

## ACT 2025 Community Meeting

- PC Chairs: Amar and JS
- PC:
  - 39 members
  - 51 invited/12 declined
  - 20 were first time ACT PC members
  - 2 members from ACT2024 PC was on ACT2025 PC
  - No grad students (complaint)
- CFP:
  - PC members could bid on submissions b/w Feb 26 and March 3
  - Was able to use EasyChair (James Fairbanks footed bill)
    - Not cheap and getting more expensive per year
  - Proceedings in EPTCS
  - No extensions were given or required (no one requested)
    - Paper submissions, extensions were allowed for 2 - 3
  - No rebuttal stage
    - James Fairbanks & JS Lemay: Pro-rebuttal; doesn't really change minds
- Submission Data:
  - ACT2023: 80 submissions
  - ACT2024: 70 submissions
  - ACT2025: 50 submissions
    - JS Lemay: Looks grim
    - JS Lemay: Going more mathy and less computer sciencey
  - Only about 1 AI submission
  - 32 Accepted
    - 7 Proceeding Papers (17 submissions)
    - 25 Talks (33)
  - Political situation in US; drop expected
    - JS Lemay: Going from ~70 -> 50 submissions was shocking
    - JS Lemay: Talinn will be big test
- Schedule:
  - Everyone got 30 minute talks
  - Single track
  - No need for parallel sessions
  - More breaks led to more networking
    - James Fairbanks: REALLY great win, still packed room despite only one track
- Invited Speakers:
  - Previous ACT used best submissions
  - This year wanted to find invited speakers:
    - Some bad luck
  - People for PC and invited speakers said no due to political situation

- Two invited speakers had to decline due to serious issues (death of loved ones and medical emergencies)
  - Basically went back to best submissions
- Adjoint School Report (Innocent Obi Jr):
  - Had folks from across globe
  - Had a nice little group house this year
  - 6 students couldn't attend in person
    - Political situation
    - Visa problems
  - Mentoring within Adjoint School
    - James Fairbanks: Was declined due to repeating topics; should be more flexible with repeating topics (if we are not turning down mentors)
    - Dorette Pronk: Try to get as many people as involved as possible; more from across globe
  - Thinking about virtual/in-person
  - Automated Reasoning Group at AWS helped with funding/sponsoring
- Thank you for attending!
  - Anonymous form for feedback
  - 2026 in Tallinn, Estonia
- Open discussion:
  - Where are slides?
    - Will be shared shortly!
  - What's the process for Adjoint School organizers?
    - Innocent Obi Jr: Every year 2 new people join organizers, 2 people roll off
    - Dorette Pronk: Could move to Canada
  - CBW: Where to have dedicated platform? Zulip probably isn't the best. Could roll-over year to year.
    - Emilio Minichiello: We had Discord last year
    - John Morris: Make a dedicated channel in Zulip for ACT2025
    - James Fairbanks: Make a Zulip for the registrants who are attending
    - Dorette Pronk: I find it very useful
  - JS Lemay: What do we think about the trend in submissions?
    - Gioelle Zardini: Can we do data analysis on submissions?
      - Wondering who is not applying
    - James Fairbanks: Could use EasyChair for seeing who is submitting.
    - JS Lemay: Other ACT-friendly conferences are seemingly struggling more than others
    - SIAG Material Science
    - Rob Cornish: How is CT doing?
      - JS Lemay: CT IS BOOMING! They are doing ~7 minutes; actually having to decline people
      - Dorette Pronk: Speed talks are in-place of conference sessions
    - James Fairbanks: Has combining CT and ACT together (or co-locating) been considered?

- James Fairbanks: ACT has been roughly going back and forth
- Gioelle Zardini: Interesting shift to less proceedings submissions
  - Gioelle Zardini: Form question: "Why didn't you submit to the proceedings?"
  - John Williams: Many proceedings submissions from last year
- Sebastien:
  - JS Lemay: Software demos aren't proceedings papers
  - James Fairbanks: Asks for submissions and accept rate; EPTCS won't accept, right?
    - Forecasting to 4 is not great
- Rob Cornish: What has been the trend in general? How far back in time do we have?
  - JS Lemay: Lowest number of proceedings since ACT started
- John Morris: Could we have industry tracks?
  - Gioelle Zardini: ACT folks in industry but unfriendly industries
  - Dorette Pronk: "Oh, not interested in applications" and "not going to like my talk"
- JS Lemay: Thoughts about PC make-up, etc.?
  - Evan Patterson: What is the justification for churn?
    - JS Lemay: Same group of people who were always more or less affiliated together
      - You want to grow the people and community
      - Somewhat cliqueish beforehand
      - No complaints about PC reviews
        - Dorette Pronk: I liked the review process
      - Prior years, people half-assed it
      - For new folks, there was a sense of engagement
    - Gioelle Zardini: Not sustainable but can help with churn
    - James Fairbanks: Spreadsheet is very helpful
- Is 3 months typical between call and deadline?
  - Gabriel Goren-Roig: Last year was end of year
- Gabriel Goren-Roig: Fact that I am here from South meets I am missing during semester
  - JS Lemay: Europeans won't attend in August
- Rob Cornish: Is there less of an industry presence this year compared? What's the story?
  - JS Lemay: Last year, Mike had connections
- John Morris: I really enjoyed ACT2025 this year; people were nice, welcoming and tolerant of my lack of knowledge
- Sebastien: Having a primarily in person conference was great for networking and community building
- Sebastien: Could we have a Zoom, could we have zoom in place of videos?
  - Because of timezones
- Dorette Pronk: Why was it impossible to record meetings for ACT2025 this year?

- A: Because of the AV equipment in the venue and the cost of recording with rented equipment.
- Generally the community would prefer a limited-access in-person conference or primarily-remote conference?
  - Gioelle Zardini: I committed on Zulip to having Zoom support on MIT 2027
    - Afraid of not having many folks not showing up
    - JS Lemay: I support hybrid and remote conferences, but things cost money if folks don't show up
    - Gioelle Zardini: I would like to have recordings
    - JS Lemay: Online CT conference called Octoberfest
    - Dorette Pronk: Someone would need to step-up for ACT
- What will be done to ensure future conferences are held in safer, more accessible
- Laura Scull: Has anyone's institution not funded you if you could have zoomed?
  - JS Lemay: Yes, it is nice to be live so you could ask questions live
- Sebastien: Having the videos or slides would be the same as having an online component?
  - JS Lemay: No, it would not be the same
  - JS Lemay: Having slides and recordings is not a decision of the organizers but of the speaker
  - James Fairbanks: JS did ask for slides,
- Dorette Pronk: We should try to have an online ACT and see how it goes
- JS Lemay: See you tomorrow for a half-day!