

Treasurer's Report 2020

Introduction

This report details membership and subscription data for the calendar year-end 2019. The 2019 fiscal year-end audit report will be posted online separately in the Fall of 2020 after the auditors have completed the annual process.

In 2019, the total number of IMS members increased. Subscriptions by institutions decreased this past year by 3% overall and by 4% for IMS core journals. The financial status of the Institute continues to be stable and strong, and actions are in place to ensure its long-term stability. Details of the events of the past year, membership and subscription data, sales data are given below.

Publications

The following is a list of all current IMS core, co-sponsored, supported and affiliated journals:

[IMS Core Print/Electronic Publications](#)

- Annals of Applied Probability
- Annals of Probability
- Annals of Statistics
- Annals of Applied Statistics
- Statistical Science
- IMS Monographs
- IMS Textbooks
- IMS Bulletin

[Co-Sponsored Print/Electronic Publications](#)

- Electronic Communications in Probability
- Electronic Journal of Probability
- Electronic Journal of Statistics
- Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics
- NSF-CBMS Series in Probability and Statistics
- Probability Surveys
- Statistics Surveys

[Supported Publications](#)

- ALEA: Latin American Journal of Probability and Mathematical Statistics
- Annales de l'Institut Henri Poincaré
- Bayesian Analysis
- Bernoulli
- Bernoulli News
- Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics

[Affiliated Publications](#)

- Observational Studies
- Probability and Mathematical Statistics

- Stochastic Systems

Membership, Subscription and Sales Data

Membership Data

Table 1 presents the membership data back to 2014. Total individual paid membership in the Institute as of December 31, 2019 increased by 15% from December 31, 2018. This is largely due to an increase in members from mainland China. The total number of paid IMS members in 2019 was 2788. The IMS had its peak in paid membership in 2008 with 3156 members. The IMS Executive Committee continues to look for ways to address our membership numbers.

Geographic Distribution of Members. The IMS membership is currently distributed as follows:

- 59% United States
- 18% Asia
- 14% Europe
- 4% Canada
- 2% Australia and New Zealand
- 2% South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean
- 1% Africa

Selection of Journals by Members: Print subscriptions by members continued to decrease in 2019, as expected because members are opting to reduce their use of print while enjoying free electronic access to all journals. Members are charged actual cost for print copies of journals, so there is no net loss or gain to the bottom line from changes in print subscriptions by members. Table 2 shows the current selection of print journals by members.

The IMS offers [joint membership opportunities](#) with the following societies:

- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- Applied Probability Society/INFORMS (APS/INFORMS)
- Bernoulli Society (BS)
- Indian Society for Probability and Statistics (ISPS)
- International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA)
- International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA)
- International Statistical Institute/Bernoulli Society (ISI/BS)
- New England Statistical Society (NESS)

Institutional Subscription Data

Table 3 presents comparative subscription data for institutions to each of our scientific journals for 2019 and previous years. Almost all journals experienced subscription decreases in 2019. Overall, institutional subscriptions decreased by 3.2%. The decrease to IMS journals, specifically, was 4.2%. We are continuing to see usage of our bundled offerings which are discounted on the whole. Approximately 60% of the institutional subscribers to IMS journals are in USA and Canada, with the remaining subscribers distributed throughout the world.

Book Sales Data

Table 4 presents sales data for all IMS book series. In 2010, the IMS published its first volumes in a cooperative arrangement with Cambridge University Press to publish two series, *IMS Monographs* and *IMS Textbooks*. Sales of these volumes are going very well.

Financial and Audit Report

The fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. The external audit of the IMS will be completed in August 2020. The full audit report will appear online at <https://www.imstat.org/council-reports-and-minutes/>.

Conclusion

The IMS Executive Committee has reviewed all data in this report. A long-term financial plan is already in place and the IMS continues to be strong and stable financially. The decreases in institutional subscriptions are being felt across the market and are not unexpected. The IMS leadership began planning for these decreases over 15 years ago and has ensured that IMS resources are shored up to protect the long-term stability and growth of the society.

