KDD 2015
Program Chair Report

Business Meeting

Thorsten Joachims & Geoffrey Webb

21st ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining
August 10-13, 2015, Sydney


KDD 2015
21st ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining
KDD2015
KDD 2015 Progr
• Largest ever KDD program
– 4 keynote addresses
– 11 industry & govt. invited talks
– 228 paper talks and posters
• 160 research and 68 industry & govt
– 15 workshops
– 12 tutorials
– KDD Cup competition
– 2 panels
I&G Track Chairs
• Dragos Margineantu
• Graham Williams
I&G Invited Talk Chairs
• Rajesh Parekh
• Usama Fayyad
Workshop Chairs
• Johannes Fuernkranz
• Tina Eliassi-Rad
Tutorial Chairs
• Jian Pei
• Zhi-Hua Zhou
Panel Chairs
• Hugh Durrant-Whyte
• Katharina Morik
KDD Cup Chairs
• Jie Tang
• Ron Bekkerman
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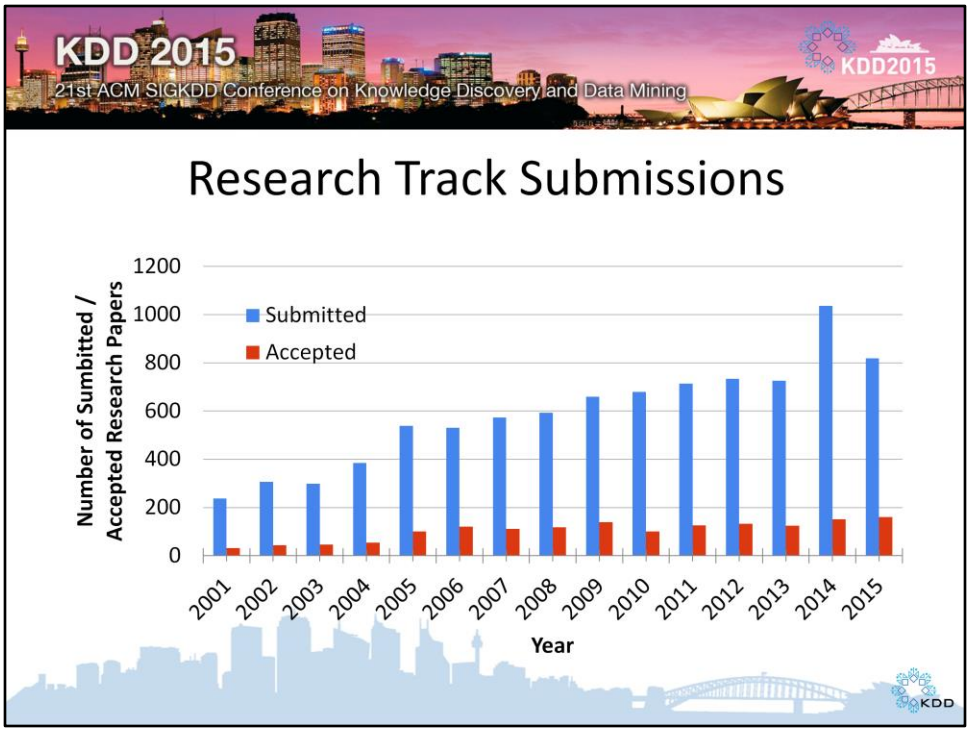
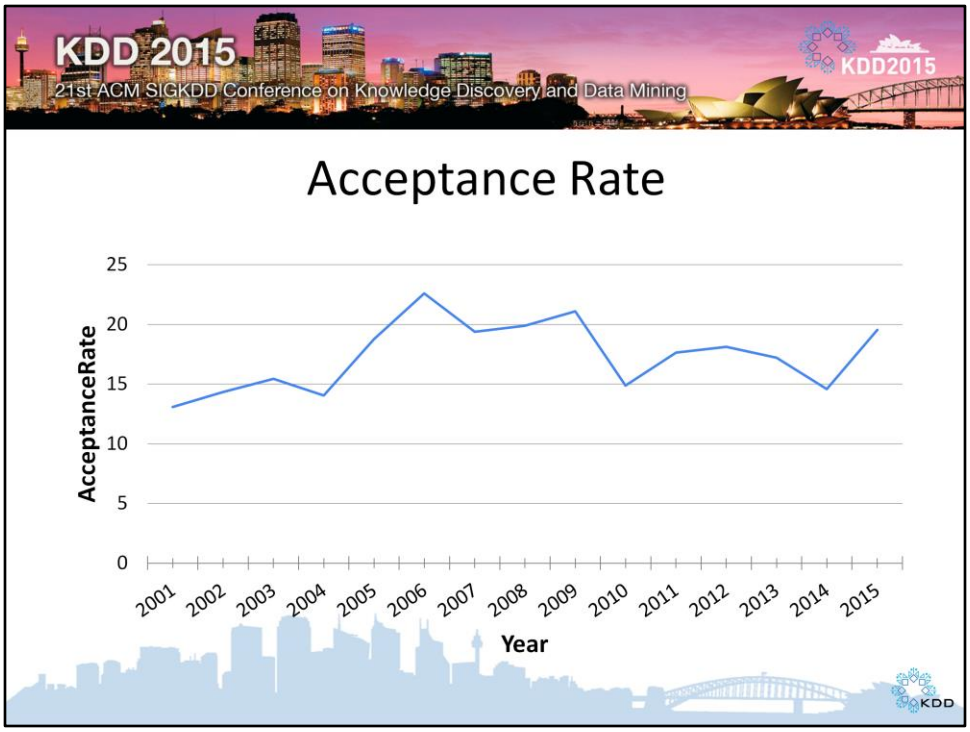
Research Track Reviewing

