MESSAGE FROM THE INDUSTRY TRACK COMMITTEE CHAIR

Why is there an Industry Track? The industry track ideally helps bridge the gap between industry and academia, between practitioners and researchers, and between experimentalists and theorists in an advanced technology area. Problems and solutions presented here can provide new insights as well as new challenges to these different groups — provided, of course, they are open to receiving them.

So what’s the problem? The biggest problem is to actually find good industry track papers. Most practitioners are working under a shorter time horizon than researchers, and in more applied areas. Taking “time off” to write a paper seems like a luxury, and the effort to abstract fundamental issues from a specific commercial system or prototype and express them in a universal setting is daunting. Nonetheless, understanding these issues can be key to shaping research directions.

What makes a good industry track paper? Industry track papers are much shorter than regular papers and may therefore be less complete or less formal. However, a good paper presents original ideas, or insights into important issues of practice, or business and industry issues that fundamentally impact technology.

OK, so what happened this year? This year we had a dedicated and hard-working Industry Track committee, which actively solicited and encouraged papers. We had nine submissions to the industry track, as well as eight submitted to the regular track that were also considered. All 17 papers received three reviews, and seven were finally selected (some subject to “shepherding”), i.e., an acceptance ratio of 40%. I believe we have a good industry track program that will elicit fruitful discussion.

And what happens next year? Hopefully the program this year, as well as inclusion of industry track papers in the regular proceedings, will stimulate more high-quality submissions in the future.

I would like to thank the Industry Track committee, namely Sujata Banerjee, Prabuddha Biswas, Yannis Labrou, Jussi Myllymaki, and John Wullert, for an excellent job under tight deadlines. Also thanks to Spencer Yuen for help with the conference software and the PC chairs and General Chairs for their assistance.

On behalf of the Industry Track committee, thanks to all the authors who submitted papers, and we hope this will be a stimulating program for all the attendees.

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