Zhengjun Zhang
Treasurer

**Membership and Subscriber Data
Tables**

| TABLE 1: MEMBERSHIP, Calendar Year | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Membership Type | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | % change |
| Regular | 1616 | 1587 | 1565 | 1447 | 1384 | 1397 | 0.94% |
| Life/Retired Life | 516 | 528 | 541 | 563 | 613 | 617 | 0.65% |
| Reduced Country/Retired/IMS China | 364 | 376 | 337 | 370 | 351 | 704 | 100.57% |
| New Graduate | 87 | 58 | 113 | 213 | 76 | 70 | -7.89% |
| Student | 1187 | 1236 | 1094 | 1022 | 852 | 722 | -15.26% |
| Total | 3770 | 3785 | 3650 | 3615 | 3276 | 3510 | 7.14% |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total not including free members (students) | 2583 | 2549 | 2556 | 2593 | 2424 | 2788 | 15.02% |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| TABLE 2: MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year | | | | | | | |
| Print subscriptions | | | | | | | |
| Individual Members** | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | % change |
| AAP | 100 | 80 | 68 | 61 | 54 | 46 | -14.81% |
| AOP | 108 | 97 | 75 | 68 | 57 | 50 | -12.28% |
| AOAS | 171 | 141 | 107 | 91 | 87 | 83 | -4.60% |
| AOS | 284 | 262 | 220 | 208 | 191 | 174 | -8.90% |
| STS | 534 | 464 | 386 | 382 | 387 | 325 | -16.02% |
| Total Member Print | 1,197 | 1,044 | 856 | 810 | 776 | 678 | -12.63% |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| TABLE 3: INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, Calendar Year | | | | | | | |
| Paid Subscriptions | | | | | | | |
| Institutions | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | % change |
| AAP | 600 | 591 | 580 | 558 | 537 | 519 | -3.35% |
| AOP | 795 | 779 | 769 | 735 | 706 | 673 | -4.67% |
| AOAS | 346 | 368 | 349 | 341 | 341 | 343 | 0.59% |
| AOS | 985 | 948 | 962 | 929 | 906 | 861 | -4.97% |
| STS | 753 | 717 | 708 | 671 | 666 | 629 | -5.56% |
| BULL | 102 | 96 | 90 | 75 | 71 | 70 | -1.41% |
| CIS | 216 | 199 | 182 | NA | NA | NA | 0.00% |
| Supported Journal: Bernoulli | 292 | 299 | 298 | 303 | 298 | 294 | -1.34% |
| Supported Journal: AIHP | 297 | 305 | 304 | 300 | 289 | 288 | -0.35% |
| Supported Journal: BJPS | 124 | 135 | 135 | 134 | 132 | 142 | 7.58% |
| Total Institutional Paid | 4,510 | 4,437 | 4,377 | 4,046 | 3,946 | 3,819 | -3.22% |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total IMS Core Journals Only | 3,479 | 3,403 | 3,368 | 3,234 | 3,156 | 3,025 | -4.15% |
| | | | | | | | |
| TABLE 4: Sales of IMS Monographs and IMS Textbooks | | | | | | | |
| Volume | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Total Sales |
| 6 Volumes IMS Monographs | 1,046 | 543 | 4,115 | 4,214 | 2,414 | 1,253 | 12,557 |
| 11 Volumes IMS Textbooks | 1,093 | 1,254 | 777 | 630 | 1,018 | 1,940 | 5,846 |
| TOTAL | 2,139 | 1,797 | 4,892 | 4,844 | 3,432 | 3,193 | 18,403 |

Report for IMS: Annals of Applied Probability

Editors in Chief: François Delarue (Nice) and Peter Friz (Berlin), since January 2019. Previous editor: Balint Toth.

