# Program Committee Meetings Considered Harmful

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# Bad things about PC meetings

- Sometimes unproductive meeting dynamics
  - Overly assertive PC members
  - Waves of negativity
- Skewed representation
  - For many too much travel for one-day meeting

Harm to the environment

# Time and money?

- In two days, a PC could generate
  - 50-100 additional reviews, or
  - Small group on-line discussion + review summary for each paper (a la NSF)
- Travel money saved could send more students to conference

# Alternative

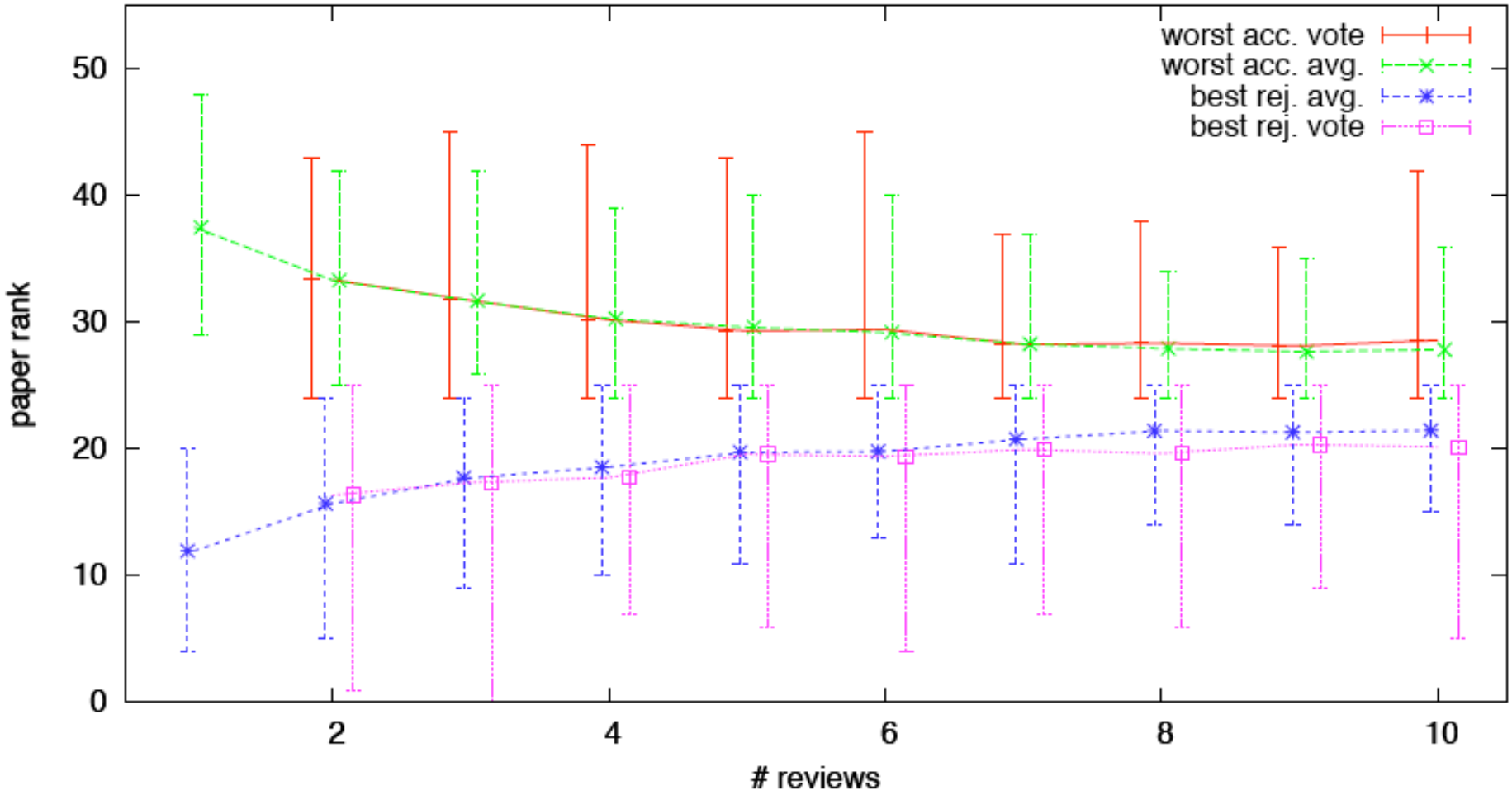
- Two or three PC chairs
- PC committee scores papers
  - On-line discussions for controversial papers initiated by PC chairs
- PC chairs come up with ranking function and select highest ranked papers
- One opportunity for PC members to disagree with selection (perhaps)

