much, only whether the speaker can articulate clearly. Moreover, Lightning session should be restricted to talks of the day rather than include talks from the next day. Poster session must be the last session and not in between the program; speakers after the poster session sounded tired and so was the audience. The program structure needs to be improved; dual track with 60 papers is ok provided that we can have three full days of the program to squeeze all; do we need keynotes? Also, lunch was awesome, but need not be 2 full hours!!!

# 5. Impression of Howard Hotel



# 5. Impression of Howard Hotel

## Superlatives

1. First rate hotel.
2. Very nice facilities and prices
3. foods are great. the reception is wonderful.
4. Great effort by organizers, volunteers, and staff.
5. One of the best I've been. Thank you for organizing this.
6. Very fancy and nice. The staff was great, and the location was pretty good too.

7. They served way too much food.
8. Food was great but it was too much
9. The amount of lunch is too much. But other is excelent.

## Good, but too much food

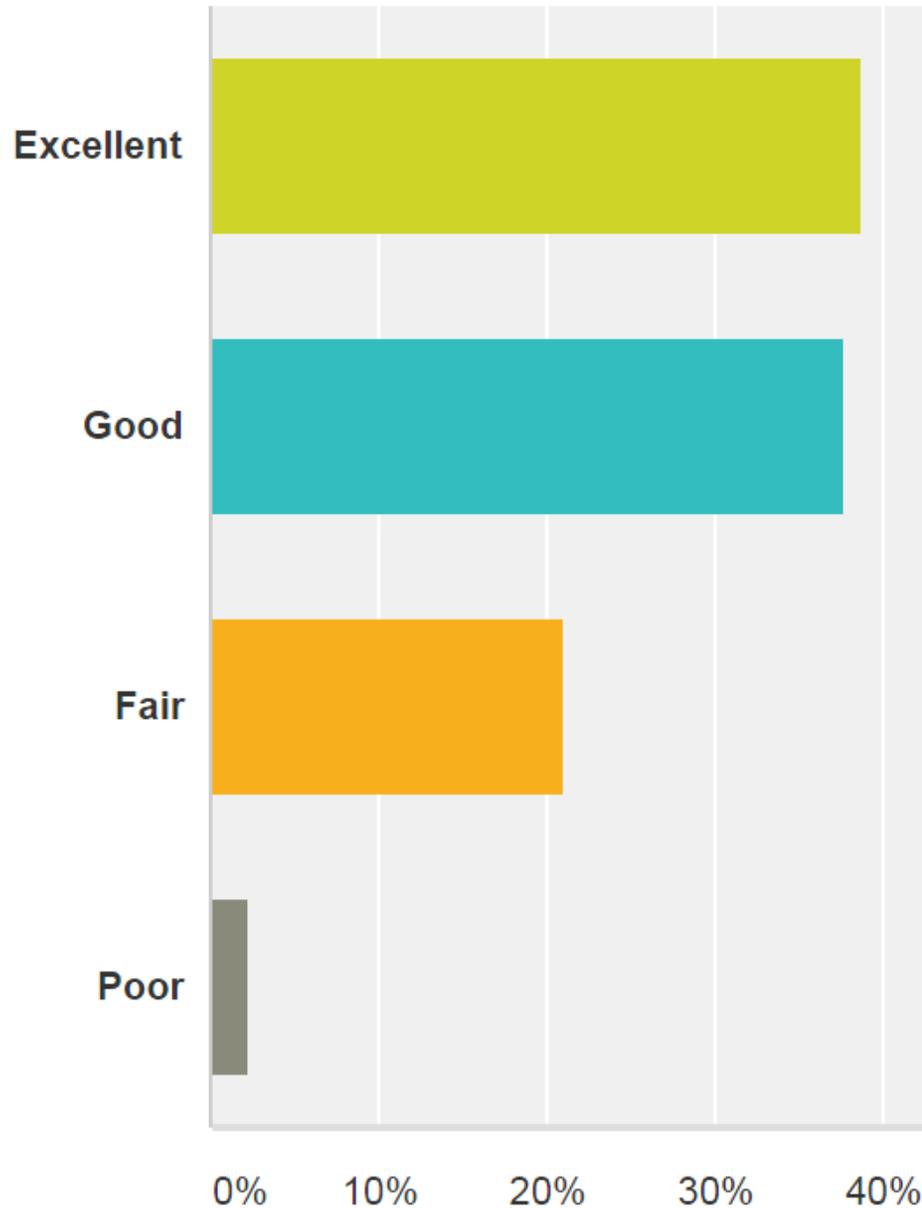
10. It seemed a little old, but was otherwise fine. Location was convenient.
11. The workshop location was sub-par; no room for hallway conversations and no place to sit. The main conference location was better, but the "second track" room was too small (and, oddly, most of the most popular sessions were put there). I appreciated that the coffee and tea were made available even during the technical sessions.