Board: As of July 2020

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Pauline Barrieu | Arnulf Jentzen |
| Mathias Beiglboeck | Antti Knowles |
| Nathanael Berestycki | Gabor Lugosi |
| Anup Biswas | James Martin |
| Jochen Blath | Johannes Muhle-Karbe |
| Charles Bordenave | Pierre Del Moral |
| Francesco Caravenna | Ashkan Nikeghbali |
| Dan Crisan | Ivan Nourdin |
| Jean-Dominique Deuschel | Nicolas Perkowski |
| Jian Ding | Miklos Rásonyi |
| Ayalvadi Ganesh | Mathieu Rosenbaum |
| Stefan Gerhold | Mykhaylo Shkolnikov |
| Emmanuel Gobet | Jan Swart |
| Patrícia Gonçalves | Pierre Tarres |
| Massimiliano Gubinelli | Amandine Veber |
| Ben Hambly | Nikolaos Zygouras |
| Ajay Jasra | |

There is a total of 33 members, including 3 females. In comparison with the board we reported last year, two associated editors resigned and three new ones have joined us:

- Claudia Kluppelberg left the board in 2019 because she became president of the Bernoulli society.
- Sandrine Piché left the board in 2020, for personal reasons.
- Pierre Del Moral joined us in 2019 (second semester). We invited him as we needed some help to handle the high number of submissions we have been receiving on stochastic algorithms, filtering, particle methods...
- Ivan Nourdin joined us in early 2020. He has a strong background on Malliavin calculus, Stein Method and more generally on Stochastic processes.
- Antti Knowles joined us in June 2020. He is a specialist of random matrices and random graphs.

Organization: The system with two editors works very well and is (to our mind) really efficient. We have one (online) meeting per week, during which we pre-screen all the new submissions: The most noticeable fact is that we require, for a significant number of submissions, quick evaluations from experts in the field. This allows us to reduce the number of papers that are assigned to associate editors (so that they can focus on the best ones) and also to give them some preliminary opinions or suggestions of referees.

We also had a general meeting of the board in Nice in September 2019. Around half of the members of the board attended the meeting. IMS supported the organization of the dinner between the associate editors. As the meeting was successful, we have scheduled a new one for January 2021 in Berlin.

Editorial policy: Obviously, our objective is to maintain the high quality of the journal. Our feeling is that we receive very good submissions and, from the feedbacks we have from them, the associate editors have a similar opinion.

As mentioned in our 2019 report, we sometimes receive submissions for which a conference version already exists. Our policy in this matter is as follows: Generally speaking, we are not interested in republishing already existing materials; we thus consider such submissions positively only if there exists a significant difference between the submission and the conference version; decisions are then taken case by case. We had first in mind to add some text on the web site of the journal, but we finally concluded that this could be regarded as discouraging if the text were too hard (we here think of some field connected with machine learning where conference versions are rather frequent; we don't want to systematically discourage authors to submit to AAP); but, in the same time, we didn't want to have a too positive text as this would have been seen as an encouragement to resubmit existing materials. We thus decided not to modify the web site.

Activity of the journal and Covid pandemics: It is certainly worth saying that Covid pandemics and resulting lockdown measures presented a real challenge for many board members with young family, including the two editors. Associate editors also reported that it was more difficult to find referees during the pandemics and also that reviewers were asking for more time to handle papers.

As for the number of submissions, we haven't observed a significant decrease in the number of submissions in comparison with 2019. In April and May 2020, the numbers of submissions are slightly below those of 2019 (32 vs. 40 submissions in April and 30 vs. 35 submissions in May). The numbers for June are pretty much the same in 2019 and 2020: 43 vs. 44.

Statistics:

For 2019 (papers submitted between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2019)

416 submissions
241 rejected (including 115 desk rejections)
25 rejected with resubmission
46 accepted
34 still waiting for a first recommendation (13 \geq 9 months)
59 in revisions
11 withdrawals

Desk rejection rate: 28%
Estimate of the acceptance rate: 30%

For 2020 (papers submitted since January 1st 2020)

243 submissions
79 rejected
6 rejected with resubmission
1 accepted

Nice and Berlin,

July 25, 2020,

F. Delarue and P. Friz.

ANNALS OF APPLIED STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT FOR Calendar Year 2019

Karen Kafadar, Editor-In-Chief

The Annals of Applied Statistics (AOAS) has been accepting submissions since October 2006 and the number has grown steadily in the past 13+ years; see Figure on p.3. The counts for the first six months of 2020 have ranged from 46 to 61.