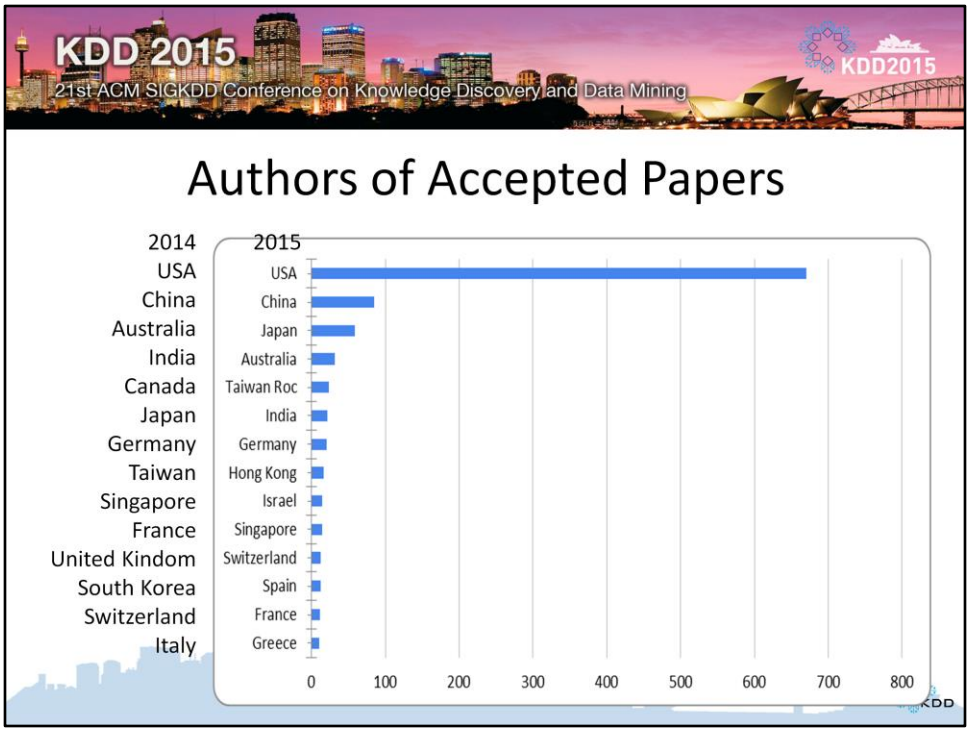
- 819 Research Track submissions
  - 160 accepted → acceptance rate of 19.5%.
- Review process
  - Described in booklet message and proceedings
    - new: Author Feedback
    - redesigned Subject Areas
  - Enlarged PC and Senior PC (595 PC and 68 SPC)
    - → most papers got 4 reviews
    - → secondary SPC helped with difficult decisions
  - Provided additional decision support analytics to SPC