# Evaluation

- 150 submissions
- 25 papers to accept
- 100 experiments

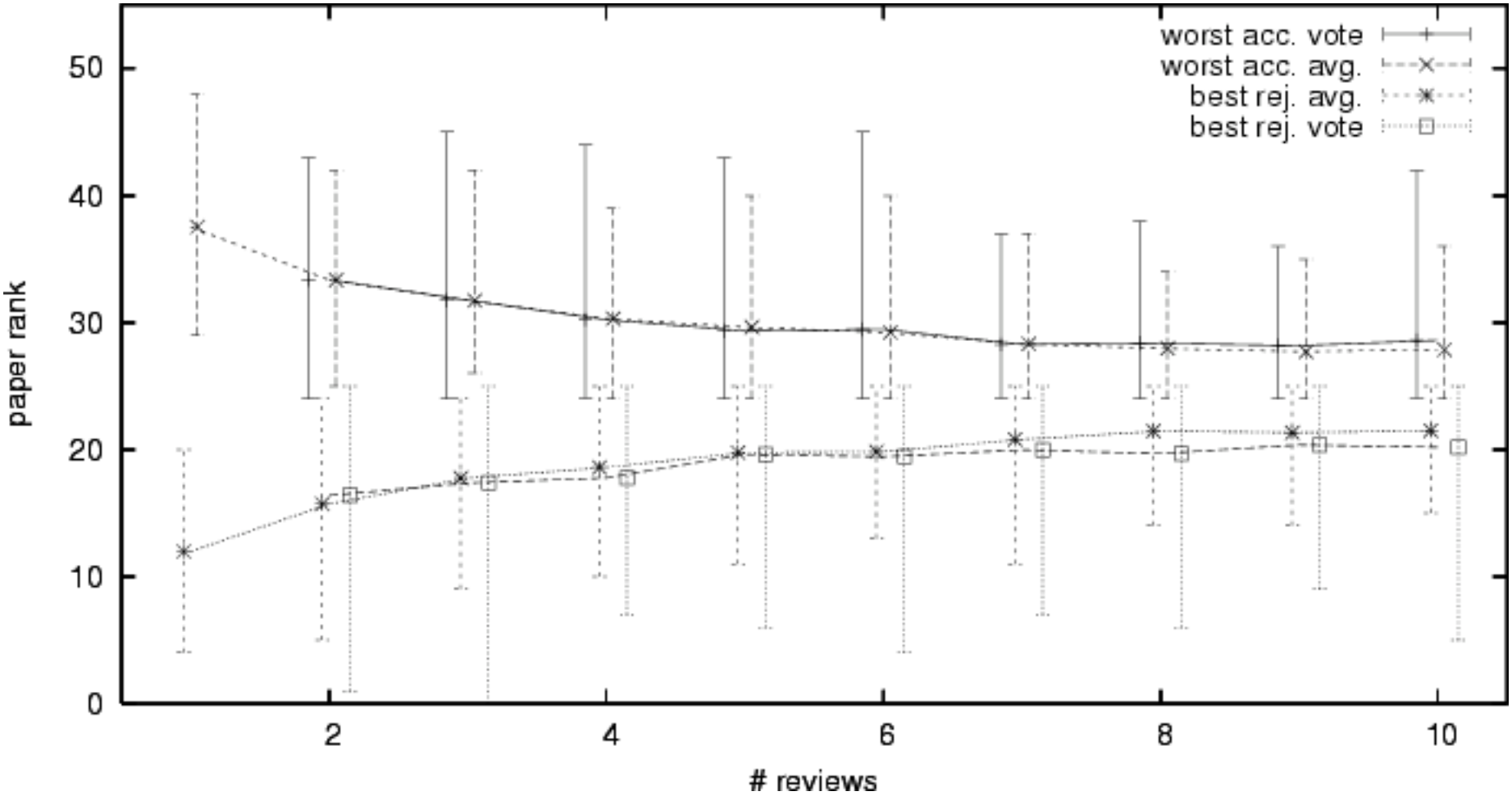
- Equipment:
  - Powerbook G4
  - Mac OS X

# Which works better: ranking or voting?



# Conclusion

*Does anyone strongly believe that a PC meeting improves the quality of the reviewing process sufficiently to offset the disadvantages I have presented?*


worst acc. vote
worst acc. avg.
best rej. avg.
best rej. vote
paper rank
# reviews
0
10
20
30
40
50
2
4
6
8
10