The list of AOAS Area Editors is:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Karen Kafadar | Editor-In-Chief |
| Edoardo Airoldi | Editor, Computational Biology and Machine Learning |
| Beth Ann Griffin | Editor, Social Sciences, Biostatistics and Policy |
| Leonhard Held | Editor, Epidemiology and Clinical Science |
| Jeffrey Morris | Editor, Biology, Medicine, and Genomics |
| Brendan Murphy | Editor, Social Sciences and Government |
| Nicoleta Serban | Editor, Physical Science, Engineering, and the Environment |

In 2018 we received 510 submissions, close to the numbers for the past two years (551 in 2017, 564 in 2016), between 33 and 52 new submissions per month. Tilmann’s punctual “Level-0” decisions (E-i-C decisions) did much to reduce the time in review, as did “Level-1” decisions (Area Editor only without further review). About 40% of the 2019 submissions received a first editorial response within one month, 60% within three months, and 85% within six months:

Table 1: Review Time to Initial Decision

| Days to First Decision | ≤ 7 | 8–30 | 31–90 | 91–180 | ≥ 181 | Total |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| 2014 | 163 35% | 30 6% | 102 22% | 107 23% | 60 13% | 462 |
| 2015 | 196 39% | 30 6% | 95 19% | 141 28% | 35 7% | 497 |
| 2016 | 236 42% | 72 13% | 106 19% | 130 23% | 20 4% | 564 |
| 2017 | 284 52% | 59 11% | 107 19% | 84 15% | 17 3% | 551 |
| 2018 | 284 41% | 59 16% | 107 18% | 84 13% | 17 8% | 510 |
| 2019 | 62 12% | 144 27% | 117 22% | 135 25% | 81 15% | 540 |

Our acceptance rate continues at $\sim 20\%$. Since its inception, AOAS has accepted 20.6% of its 6308 submissions; 75% have been rejected, rejected with re-submission, or withdrawn. In 2019, the Editor-In-Chief withdrew 194 of the 540 submissions (36%) as being inconsistent with the journal’s mission or not yet ready for review, with a median time to decision of 12 days. As a submission proceeds to peer review, one of the Area Editors or the Editor-in-Chief oversees the manuscript review, aided by our board of Associate Editors. The yearly totals of submitted and accepted papers and impact factors since 2007 are as follows:

Table 2: AOAS Submissions and Impact Factor by Year

| Year | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| #Submissions | 286 | 274 | 352 | 418 | 468 | 472 | 494 | 462 | 497 | 564 | 551 | 510 | 540 |
| #Acc/MinorRev | 96 34% | 98 36% | 121 34% | 109 26% | 96 21% | 90 19% | 111 22% | 102 22% | 86 17% | 117 21% | 70 13% | 63 12% | 31 6% |
| #Active | | | | | | | 1 0% | 1 0% | 3 1% | 7 1% | 6 1% | 12 2% | 6 1% |
| Impact Factor | | 2.45 | 2.57 | 1.75 | 1.58 | 2.24 | 1.68 | 1.46 | 1.43 | 1.58 | 1.55 | 1.79 | |
| 5-Yr Impact* | | 2.48 | 2.58 | 2.44 | 2.55 | 2.90 | 2.44 | 2.31 | 2.16 | 2.27 | 2.26 | 2.19 | |

*The journal impact factors come from

<https://academic-accelerator.com/Impact-Factor-IF/Annals-of-Applied-Statistics>
which lists a 3-year impact factor of 2.19, up from 1.81.

Several of our long-time reliable Associate Editors have requested “retirement,” and we have been replacing them as the need arises. We welcome suggestions for reliable AEs, especially those who are familiar with AOAS as previous referees. My main goal for 2020 and beyond is to reduce our times to first decision.

I am tremendously grateful to Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their continuously outstanding support of our daily operations. Both have been very helpful and prompt in handling all of our inquiries, and in preparing the data file used for this report.