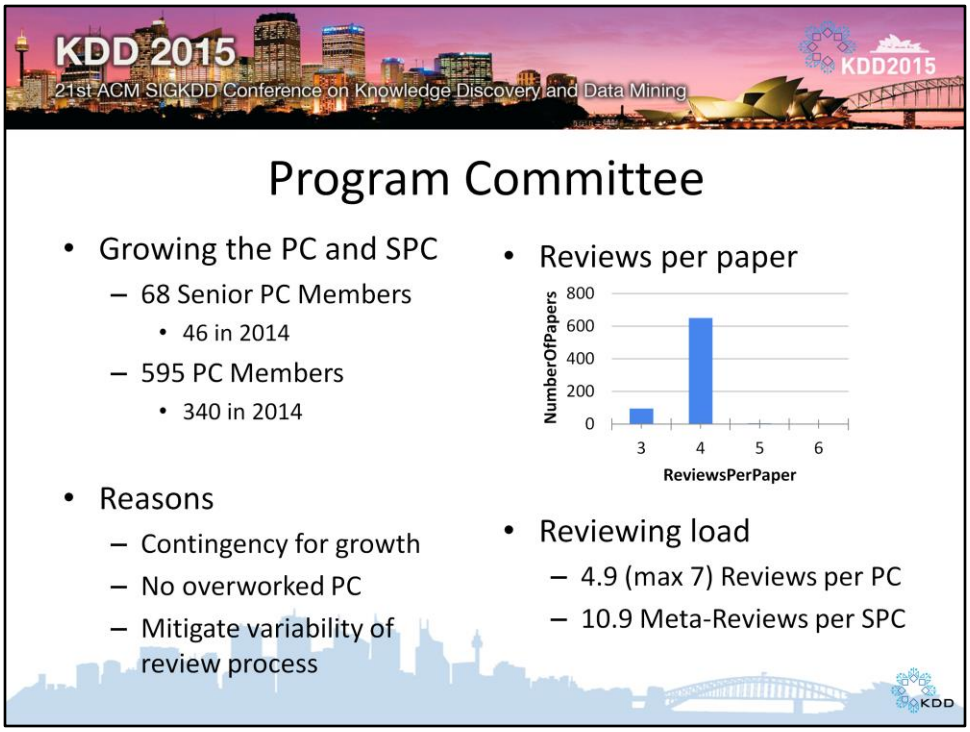
Healthy submission numbers despite remote location.



Acceptance rate is somewhere in the middle of historic rates.



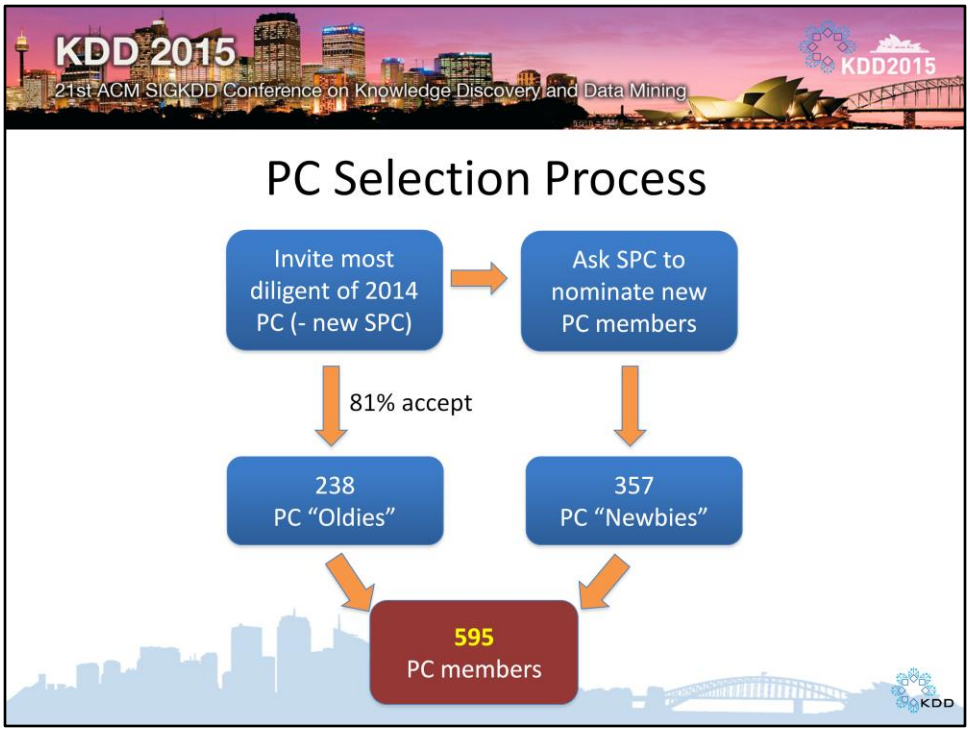
Note: 2014 is using authors of submitted papers for ranking, not authors of accepted papers as in 2015.



