A Survey and Projection of SIGBOVIK Trends

Jenny H. Lin
jennylin@andrew.cmu.edu

ABSTRACT

SIGBOVIK is a prestigious conference with a long history of outstanding research with at least token jokey content in a non-zero number of axes. Yet to take for granted continued future excellence is the height of folly. This paper seeks to document trends of SIGBOVIK past in hopes of guiding future members of the organizing committee as well as any other potential joke conferences. It includes several graphs, tables, and even a survey of several past general chairs. It also attempts to recruit 2020's general chair, since by tradition no one person may chair SIGBOVIK twice. So join the SIGBOVIK organizing committee! That's right you! I'm talking to you! Don't just skip past the rest of the abstract and go look at the figures this is important SIGBOVIK can't continue without your support make sure to email the org-list and— hey!

KEYWORDS

SIGBOVIK, self referential, "Figures", join the committee

1 INTRODUCTION

SIGBOVIK is a conference on humorous research that, as of this paper's writing, is celebrating its 13th year of continuous publication. While it does not claim to be the first or the best or the longest running joke conference[1], it does claim to be older than at least one joke conference [1]. This paper thus serves as one part statistical analysis, one style guide for future joke conferences, BOVIK or otherwise, with a dash of recruitment for future SIGBOVIX. Contact sigbovik@gmail.com today to join the organizing committee. Mention this paper and get ϵ% off your next proceedings purchase today.

2 PRIOR WORK

Previous SIGBOVIK Messages from the Organizing Committee have included analysis of trends such as paper distribution across the four quadrants [2], and acceptance rate [3]. However, none of these were actual papers, so they don't count. Furthermore this is the first work to include a survey of SIGBOVIK experts; after all, who is more qualified to pontificate about the future of the conference than those who have lead it in the past? Probably the people who execute the actual drudgery of executing the conference, but there is some overlap so we're probably still fine [figure 1].

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[1]mostly because the author does not feel like verifying or disproving such claims
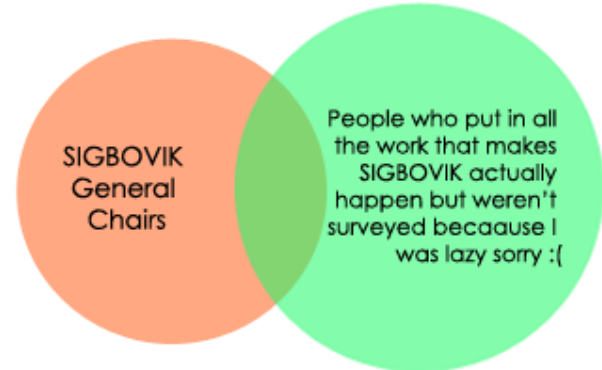

Figure 1: A venn diagram of SIGBOVIK general chairs and people who actually contribute to making the conference happen. A non-zero number of people from the intersection were included in the survey

3 PAPERS

The piece de resistance of any conference is its papers, and SIGBOVIK has had a lot of them. 371, to be exact. However, it is well understood that the true measure of a paper's merit is its number of words. How loquacious are SIGBOVIK papers? The answer is quite garrulous indeed, especially if you don't even bother trying to filter out the weirder bits. Most importantly, 2019 has the most words of all [figure 2].
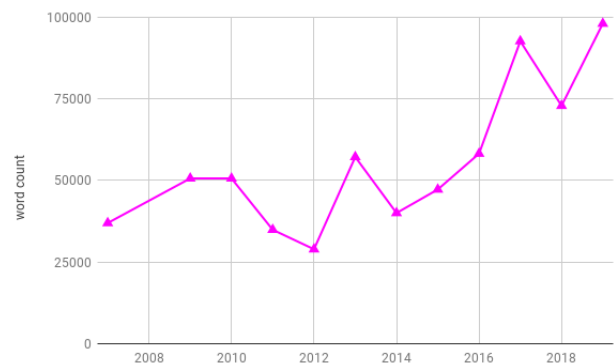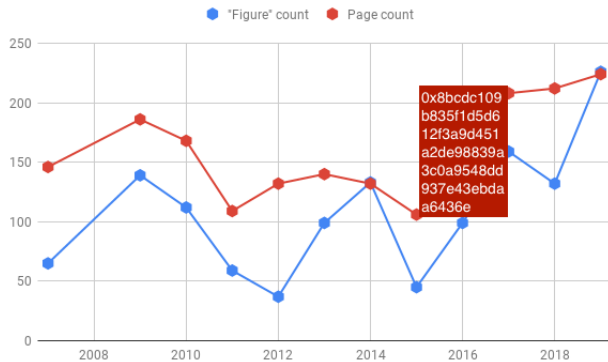