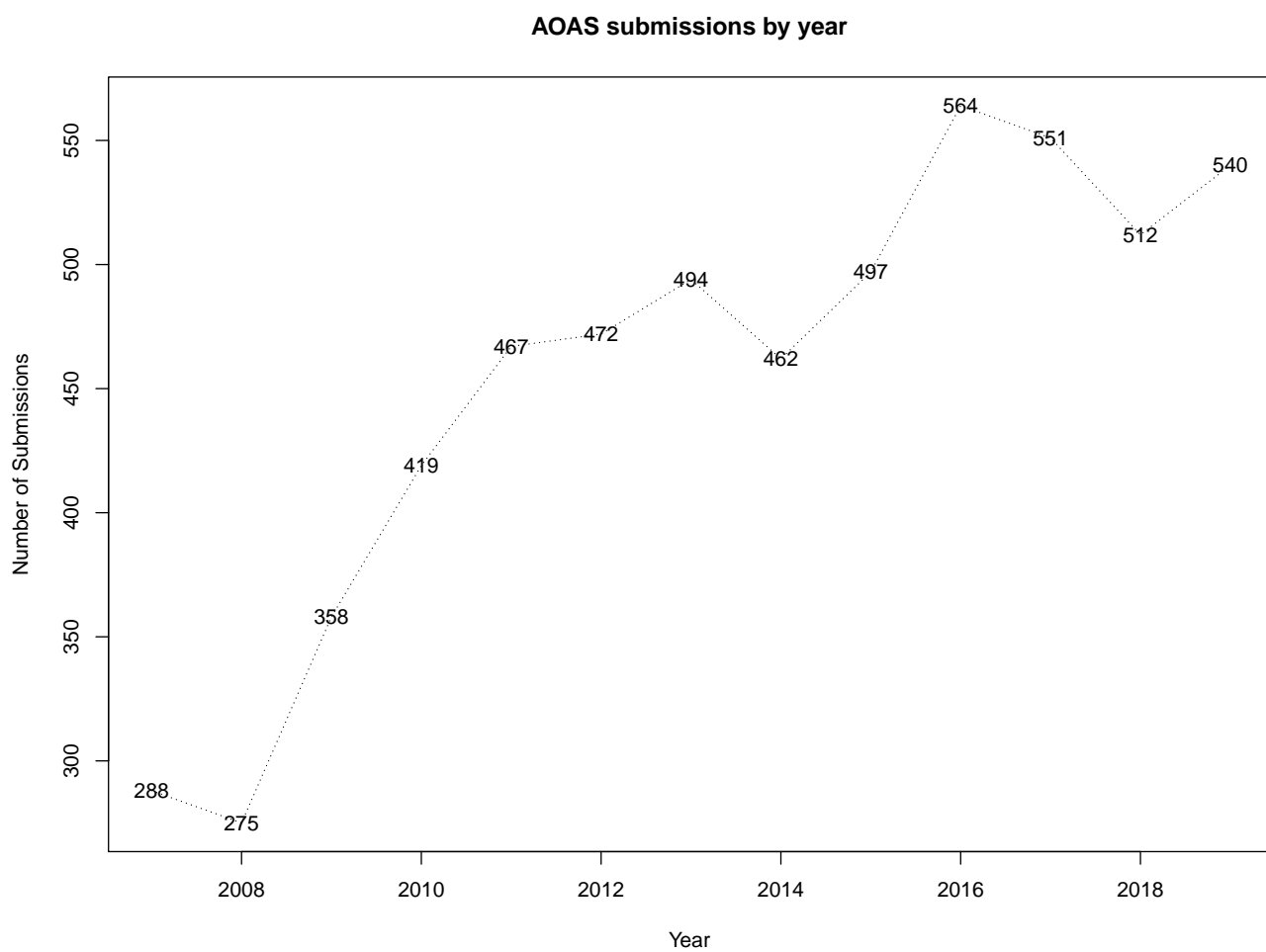


Figure 1: Annual submissions (13 full years, 2007-2019)



Elyse Gustafson <imstat@gmail.com>

2020 Editorial Report for the AoP (2019 submissions & 2020 backlog).

1 message

Amir Dembo <adembo@stanford.edu>
To: Elyse Gustafson <erg@imstat.org>
Cc: Amir Dembo <adembo@stanford.edu>

Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 5:24 PM

Annals of Probability: Editor's report

Prepared by Amir Dembo

In the period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, the Annals of Probability received 304 submissions.

