Program Committee Meetings Considered Harmful

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Bad things about PC meetings

• Sometimes unproductive meeting dynamics
  – Overly assertive PC members
  – Waves of negativity
• Skewed representation
  – For many too much travel for one-day meeting
Harm to the environment
Time and money?

• In two days, a PC could generate
  – 50-100 additional reviews, or
  – Small group on-line discussion + review summary for each paper (a la NSF)
• Travel money saved could send more students to conference
Alternative

- Two or three PC chairs
- PC committee scores papers
  - On-line discussions for controversial papers initiated by PC chairs
- PC chairs come up with ranking function and select highest ranked papers
- One opportunity for PC members to disagree with selection (perhaps)
Evaluation

• 150 submissions
• 25 papers to accept
• 100 experiments

• Equipment:
  – Powerbook G4
  – Mac OS X
Which works better: ranking or voting?
Conclusion

Does anyone strongly believe that a PC meeting improves the quality of the reviewing process sufficiently to offset the disadvantages I have presented?