Cojecture: Overworked reviewers are unhappy reviewers that do a half-assed job.
→ Therefore, we enlarged PC and reduced load per PC and SPC member

Goal: Reduce variability of reviewing process and make more reliable acceptance decisions
→ Therefore, we got 4 reviews for most papers to reduce variability due to reviewer selection (compared to having 3 reviews in the past).

Two questions:
- How did we recruit the extra reviewers?
- Were the reviews by these extra reviewers of comparable quality?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PC Selection Process
Invite most diligent of 2014 PC (- new SPC)
Ask SPC to nominate new PC members
81% accept
238 PC "Oldies"
357 PC "Newbies"
595 PC members
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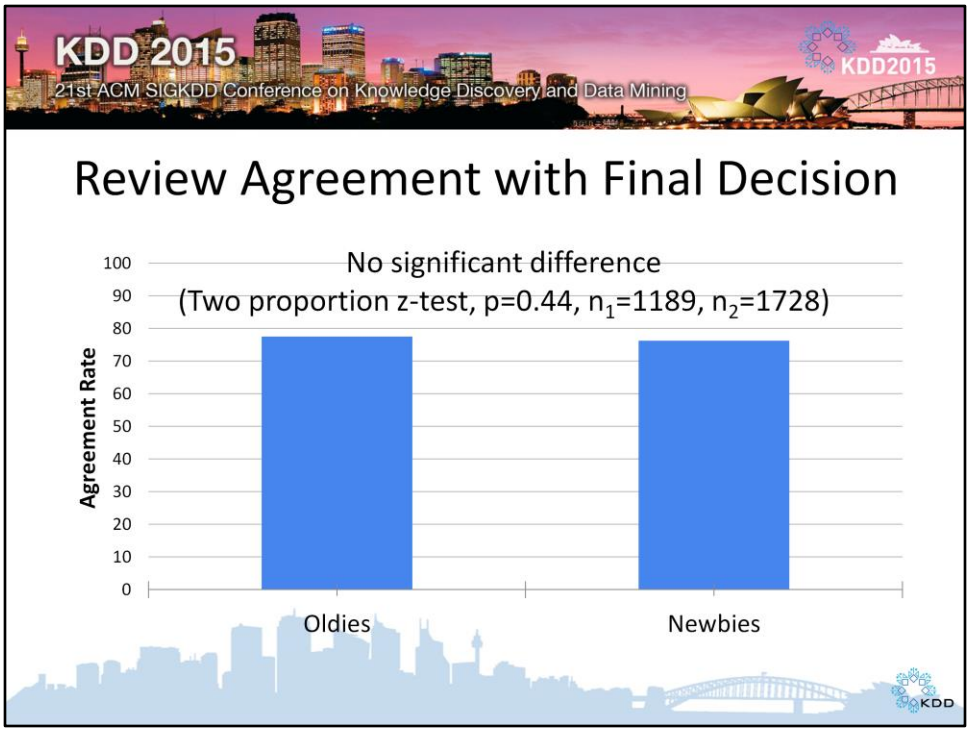

No indications that the newbies are more noisy in their assessment than oldies. But note dependence of decision on reviews.