As of July 14, 2019, of these submissions -- 210 have been rejected, 44 accepted and 14 withdrawn. Most of the 36 remaining submissions are in second round of review. We anticipate 90% acceptance from the latter group, to get an overall acceptance rate of 25% for the 2019 submissions, in line with the journal's 26% acceptance rate among 2018 submissions.

The Annals of Probability published 4200 pages in 2019. For 2020 the IMS Council approved a total of 3200 pages in our new format, which is 25% more efficient than what was used in 2019.

As of June 25, 2019, there are about 1500 pages in accepted papers waiting for publication indicating a current backlog of about 7 month.

To mitigate the increase in the number of very long papers, we continue with our policy of encouraging the use of supplemental material for such articles.

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The Annals of Statistics, 2019 Annual Report

Richard J. Samworth and Ming Yuan, Editors

SUBMISSIONS: We received 694 submissions in 2019. This is not too far off the historical high of 718 achieved in 2016. For comparisons, the number of submission in the years of 2009–2018 were, respectively, 505, 532, 502, 555, 607, 697, 694, 718, 686 and 637. Of the 694 submissions, 8 were withdrawn before or during review. In addition, we handled 82 requests for revision. Our editorial policy continues to emphasise that The Annals of Statistics aims at publishing research papers of highest quality, reflecting the many facets of contemporary statistics, including all mathematical, methodological, computational and interdisciplinary work. An overview of the data is given in Figure 1.

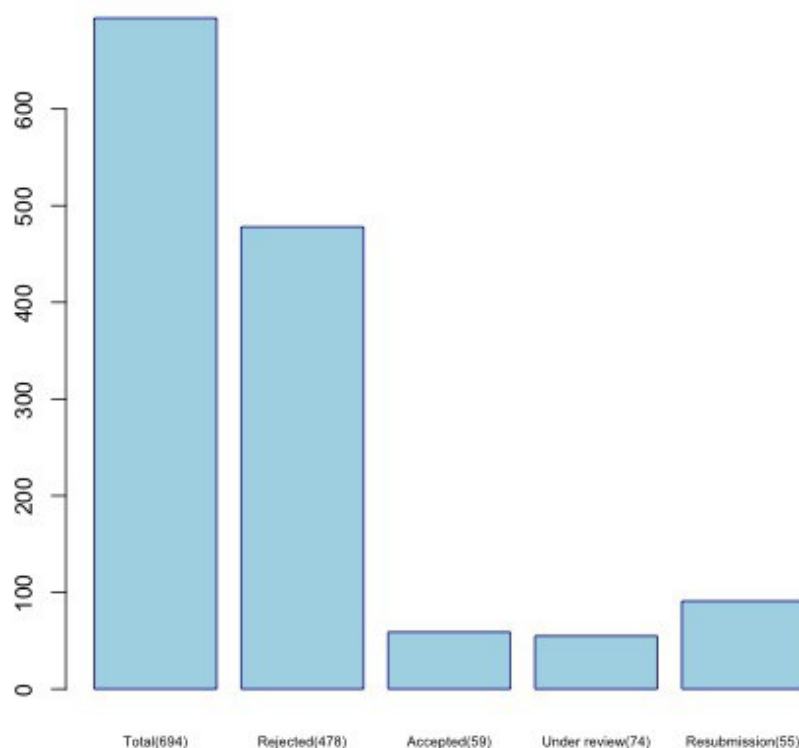


Figure 1: Submissions in 2019

ACCEPTANCE RATE: For papers submitted during 2019, we have to date (June 2019) accepted 59, rejected 478, and rejected 91 with the possibility to resubmit. Currently, 55 submissions are still under review or revision. The acceptance rate is 8.60%, which is slightly below the acceptance rates in the past few years (11.44% in 2018, 10.16% in 2017, 10.82% in 2016, 13.12% in 2015, 10.33% in 2014) described in the AOS annual reports. Note that, since some papers are still under review, this is not the final acceptance rate among the manuscripts submitted in 2019.

