

SoCG Best Student Presentation Award Guidelines

The CG Steering Committee¹

Introduction. Since SoCG 2012 in Chapel Hill, NC, USA, a best student presentation is selected by plurality votes of the participants. The vote is administered by the PC co-chairs. In case of a tie, several winners can be selected.

Goals. Communication skills, both oral and written, are important and should be cultivated. The goal of the best student presentation award is threefold: First, we want to give due credit to excellent work. Second, we want to stimulate discussion among the participants and in the community as to what precisely constitutes a good presentation. Third, we want to use the process to collect feedback for the speakers.

Eligibility. To be eligible for the award, the speaker must be a full-time student (any level: undergrad, PhD student, etc.) at the time of the paper submission. However, presenters of the best paper(s)² are **not** eligible—even if they are students.

Evaluation. Participants are asked to evaluate talks according to three criteria, which are detailed below. Each criterion is graded on an integer scale of 1 (low quality) to 5 (high quality). A score of 5 corresponds to an excellent talk that fulfills the listed desiderata to a great extent. A score of 1 corresponds to a reasonable talk with clear flaws in some aspects (e.g., would not be too embarrassing for a Master’s student at his or her defense).

However, numbers tell a small part of the story only. Therefore, the numerical grades should be accompanied by qualitative feedback that explains the numerical evaluation and gives the student some constructive feedback on what was good and what could be improved in their presentation. The evaluation form has a text field “Comments & Suggestions” to collect this feedback. It is forwarded to the students individually (after screening and removing possibly inappropriate comments) by the PC-chairs.

To determine the winner of the best student presentation award, we use weighted average scores (with higher weights for higher scores) for students who received feedback from at least 10 participants.

Criterion: Content. Excellent overview of topic, convincingly put into a greater context, highly engaging motivation, clear structure and storyline, material to present and main focus well-chosen, ideal level of detail, sufficiently precise without getting lost in technicalities. I learned something new!

Criterion: Slides. All slides are clear and easy to read, with just the right amount of content, consistently supported by illustrations, with animations if possible, careful selection of examples, emphasis on key ideas and main results, competent use of color and other graphical and typographic style elements, content is concise, yet accurate, and shows attention to detail.

Criterion: Presentation. The topic is conveyed clearly and fluently, timing excellently matches the level of detail, captivating and highly effective communication, skillful use of voice (clear articulation, suitable projection, and varied intonation to emphasize key points)

¹ Thanks to Csaba D. Tóth who contributed to an earlier version of this document.

² i.e., who won the best paper award

and body language (facing and engaging the audience, eye contact, stage presence that commands attention), good dosage of reminders and catch-up points.

Organizational details. Make sure that no student talk is scheduled on the last day/session so that there is time to prepare the feedback and then count the votes and announce the winners during the conference.

Make sure that student talks are clearly labeled in the program, and instruct the chairs to point out if there is a student talk.

Inform student speakers that logos (png and pdf) to be included on their first slide are available at <https://www.computational-geometry.org/>. Then it is clear that this is a student talk even if the chair forgets to point it out.

Announce the award, its goals and the process during the conference opening/welcome.

After the conference, screen the textual feedback and remove or edit potentially inappropriate comments. Then send it out to the student speakers.