



#### 4606 Committee

David Eyers (chair), William Fornaciari, Xiao Liu, Jan Rellermeier, Abusayeed Saifullah

#### Additional Reviewers

#### Decision

Conference to be ranked as A

#### Justification

This conference was ranked A and applied to be ranked A\*.

This is clearly a strong conference. Its citations are at the level of A/A\* conferences and it has a google h5 of 34, which is strong, though not in the top 20 for the category.

The program committee is in general strong, with 66 of 89 members as established researchers, and a median h-index of 17, although there are 6 members with h-index of 0-4. A reasonable number of the established members of the PC are publishing regularly here, although they are not publishing as strongly in A\* conferences as they are in DSN.

The list of 10 regular participants is strong and it appears that they often attend as well as publish there. Unfortunately the list of area leaders was not chosen in a reproducible manner. They did all have high h-indexes but it was not possible to tell if they were the top people in the various keyword areas as the list was filtered manually and was not reproducible. Unfortunately this was a significant issue in this case as one of the key discriminators for A\* vs A is that top leaders in a sufficiently broad area do publish in the venue.

The majority of the expert area committee felt it should be A, but there was not a consensus. For this reason it was also reviewed by an additional Chair and by the Rankings Advisory Committee. There was substantial discussion and acknowledgement that it was somewhat borderline. However in the end it was agreed that it should stay A for now, but if the community wished to apply again next round with a better (and reproducible) list of area leaders, it could be reviewed again and may be considered A\*. It is not necessarily the case that A\* papers are likely to be higher quality than A papers, but A\* conferences have a broader reach outside of a specialised community.