## Mixed

12. The food at the hotel was very poor.
13. The room for breakfast/coffee break was too small.

## Critiques

# 6. Shung Ye Museum and National Palace Museum?



# 6. Shung Ye Museum and National Palace Museum?

1. One of the best MICRO excursions I can remember.
2. I learned a lot at both places.

**Praise**

3. Good, but only one trip is sufficient. Also, it is better to trip amongs program (not last).
4. Glad you organized it and glad I went, but I was prepared to be more wowed by the treasures and felt that we spent too long at both museums

**Mixed**

5. Too much to do in the time allotted time.
6. Not enough time at National Palace Museum.
7. wish we had more time at the National Palace Museum
8. I would have liked more time at the National Palace Museum
9. National palace museum is excellent. The other one is poor. People feel bored on the other one...
10. Tour of Palace was rushed
11. The national palace museum was great, though it felt extremely rushed. The Shung Ye Museum trip was too long (leaving the total trip feeling unbalanced).
12. National Palace Museum was great; Shung Ye was interesting, but a bit too small for how much time we had there. I understand the capacity difficulties that the organizers had to deal with made it hard, so it was good given your constraints.
13. National Palace was nice, but was paced badly-the guide rushed through parts where there was lots of interesting stuff to see, and spent forever in other places that were mostly the same stuff in lots of different forms. The other museum was a waste of time.