BACKLOG AND PAGE REQUEST: During 2019, we printed 3608 pages (3866 pages in 2018, 2763 pages in 2017, 2779 pages in 2016, 2794 pages in 2015, 2585 pages in 2014). Currently, we have a substantial backlog of papers to be published, though we believe this is gradually coming down. As of now we have roughly 3800 pages in proofs (the recent switch to a denser style file means this is a smaller number than it would otherwise have been), which amounts to around 8 and a half issues if we stay at 450 pages an issue. We would like to request an allotment of 3700 pages for 2021.

REVIEW TIMES: The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2019 were 10 days, 73 days and 131 days. The corresponding quartiles from 2018 were 14 days, 99 days and 160 days, in 2017 were 8 days, 103 days and 178 days, and in 2016 were 9 days, 86 days and 175 days. The details of the review times are summarised in Figures 2 and 3, which provide for submissions in 2019 estimated survival curves for initial and second decision times respectively.

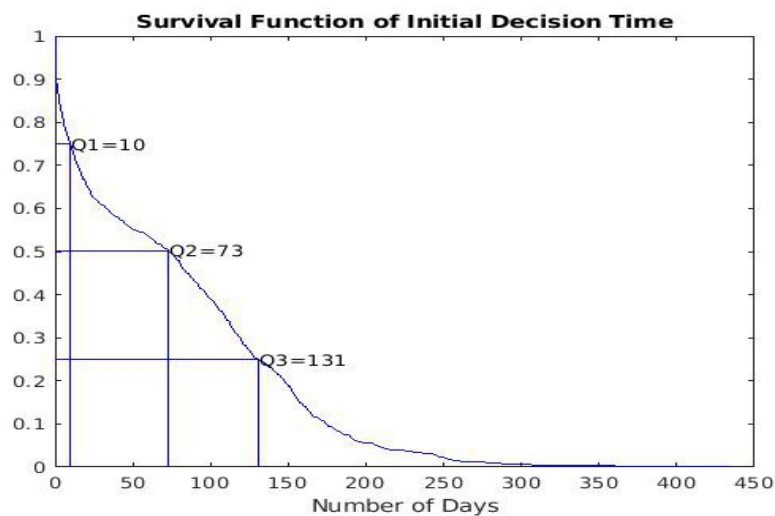


Figure 2: *Survival Function of Initial Decision Time*

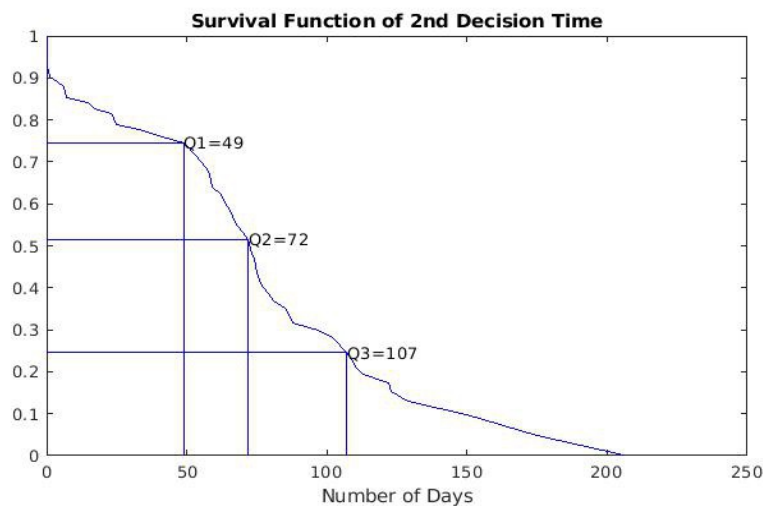


Figure 3: *Survival Function of 2nd Decision Time*

Annual Report - Statistical Science

Sonia Petrone, Editor

As of 8 July 2020, 74 manuscripts were at various stages of review (48) or revision (26) for Statistical Science (13 of these have been back with authors for over 18 months, and could probably be discounted). From 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2020, 201 manuscripts were submitted; of these, 135 have been rejected, 28 are still in various stages of review or revision, and 38 (including invited discussions for special issues) have been accepted. The rejection rate has been 0.67 and the acceptance rate 0.19. The following table shows this information broken down by month of submission.

