What Makes a Good Paper?

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Conference submission process

1. Register paper
   - Timing: ~ one week before paper deadline
   - Purpose:
     - allows PC chairs an estimate about the # papers
     - enables the reviewers to express their interest in reviewing
   - Typical process:
     - Setup account on submission Web server
       - EDAS
       - Easychair
       - Locally run systems
       - ...
     - Submit title, abstract, authorlist, contact information, conflict information

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Conference submission process (2.)

2. Prepare paper
   - Blind == you will not know the names of the reviewers
   - Double blind == the reviewers should not be able to easily determine the names of the authors either
3. Submit paper
   - Timing: before paper deadline
   - Typical process:
     - Use account from abstract registration
     - Submit final version of paper (usually PDF, PS)
4. Wait for confirmation
   - Submission OK (a few minutes) and printing OK (a few days)
5. Receive decision via email
   - Timing: ~3-6 month after submission
6. Prepare camera ready version

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Journal submission process

- ☐ Prepare paper
- ☐ Send paper to the appropriate editor
- ☐ Wait for decision email from the editor
- ☐ Depending on the decision
  - Finalize paper
  - Revise paper
  - Submit revised paper

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How not to be too emotional

❑ Some of the best papers have been rejected the first time they were submitted

❑ See article: „We are sorry to inform you" by Simone Santini, University of California, San Diego

❑ **„"Goto Statement Considered Harmful."**
This paper tries to convince us that the well-known goto statement should be eliminated from our programming languages or, at least (since I don't think that it will ever be eliminated), that programmers should not use it. It is not clear what should replace it. The paper doesn't explain to us what would be the use of the "if" statement without a "goto" to redirect the flow of execution: Should all our postconditions consist of a single statement, or should we only use the arithmetic "if," which doesn't contain the offensive "goto"?
And how will one deal with the case in which, having reached the end of an alternative, the program needs to continue the execution somewhere else?„

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How not to be too emotional

❑ Conclusion:
  ○ Understand why a reviewer did not like your paper
  ○ Understand how to improve it
  ○ Get internal feedback
  ○ Praesentation matters

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Shadow Program Committee (PC)

- Program Committee „without impact"
- Shadow PC members
  - Are assigned papers
  - Review papers
  - Attend Shadow PC meeting
  - Select a Shadow PC program
- Reviews
  - Send back to authors

Shadow PC member feedback

- More quotes:
  - "This Shadow PC was a good experience to show young researchers that bias in the acceptance of the papers in a conference does not come from clusters of people who bias the decision of the PC in favor of their paper, but that any PC leads to a lot of randomness with regard to the papers that are not either obvious rejects or accept.."
  - "…The experience of the (uncontrollable) group dynamics. … The necessity of stepping back to judge a paper more objective. !"
- Feedback regarding future Shadow PCs:
  - "Do it again!!!"
  - "Do Shadows PC on a regular basis, and for most important conferences!"

Insights from shadow PC

☐ Common reasons for paper rejection:
  - Reviewers did not understand the paper
  - Approach novelty not convincing
  - Identification of unfixable flaws
  - Out of scope
  - A strong case against the paper

☐ Common reasons for paper acceptance
  - Champion convinced PC members that the paper is good
  - Leads to interesting discussion
  - Addresses a real problem with a feasible solution
  - Argumentation and presentation of paper succeeded

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Insights from shadow PC (2.)

☐ Things to keep in mind:
  - Paper should be accessible to non-expert
  - Paper should make a good case to make it harder to reject it
  - Seek feedback in early stages of the work
  - Parts of selection process are "semi-random"
  - Get inspirations on presentation style and writing style

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