**Time Allocation**

# 6. Shung Ye Museum and National Palace Museum?

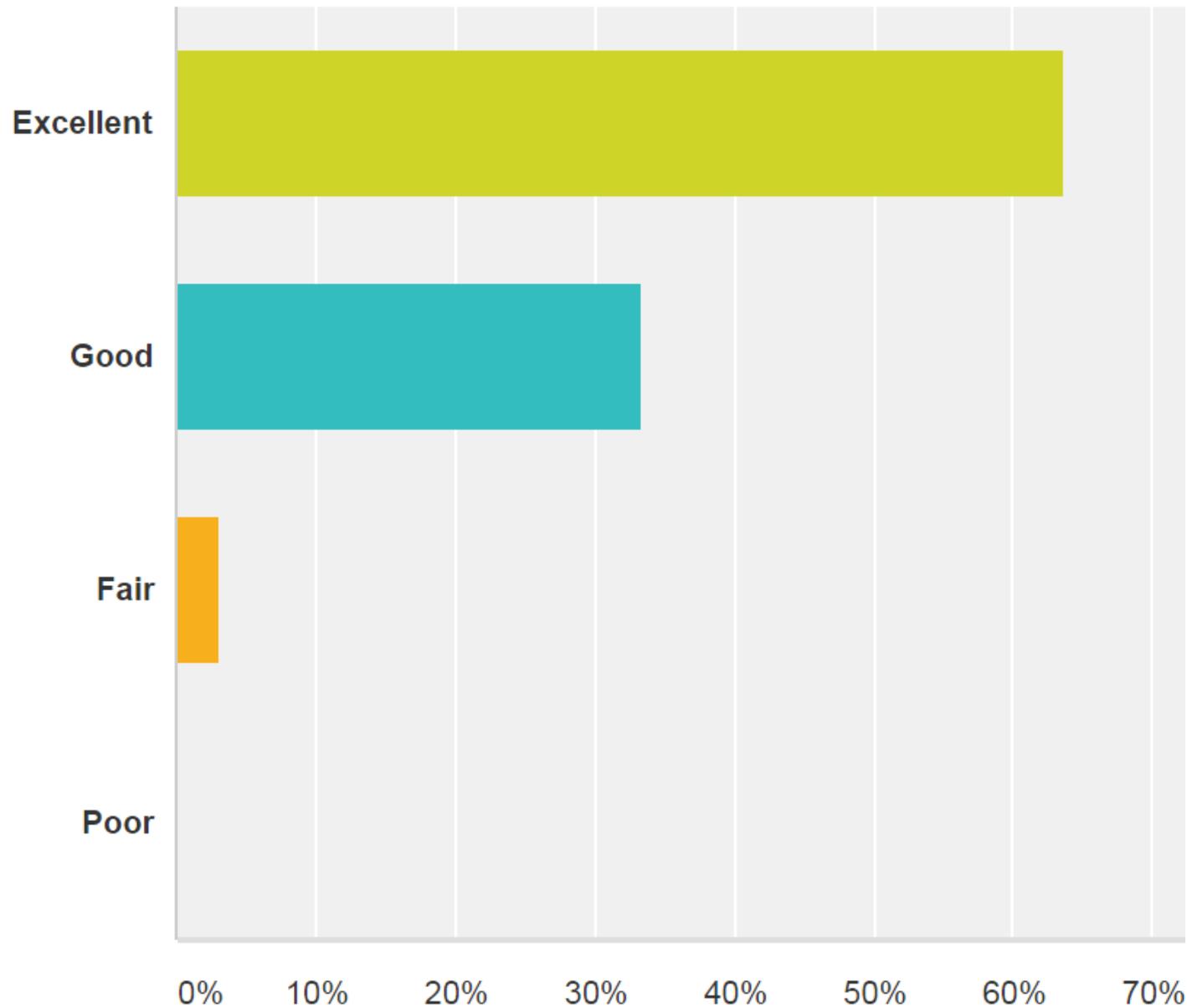
- 14. Very disappointing.
- 15. Music was very loud
- 16. would have prefer some sight seing.
- 17. I am personally not a museum person, so this wasn't for me.
- 18. I did not like the Shung Ye Museum. There was not much to see and learn.

**Critiques**

- 19. I didn't atttend
- 20. Did not attend.
- 21. did not participate
- 22. Not Applicable
- 23. I didn't attend these. I would prefer more opportunities for interacting with conf. attendees. That, said thank you for organizing those. I understand it took a lot of time and effort and many do like them.

