DISC 2023
Environmental chairs report

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DISC 2023 business meeting
Role and outline

▶ Environmental chairs are part of the local organizing committee.
▶ Goal: Estimate carbon footprint of the conference, explore alternatives, implement local changes.
▶ Inspiration from ICALP 2022.

Outline of this presentation:

▶ DISC 2023 carbon emissions estimates
▶ Local actions
▶ Short presentation of the travel report
Context: Climate crisis

- CO2e emissions/person/year: current world average $\approx 5$ tons, US $\approx 15$ tons, Paris agreement target $\approx 1.5$ tons.
Getting precise estimates for non-travel emissions requires many design choices.

A large majority of the emissions are due to participant travel.
Local actions

Inspired by ICALP 2022, and discussion within the community.

► DISC Extended Stay Support Scheme.
  - Idea: list people working “close” to the conference who agree to host some conference participants for research visits.
  - Contacted 15 groups.
  - 5 groups agreed.
  - \( \approx 1 \) visit organized.

► Collaborative Research Week: could not happen.

► Looking at carbon offsets \( \rightarrow \) not convincing.
Travel report

- Original goal: Study how different locations impact CO2 emissions.
- By-product: a model to predict emissions for various attendance policies.
- Report sent on PODC mailing list, and discussion on zulip.
Different locations

Average CO2e tons per participant

- Paris: 2.1
- Berlin: 2.4
- Rome: 2.5
- Average: 2.8
- Toronto: 2.9
- Jerusalem: 3.3
- Orlando: 3.7
- San Francisco: 4.3
- Mexico City: 4.5
- Tokyo: 5.7

1.5
Different policies

Average CO$_2$e tons per participant

- Current average: 2.8
- Fixed: 2.5
- Oscillating: 2.1
- Oscillating + "10%" online: 1.8
- 2 hubs: 1.2
- 2 hubs + "10%" online: 0.7
Open problems

- This edition: an outlier or a consequence of personal policies?
- Open problem: how to maintain the PODC/DISC community, while strongly reducing its carbon emissions?
- Other location-related issues not mentioned here: visas and health/identity/family situations.