Figure 2: An overall wordcount of SIGBOVIK proceedings over the years, with 2019 as the clear winner.

In addition, figures are known to contain at least a thousand words. However, distinguishing figures from various images, comics, and other incidental graphics that have appeared in SIGBOVIK is difficult. Thus we instead we count the number of times the word "Figure" appears in the proceedings instead. As one might "Figure",

it appears a lot, and it appears the most in 2019. The 2019 proceedings also have the most pages[2]. In fact, it has almost as many pages as it does "Figure"s. One might say, a "Figure" for every page [figure 3].

Figure 3: A graph of "Figure" and page counts, with 2019 as the even clearer winner.

Of further interest is seeing the distribution of papers across the four quadrants of research: Humorous treatment of humorous ideas, humorous treatment of serious ideas, serious treatment of humorous ideas, and technically not supposed to be in this conference but we'll take it anyways (henceforth known as "Other"). Fortunately, this process is quite trivial and well documented in previous proceedings [?]. Thus it is left as an exercise for the reader to distribute the papers, perhaps by using a number 2 pencil [table 1].
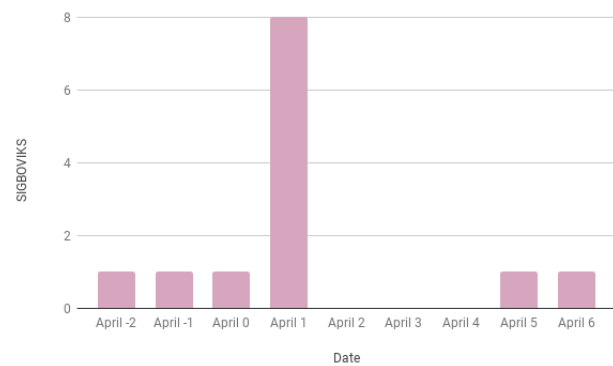
4 DATES

The word date has many definitions, including: the brown, oblong edible fruit of a palm (Phoenix dactylifera); a social engagement between two persons that often has a romantic character; and the time at which an event occurs [7]. Though SIGBOVIK has papers on both fruit [8] and romance [4–6], this section will focus solely on the third definition, leaving all fruit and/or love surveys for future work.

It has been oft said that the traditional date for the conference is April 1st. Indeed, looking at the distribution of dates, we can see the highest peak on April 1st [figure 4]. That said, the conference has fallen on different days before, mostly out of respect of various spring holidays and/or annoyance with conflicting events. Thus it is up to the organizing committee's discretion to choose the conference date, so long as they continue to keep the conference date in April. SIGBOVIK only ever happens in April.

It is a longstanding tradition for SIGBOVIK to include three deadline dates: an initial deadline, an extension, and a final extension, for all the procrastinators. But how longstanding is longstanding? A look into the first SIGBOVIK webpage (2007) reveals no mention of any deadline extensions. Instead, their list of dates only include an "Author Notification" date (March 15) and Final Abstract due

Figure 4: A Bar chart of conference dates $stdev = 2.1$**.**

date (March 30). This quickly fell out of practice, as SIGBOVIK is so prestigious that all submissions are of top quality and the author notification is almost always "accepted"[3], and needing to put together the proceedings in two days must have sucked. In 2008, we see mention of a "Next SIGBOVIK paper submission deadline" and "Probably the last SIGBOVIK paper submission deadline", implying at least three deadlines occurred in 2008. Unfortunately, there is no mention of any earlier deadlines. From 2009 onwards, the existence of the SIGBOVIK-announce mailing list combined with the websites made it relatively straightforward to acquire the deadlines, though *some* years neglected to mention their initial deadlines even in their initial call for papers [figure 5].