**Did not attend**

# 7. Taipei as a venue for Micro



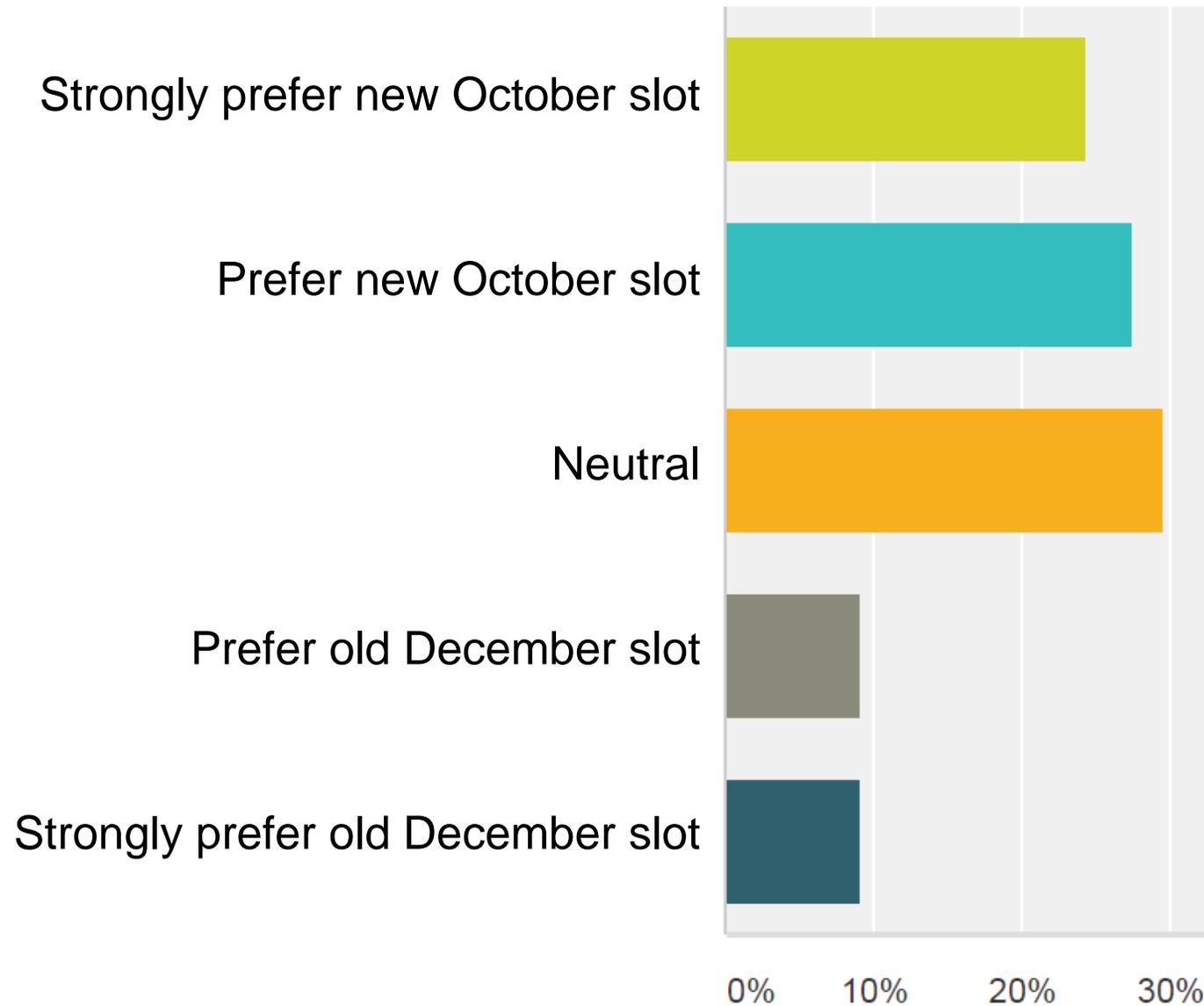
# 7. Taipei as a venue for Micro

1. best ever
2. Best location for Micro ever!
3. FOOOOODD!!!!
4. Taipei was great and the hosts were awesome.
5. Taipei was amazing! Very clean, safe, friendly, accessible, etc. It far exceeded my expectations (traveled with my family too)
6. Great place to hold a conference ... Taipei has great public transportation, cheap lodging, and lots and lots of delicious inexpensive food.
7. We should add Taipei to a list of cities that regularly host architecture conferences (bay area, Austin, Boston, Portland, etc.)
8. The faculty and students from NTU were, in my view, the best thing about Micro-49. Always trying to be helpful. Unbelievable!
9. Can't wait for MICRO in Fukuoka in 2018. Clearly even with back-to-back conferences in Asia (ISCA in Seoul then MICRO in Taipei), both achieved record attendances so the community clearly has a huge interest in attending conferences in Asia. The worries about international travel hurting the conference attendance appears to be a non-issue.
10. Jet lag was a major issue. It took a full week to recover

**Praise**

**Critique**

# 8. October vs December for Micro



# 8. October vs December for Micro

1. October is right in the middle of the semester.
2. For academics, this is a week in the middle of the semester; not good.
3. very very strongly prefer December slot and old submission deadline. they worked MUCH better with the yearly academic schedule.
4. We can play around with the deadline, but should keep the previous time slot for the conference. MICRO in December was very relaxing. Now, we need to schedule a trip between the semester.
5. While it is nice to have ISCA/MICRO/HPCA spread out evenly, a December slot is much more convenient due to Winter break.
6. It seemed people were around less and it gave students less opportunities to interact with faculty. Having it far away and during the semester made it tough for people.

