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**Henry M. Walker\*** ([walker@cs.grinnell.edu](mailto:walker@cs.grinnell.edu)), Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA 50112, and **Weichao Ma** and **Dorene Mboya**. *Variability of Referee Ratings of Conference Papers*.

A statistical study was conducted to determine the natural variation of ratings of papers given by different referees. More specifically, as part of the paper reviewing process for the 32nd Annual Symposium on Computer Science Education, sponsored by the Special Interest Group in Computer Science Education (SIGCSE), 10 papers were sent to about 100 referees each, in addition to the normal reviewing of the 220 submitted papers. The final study gives the results of this work, based on 1917 reviews completed by 482 referees. The data support correlations of a paper's overall rating with internal factors (technical content, writing quality, originality, significance) and external factors (referee gender, nationality, familiarity with topic, etc.). The study also shows the effect of group reviews (similar to NSF panels), and the divergence of opinions between authors and referees concerning a paper's subject. (Received August 26, 2000)