Figure 5: A (dead)line graph of all the initial, extended, and final deadlines. Note the limited edition "author notification" and "abstract deadline" deadlines, found only in 2007.

5 PROCEEDINGS

After the final deadline but before the conference date, papers are scrupulously reviewed and then accepted. Acceptance rates historically have fallen in the range $[\epsilon, 100]$, inclusive. Accepted papers are then divided into tracks [figure 6]. Note the multiple

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[2]The observant might notice 2008 missing from these plots. Rest assured the Association for Computational Heresy is working tirelessly to rescue the 2008 proceedings from the glitch in space-time, and it would have lost at all these statistics anyways
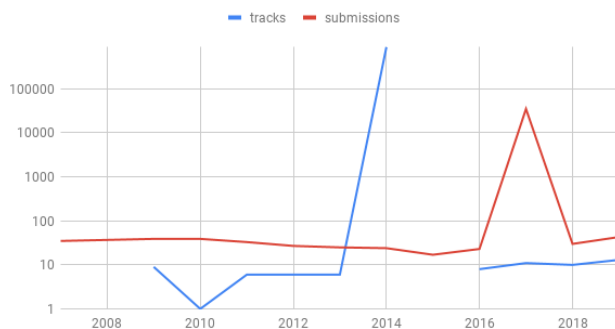
[3]except when it is rejected, see SIGBOVIK 2017

Table 1: Breakdown of SIGBOVIK papers across quadrants

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Humorous Treatment of Humorous Ideas													
Humorous Treatment of Serious Ideas													
Serious Treatment of Humorous Ideas													
Other													

discontinuities (due to a combination of space-time disruptions and non-numerical tracks), which make the track number function nondifferentiable. This is probably why the proceeding's chair is having a harder and harder time binning the papers (see: chess).

The bound copies of the proceedings all have covers which include at least one color. Some covers even have more than one color. If we consider the distribution of cover colors 7, we see that there are large amounts of green (23.1%), periwinkle (20.2%), and faces(14%). Hence a representative cover would contain all three. However, SIGBOVIK is a conference welcoming of all colors, and far be it for us to restrict the cover artist from drawing as they please, mostly when their office is right next to the author's. Nice job with 2019's cover by the way!

Figure 7: A pie chart of all the SIGBOVIK covers, even ones that no longer exist in this timeline
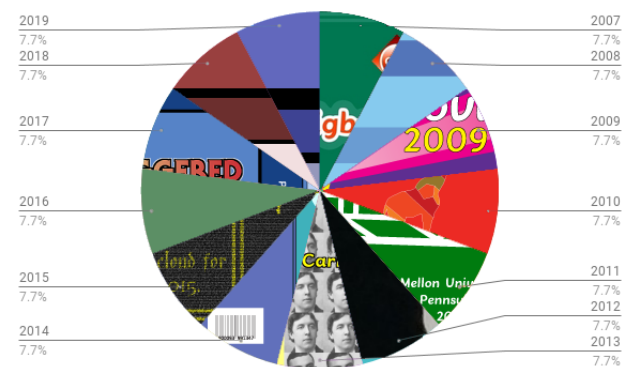

Figure 6: A log scale line graph (not area graph) of number of tracks and number of submissions.

6 WEBSITE

All the SIGBOVIK websites are good, but 2019's is the best. It has the most pages, and even if it didn't it would still objectively be the best because it just is. Citation *not* needed.

7 CHAIRS

Approximately twelve hours before the 2019 final deadline, the author thought it would be fun to write a survey and send it to past, present, and (one) future chair). Of the fourteen contacted chairs, eight responded. All survey questions were optional, and thus not all questions have the same number of responses.

