Virtual STOC 2020: Chicago
June 22-26, 2020

TheoryFest Chair: Tim Roughgarden

PC Chair: Julia Chuzhoy

Local Chairs: Gautam Kamath, Konstantin Makarychev, Yury Makarychev, Madhur Tulsiani

Full credits: http://acm-stoc.org/stoc2020/
(including 24 student volunteers)
Registration
regular: $50, students: $25


Revenue: 23K (registration) + 10K (sponsors) - 15K (approx expenses)

Offered to waive registration for students if needed. Used by 13 students (12 more supported by earlier community initiative on twitter).
Format
(decided April end)

Pre-recorded videos: 20-25 mins, released 1 week prior

Slack workspace: conference info, discussion on papers and issues, social. Active 1 week prior (till July 31)

Zoom sessions: 10 mins/paper, 3 parallel sessions with 4 papers each, workshops with long talks, between 10 am - 5 pm CDT during conference

Social events: Junior-senior “lunches”, break tables, gather.town virtual “hallway”
Pre-recorded talks

- Pictorial and video instructions for authors (3-4 weeks time)
- Authors uploaded 20-25 min videos via Dropbox
- 4-5 videos uploaded to YouTube by each student volunteer
- 113 talk videos, approx 10K views

Did you find the pre-recorded videos useful?
219 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>Very useful</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (1.4%)</td>
<td>130 (59.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (3.2%)</td>
<td>7 (3.2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 (10%)</td>
<td>57 (26%)</td>
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<td>4 (26%)</td>
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Slack workspace

- Channels for info, social, business meeting, papers, workshops
- About 580 members, 7700 messages
- Open to community after STOC (active till July 31). Email stoc2020@ttic.edu for invite

Did you find the Slack workspace useful?
212 responses

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Rating</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>31 (14.6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>39 (18.4%)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>66 (31.1%)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>54 (25.5%)</td>
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Zoom sessions

- Webinars run by Technical host (student) + co-host (session chair)
- Training session for students, videos + written instructions for technical hosts, session chairs, speakers. Live updates on Slack.
- 10-11 am, 4-5 pm CDT. Workshops (12-3 pm) run by organizers.
- Recorded, live-streamed, uploaded on Youtube

Were the live Zoom sessions useful?

219 responses

Not at all | Very useful
---|---
5 (2.3%) | 99 (45.2%)
14 (6.4%) | 67 (30.6%)
34 (15.5%) |
Social events

- Junior-senior “lunches” (2 days). Sign-up via Google sheet. Approx 32 seniors + 130 juniors on each day
- Break tables. Shared Google doc for adding themed tables, times, Zoom/Google-Meet links
- “Gather” virtual hallway (2 days). Significant positive feedback. 150 max simultaneous participants

Did you enjoy participating in the social events at the conference?

200 responses

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<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
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Feedback

- Access for junior participants (registration + approaching seniors)
- Consider uploading recorded videos for all conferences
- Zoom webinar isolating - “meeting” format for smaller conferences
- Other ideas for social events

What conference format would you prefer for future STOC/FOCS?
207 responses

- Physical only: 27.1%
- Virtual only: 14%
- Alternating between physical and virtual: 58.9%

- Virtual STOC 2020: Behind the Screens (organizers’ doc)
- Written and video instructions
- Business meeting materials
- Survey results to be posted soon
- Email stoc2020@ttic.edu to join Slack, or for additional questions

Thanks!