**Prefer December**

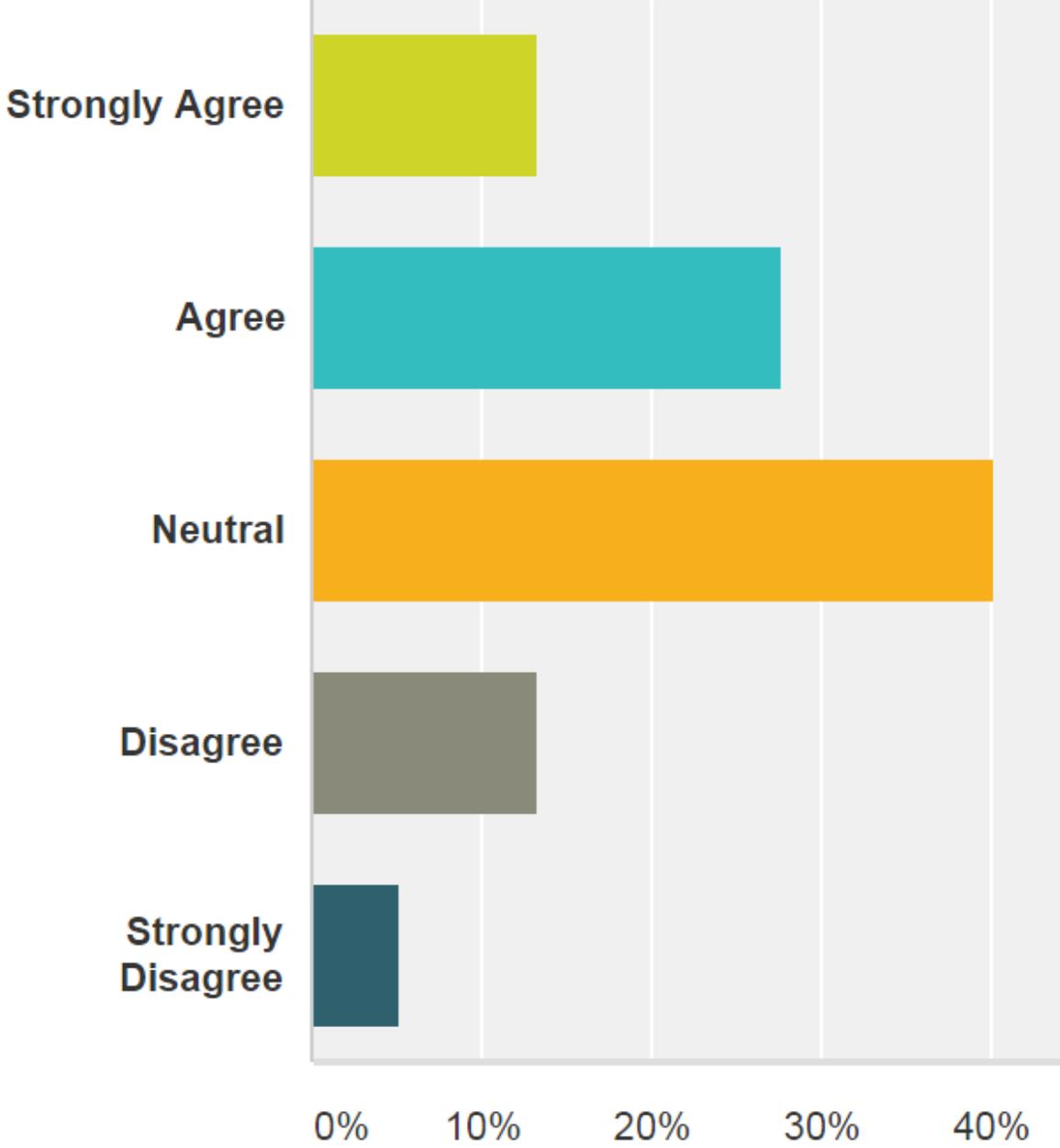
7. Should be after ISCA deadline.
8. Micro's new October timeslot conflicts with ISCA submission. Note the ISCA (June) happens after Micro submission (April).

**ISCA Interactions**

**Other**

9. Due to teaching, it makes it difficult to attend without cancelling lectures. I would have preferred later in October if possible as I can schedule midterms then.