To get the participants familiar with the survey interface, they were asked a series of questions related to SIGBOVIK (See appendix). They were also quizzed on the name of 2007's general chair. Of note is that all the participants got the answer wrong; the answer is not "Before my time", "$\Theta(Tom7)$", or "me and jason", it is the definitely non-fictional Red Franz, as can be seen on 2007's website.

It is known that all the SIGBOVIK chairs are really cool people, however, the coolness of 2020's chair is yet unknown. Participants were thus asked for the coolness rating of 2020's chair [figure 8]. One out of seven participants gave the 2020 chair a five star coolness rating. The remaining six were split between a three star rating (but of the michelin kind) and a $-35C$ windchill rating. Thus the 2020 chair will likely be highly rated among restaurants while also carrying significant risk of frostbite. That said, 2020's chair will not be "Coolest of them all", a title which presumably belongs to some other chair. Followup work may be required to investigate who is the actual coolest.

Participants were also asked to rate the ergonomicity of all other chairs, including the 2020 chair, on a scale from 0 to 7. However, on further reflection, the author realized publishing this data might cause extreme Drama, as ergonomics is very serious business. Thus the only data published shall be that the 2020 chair has a projected ergonomicity of 4.25.
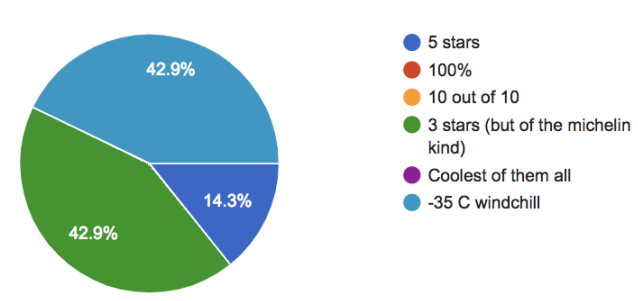
Figure 8: A pie chart of the 2020 chair's projected coolness.

Favorite CSS Named Color

8 responses

Legend:
- OldLace
- CadetBlue
- RGB4Lyfe
- MediumVioletRed
- FireBrick
- honeydew
- jimothy m higginsborou
- LightGoldenrodYellow

Favorite SIGBOVIK paper

7 responses

Address space content randomization
The paper never written
Cryptographically secure page numbers
Oh gosh...
A Theft-Based Approach to 3D Object Acquisition
I don't remember that shit
the vargomax classic

Favorite SIGBOVIK gag that is not necessarily a paper

7 responses

Best paper raffle
I was thinking of bringing a ring gag last year but I was told that some of the undergrads were too innocent for that
... there are just so many!
The Plagiarism paper that Christina Dinwoode reviewed and then submitted as her own, writing her review to sink the other paper.
Award for thing most resembling real research
the alan turing mug, sad i lost mine
timer.horse, except that might encourage jim to buy more domain names. so the cake.

8 CONCLUSION

SIGBOVIK is a really great conference and y'all better help with future proceedings or I'll be upset. 2019 was a great year

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
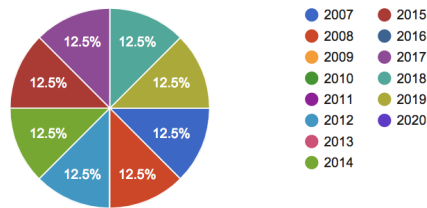
Sol I owe you one drawing of a twenty dollar bill.

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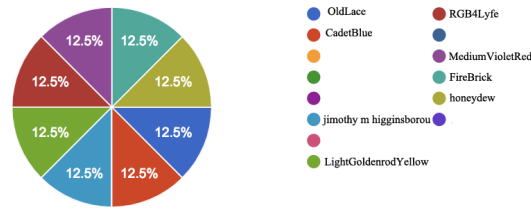
SURVEY RESPONSES

Year Chaired

8 responses

Legend:
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020