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## How to Improve Your Chances of Getting a Paper Accepted

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### Context: It's Getting Harder

- ◆ Pressure on you to publish at top venues
- ◆ Conference submission rates are rising
- ◆ Some effects
  - more work for PCs, lower acceptance rates, lower author satisfaction, ...
- ◆ Some community responses
  - increasing PC size, culling early, adjusting publication styles (e.g., first-class posters), coordinating events, adding new events, ...

## Why are Submissions Increasing?

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- ◆ We only have conjectures
  - increasing numbers of faculty
  - increasing numbers of grad students
  - increasing pressure to publish
  - increasing numbers of rejections
  - increasing numbers of double submissions
  
- opening of China
- lowering of Iron Curtin
- industrialization of Asia and Middle East

## Observations/Perceptions: Quality

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- ◆ Growth mainly at or below traditional acceptance cutoff
  
- ◆ Placement of acceptance bar somewhat arbitrary
  - hard to find natural “knees”
  - example: SODA
    - » linear increase in scores in top 90%



## Observations/Perceptions: Innovation

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- ◆ Conferences adopting risk reduction strategy
  - maintaining or even lowering acceptance rates
  - papers in established areas/themes have better chance of being accepted
    - » but maybe that is okay?
  
- ◆ Conferences with lowering acceptance rates receiving more polished papers on narrower topics



## Improving Your Chances

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| ◆ Do good work                             | ◆ Know the literature   |
| ◆ Chose your problems carefully            | ◆ Know your audience  |
| ◆ Find a single point and develop it fully | ◆ Write defensively   |
| ◆ Work vertically, not horizontally        | ◆ Develop your community  |
| ◆ Avoid “idea” papers                      | ◆ Avoid temptation of LPU   |
| ◆ Find a role model                        | ◆ Don’t submit just for feedback; your credibility is the “throwaway” |
|  | ◆ Polish, polish, polish  |

## What to do Before Submission

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- ◆ Maturity is measured by evaluation, not effort
  - A prototype is *not* an evaluation
  - An example is *not* an evaluation
  - A case study is *not* an experiment
- ◆ Writing is part of the research
- ◆ Don't trust your students to do the writing
- ◆ Get early feedback

## What to do After Submission

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- ◆ Assume rejection
- ◆ Improve the work
- ◆ Improve the paper

## What to do with a Rejection

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- ◆ Stay calm
- ◆ Ignore the tone
- ◆ Concentrate on substance
- ◆ If reviewer did not get it, it is *your* fault
- ◆ Resist temptation to play roulette with PCs
  
- ◆ Don't give up

## What to do with an Acceptance

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- ◆ Be happy!
- ◆ Think about the flow into a journal publication