# 9. Co-Locate w PACT or Other Conferences



# 9. Co-Locate w PACT or Other Conferences

## Yes to Co-Location

1. I think having more people around is great. E.g., I think having CGO with HPCA adds a lot to the conference.
2. I think this co-location with PACT would be a great idea. Now they are too close and competing in some way for attendance. Colocation may benefit both.
3. The HPCA+PPOPP+CGO joint conferences have been a rousing success, in my opinion. FCRC is always great, too. I think that venues like MICRO should strive for this model, since it brings a broader set of participants and makes it easier to amortize travel costs.

## Mixed

4. We need to space deadlines so that there are opportunities to submit to conferences. But then I haven't looked at all the constraints.

## No to Co-Location

5. Don't dilute MICRO by combining with PACT.
6. Micro is solid on its own, does not need distractions that co-locations always incur.
7. I personally feel that there is too much overlap between MICRO and PACT. The reason why HPCA/CGO/PPoPP works well is because there is not a heavy overlap between these three conferences, but just enough for conference attendees to check out the other conference sessions. MICRO and PACT are both architecture focused, and I feel it the co-location will lead to more PACT attendees going to the MICRO session, and not vice versa.

# 10. Other Comments – 1

## Praise

1. Kudos to the NTU people!
2. Excellent conference and program organizations!
3. I would like to thank Taipei team for being such a wonderful host and going out of their way to help the attendees.
4. Lunches were fantastic, but too big. Couldn't hope to eat that much food.
5. The emails in the evening were really helpful to know what is going on. The organizers and students did a great job hosting the event.
6. This was a record-setting conference ... both in attendance and fund raising. Wonderfully, wonderfully done. Best Micro I can remember.
7. The conference venue, food, banquet, keynote choices and organization was one of, if not the, best of Micro. Congratulations to the committees and support students - very well done.
8. Thank you for all the hard work you put into organizing MICRO. It was very productive and interesting. I'm very fond of keynote speeches especially from people from different areas. May be we can have another, short one during the dinner on Tuesday? Bravo for asking authors to present their work in 15 minutes. That works much better than longer talks.
9. Kenny was phenomenal as an organizer, and went out of his way to make sure everyone was happy and accommodated. We need more people like Kenny. As an example, they had a separate set of meals for vegetarians, which they were very nice in offering and making sure people knew. A bunch of people preferred a separate table with no alcohol at the Grand Hotel, and Kenny personally accommodated and made sure they were comfortable. The entire organization was very good. Lots of manpower, direction, abundance of food and snacks, and nice people. This helped make MICRO super enjoyable, extending just the technical merits of the conference. I personally liked the last Best Paper session as a single track.

# 10. Other Comments – 2

**Mixed**

10. Taipei was fantastic. My only major complaints are that I would have liked more space for the poster session (I left because there was no room to move around) and less long sessions (5-6 papers in a row is too much)

**Suggestions**

11. I think that it will be good if the banquet is given on the first day.
12. For the next time, I want to get presentation slides over papers in the proceeding's memory stick. It is fair enough even though I am able to access the presentation mode only.
13. I am an ESL (English-as-second-language) person. It is difficult to understand speaker's (also, questioner's) English. I am not sure about how excellent the English-to-text converter (e.g., some software using Siri) is, but can you introduce such software officially?
14. Having main presentation the day after the lightening talk is not really helpful. It would be great if we can have lighting talk, main presentation on the same day. I felt poster session was too early. It should be moved back a bit.
15. \* I am glad to see diversity in the keynotes. I hope we would continue promoting diversity in our community. \* I would also like to see keynote speakers working in other fields that are closely related to systems. We should invite people who are working to build efficient systems in Vision, Graphics, Image processing, Databases, etc. \* It would be great to pair the student speakers with a mentor during the conference. It would help them to get a chance to talk and learn from senior members in our community.

**Critiques**

16. The papers were not breakthrough papers. It would be great to accept only high-quality papers.
17. I didn't like the Taiwanese food that was served for every meal throughout the conference.
18. The meals felt like they went a bit overboard -- we didn't need two-hour-long multi-course meals at the expense of time in the technical tracks and likely a lot of cost. The multi-course serving style also meant that one could not walk around to other tables and talk with the participants.

The End