The levels of conferences: top-, middle- and low-level events

there are great differences,
venues to go and venues to avoid

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Conferences vs. journals: impact

- Journals have impact factors – why don't the conferences?
  - Yes they do! see http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/impact.html
  - The list contains both journals and conferences in computer science, and makes comparing them possible using the same impact factor measurement
  - Among the top ten publications there are eight top-level conferences and two journals
    - a surprise or not?

Conferences vs. journals: impact

Top ten publications in the Citeseer citation index:

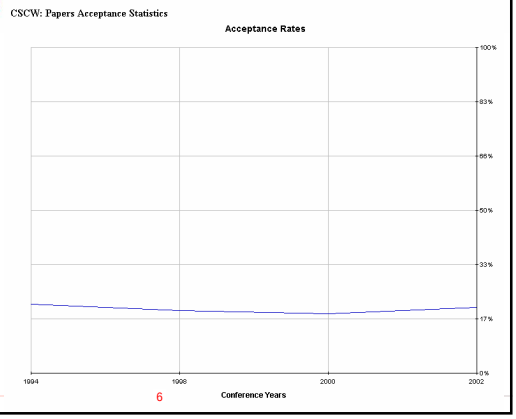
1. OSDI: 3.31 (top 0.08%)
2. USENIX Symposium on Internet Technologies and Systems: 3.23 (top 0.16%)
3. PLDI: 2.89 (top 0.24%)
4. SIGCOMM: 2.79 (top 0.32%)
5. MOBICOM: 2.76 (top 0.40%)
6. ASPLOS: 2.70 (top 0.49%)
7. USENIX Annual Technical Conference: 2.64 (top 0.57%)
8. TOCS: 2.56 (top 0.65%)
9. SIGGRAPH: 2.53 (top 0.73%)
10. JAIR: 2.45 (top 0.81%)

Conferences vs. journals: an HCI view

9. SIGGRAPH: 2.53 (top 0.73%)
25. SI3D Symposium on Interactive 3D Graphics: 2.06 (top 2.04%)
64. TOIS ACM Transactions on Information Systems: 1.75 (top 5.24%)
84. CHI: 1.61 (top 6.87%)
86. ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology: 1.59 (top 7.04%)
89. ACM Transactions on Graphics: 1.57 (top 7.28%)
90. CSCW: 1.57 (top 7.37%)
95. ECSCW: 1.56 (top 7.78%)
96. TOCHI ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction: 1.56 (top 7.86%)
105. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics: 1.53 (top 8.59%)
423. LNCS Lecture Notes on Computer Science: 0.75 (top 34.64%)
557. International Journal of Man-Machine Studies: 0.57 (top 45.61%)
609. CHI Conference Companion: 0.51 (top 49.87%)
634. International Journal of Human Computer Studies: 0.48 (top 51.92%)
646. Interacting with Computers: 0.47 (top 52.90%)
768. Engineering for Human-Computer Interaction: 0.32 (top 62.89%)

Examples of the top-level conferences

- SIGGRAPH (International Conference on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques)
  - Acceptance rate: 19% (2002)
  - Impact factor: 2.53 (#9 in Citeseer)
- CHI (Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems)
  - Acceptance rate: 16% (2004)
  - Impact factor: 1.61 (#84 in Citeseer)
- UIST (Symposium on User Interface Software Technology)
  - Acceptance rate: 22% (2003)
  - Impact factor: 1.59 (#86 in Citeseer)
- CSCW (Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work)
  - Acceptance rate: 20% (2002)
  - Impact factor: 1.57 (#90 in Citeseer)



Links between conferences and journals

- Presently all printed material from SIGGRAPH annual conference will be included in an issue of ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)
- CHI Letters series to emphasize the high quality of selected conferences
  - CHI
  - UIST
  - CSCW
- Often a special issue of a journal is collected of the selected papers in a conference
  - Sometimes ”as is”, sometimes with minor or major changes

Examples of middle-level conferences

- International refereed conferences
  - IFIP Interact
  - NordiCHI – Nordic CHI
  - APCHI – Asia Pacific CHI
  - OzCHI – Australian CHI
  - British HCI
- Characteristics
  - Typically full papers are considered to be of good quality
  - The quality of short papers may vary much
  - Acceptance of full papers around 25%-40%
  - There is some variability between the years

Focused conferences

- Some examples
  - IUI: International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (acceptance 21% in 2003)
  - ICMI: International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (acceptance 35% in 2003)
  - IDC: Interaction Design and Children
- Characteristics
  - Acceptance of full papers around 15%-40%
  - The size and level of conferences vary greatly
  - The best venues are known by the research community in that field – not clear for outsiders

“Abstract conferences”

- Some examples:
  - HCI International
  - World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (SCI)
- Characteristics
  - Often just a short abstract is enough to get a paper published, sometimes even an invited session is offered
  - Less valuable or even worthless as publications
  - Mainly aimed to meet people, to see new places, …
  - Sometimes a journal issue is collected even of these papers – the quality of papers varies greatly
  - Even more than 20 parallel sessions

Multi-disciplinary congresses

- These are not worthy of being listed here
- Characteristics
  - Anything goes…
  - No matter what is your field
  - Often quite expensive, but in an interesting place (Hawaii, Brazil, …)
  - Typically in a five-star hotel, possibly in a ski center, on the beach, or in another tourist attraction
  - ”Personalized” invitations get filtered in the spam folder…

How to choose a conference

- First there is the choice:
  a top-level conference or a journal?
  - Both require about the same level of scientific content and finishing of paper to be successful. There is a page limit in conferences, usually not as strict in journals.
- Often a paper is first submitted to a top-level conference or to a focused conference
  - If rejected (common)
    - submit to a suitable middle-level conference, or
    - submit to a suitable journal (if the paper is good enough)
- If you wish to publish a paper sooner
  - better to bypass the top-level conferences and aim at a focused conference or at a middle-level conference if you are not absolutely confident that the paper would be accepted.

Deadlines

- A deadline is often helpful to get things done.
- A common practice today:
  - often you'll get from one to four weeks more time just a day or two before the deadline – but not always
- If the paper cannot be fully finished by the deadline
  - it may be better to withdraw it from the conference it was intended to be sent and finish it to the next one
  - this results in a better paper that has a better chance to be accepted and has more value in the future
  - an example: UIST 1.4. à ICMI 2.5. à ICMI 9.5.