Pro: Fourth review has likely reduced variability of the reviewing process.
Con: Fourth review PC puts increased strain on the community.


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Abhishek Gupta
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Adith Swaminathan
Aditya Pal
Aditya Parameswaran
Ah-Hwee Tan
Ahmed Hassan
Aijun An
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Zhiguo Yu
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Zhongqi Lu
Zijian Zheng
Ziyu Guan
Zoran Obradovic
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Thanks you!!!


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Alex Jaimes
Andrew Tomkins
Arindam Banerjee
Aristides Gionis
Arno Siebes
Bart Goethals
Byron Wallace
Charu C. Aggarwal
Chih-Jen Lin
Chris Ding
Christos Faloutsos
Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil
Deepak Agarwal
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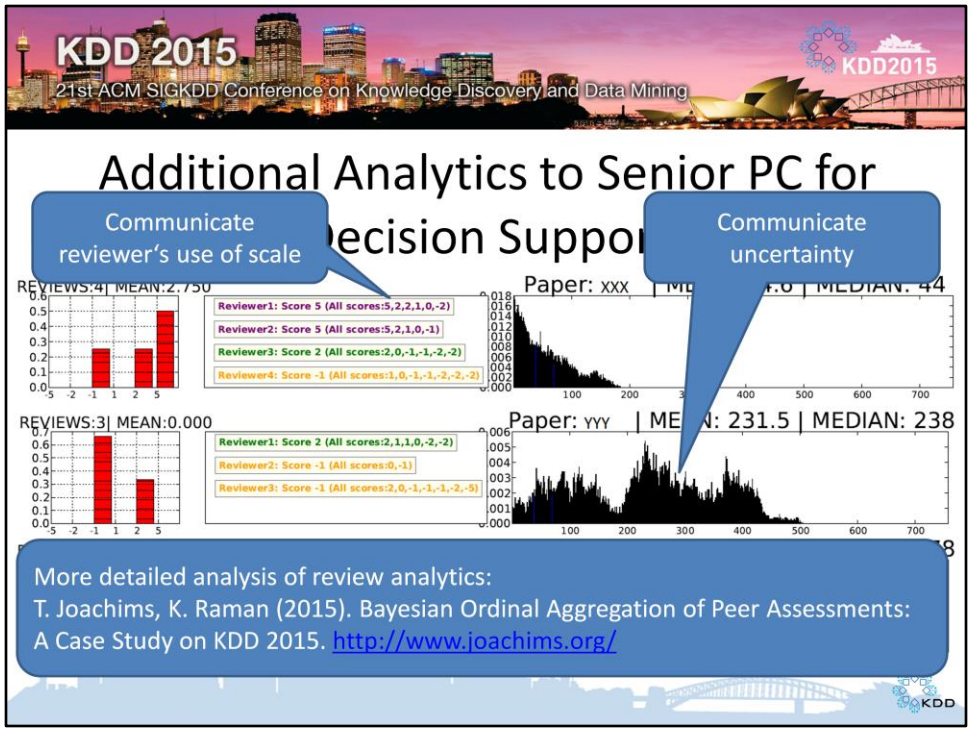
Thank you!!!



We wanted to provide Senior PC members with additional relevant information to improve their ability to make informed decisions. So, we provided decision support analytics that go beyond what CMT provides. Here are the reports that Senior PC received for three example paper.

Goal 1: Communciate the reviewer's use of the scale (from "Strong Accept" to "Strong Reject").

→ We showed how each reviewer rated all the other papers assigned to him/her. Note how Reviewer 1 and Reviewer 4 use very different scales, but both rank the paper highly.

Goal 2: Communicate the uncertainty inherent in the reviews due to reviewer selection.

→ We used a Bayesian rank aggregation method to provide the marginal distributions of where a paper ranks among all papers. Note how spread-out the distribution of the second paper is, hopefully encouraging the Senior PC member to take additional actions (e.g. read paper carefully, resolve disagreement through discussion, get additional review).

An analysis of this for KDD 2015 can be found in the given paper.