Software Testing
Conferences 101
TAIC PART 2016, Chicago USA

Árpád Beszédes and László Vidács
University of Szeged, Hungary
Motivation

ACADEMIC

• Public dissemination of results
• Networking
• Project generation
• Paper

INDUSTRIAL

• Finding applicable solution/tool
• Networking
• Business
• Education

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Objectives

1. Listing
   - a "reasonably comprehensive" list of conferences

2. Analysis
   - public information: history, publication, committee, joint tracks...

3. Classification
   - academic - joint - industrial

4. Recommendations
   - for participants and organizers from both sides
Conference Selection

- Realistic listing
  - Not exhaustive and systematic – but realistic for a potential conference attendee
- Internet search
  - software testing, reliability, quality…
  - ACM, IEEE, ISTQB
- Conferences and workshops
  - General conferences excluded, but co-located specific workshops included
Main Properties

**ACADEMIC**
- **63** conferences
- Papers, proceedings
- Call for papers
- Support from non-profit
- Transparency
- Avg. OC size: 2.9
- Avg. PC size: 24.1
- Avg. keynote num: 1.7

**INDUSTRIAL**
- **38** conferences
- Talks by invitation
- Call for presentations
- Support from industry
- Marketing, sales
- Avg. OC size: 1.3
- Avg. PC size: 7.3
- Avg. keynote num: 5.1
Ratio of foreign members in main roles

- Foreign chair: Academic conf 0.15, Industrial conf 0.05
- Foreign pc member: Academic conf 0.20, Industrial conf 0.20
- Foreign keynote: Academic conf 0.30, Industrial conf 0.05

Legend:
- Blue: Academic conf
- Light blue: Industrial conf
Analysis of Synergies

**VIEWPOINTS**

- Age of conference
- Program/Organization Chairs
- Program Committee
- Keynote speakers
- “Synergistic Factor”, e.g.:
  - Explicit strategic goal
  - Dedicated track

**INDUSTRY INDEX**

- **ACADEMIA INDEX**

- Weighted average of the ratio of “foreign” members among:
  - Chairs (w=3)
  - Program Committee (w=2)
  - Keynotes (w=1)
  - Scale by the Synergistic Factor
  - ×2 if explicit goal
  - ×1.5 if special track, etc.
Top Synergistic Events

ACADEMIC
- JAMAICA
- AISTQ
- ASQT
- InSTA
- A-TEST
- STV
- TAIC-PART :)  

INDUSTRIAL
- SWQD
- CAST
- UCAAT
- TAD
- CSTQB
- HUSTEF
- DTD
- IQNITE
Industry index trend

- Industry index
- Conference age (cumulative years)

**Academic conferences**
Take Away Messages

ACADEMIC
• Seem to show more ambitions
• Seems like younger conferences are more industry oriented
• Practitioners: you are welcome :)
• Organizers: involve more practitioners in the organization!

INDUSTRIAL
• Seem to be more closed
• Dedicated “research” track, keynote, etc. is rare
• Researchers: there are some conferences with peer reviewed papers!
• Organizers: be more transparent and open!
Final Slide

Industry-academia collaboration:

• Possible improvements:
  • Investigate participants and program composition
  • Contact organizers and participants
  • Analyze earlier editions, too
  • Refine for “mature” conferences only
  • Refine according to the type and size
• Spreadsheet available from the authors
  • Online repository?