| | Received | Rejected | In review or revision | Accepted |
|----------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| June 2019 | 18 | 10 | 0 | 8 |
| July 2019 | 16 | 14 | 1 | 1 |
| August 2019 | 21 | 15 | 3 | 3 |
| September 2019 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| October 2019 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| November 2019 | 26 | 15 | 1 | 10 |
| December 2019 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| January 2020 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| February 2020 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| March 2020 | 17 | 14 | 2 | 1 |
| April 2020 | 28 | 21 | 6 | 1 |
| May 2020 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| overall | 201 | 135 | 28 | 38 |

I anticipate that the total number of manuscript pages for 2020 will be about 640 as allotted. Roughly the same number of pages should be planned for 2021.

Statistical Science published a memorial issue for Lawrence D. Brown (34(4), November 2019), and a special issue on ‘Statistics and Science’ (35(1), February 2020) with Guest Editor David Siegmund. A special issue on ‘Causal Inference’, with Guest Editors Jason Roy and Dylan Small, is forthcoming soon (35(3), August 2020) and a special section on ‘Network Analysis and Applications’ with Guest Editors Yihong Wu and Harrison Zhou is also almost ready for publication. We are working on a future special issue on ‘the lessons we learned’ from the COVID-19 pandemics and on the role of Statistics and data science in facing a crisis, with Chiara Sabatti and John Chambers as guest editors.

I took over from Cun-Hui Zhang as Editor of Statistical Science on April 1, 2020 (postponed with respect to the usual schedule (Jan 1, 2020), due to a sudden serious damage to my sight). I thank Cun-Hui for having continued in the role of Editor to the end of March, and I am very grateful to Peter Green who is kindly serving as Deputy Editor for a few months, greatly helping with the initial screening of submissions.

Cun-Hui did an excellent work and passed along a rich backlog of accepted and high quality in-review papers and of designed special issues, which will cover all the 2020 issues and the first issue of 2021, and possibly more. Cun-Hui has given precious advice for the transition and is kindly continuing to handle legacy submissions and special issues.

I am very grateful to each of the members of the Editorial Board: Shankar Bhamidi, Peter Bühlmann, Jiahua Chen, Rong Chen, Rainer Dahlhaus, Robin Evans, Stefano Favaro, Peter Green, Susan Holmes, Tailen Hsing, Michael I. Jordan, Theo Kypraios, Chris Holmes, Ian McKeague, Vladimir Minin, Peter Möller, Luc Pronzato, Nancy Ried, Jason Roy, Chiara Sabatti, Richard Samworth, Bodhisattva Sen, Glenn Shafer, Michael Stein, Jon Wellner, Yihond Wu, Minge Xie, Bin Yu, Giacomo Zanella, Cun-Hui Zhang and Harrison Zhou.

I am very grateful to both Mattson Publishing Services and VTEX, who continue to be very responsive to the needs of the journal. I would also like to thank Elyse Gustafson, T.N. Sriram, Patrick Kelly, Geri Mattson, Kristina Mattson and Saulius Kurklys, from whom I receive invaluable editorial support. In particular, I would like to thank Kristina Mattson for her timely help whenever needed.

IMS Bulletin Report to Council 2020

The *IMS Bulletin*, published 8 times per year, is the news organ of the institute. Our aim is to bring IMS members (and other readers) news about IMS activities and members, and items of interest to statisticians and probabilists around the world.

Tati Howell, based in London, UK, has now been *IMS Bulletin* Editor (previously Assistant Editor) for just over a year, with oversight from Managing Editor Bob Keener (University of Michigan). The Contributing Editors are currently: Radu Craiu (new this year), Anirban DasGupta, Yoram Gat, David Hand, Takis Konstantopoulos, Xiao-Li Meng, Regina Nuzzo, Kavita Ramanan and Terry Speed. A few of them write regular columns, others contribute more occasionally. We are grateful to them all.

In the past year, we have published 18 obituaries: Colin Blyth, Jonathan Cryer, Mark H.A. David, Dick Dudley, Roger Farrell, David Finney, Janos Galambos, Joseph Heyse, David Hinkley, Salem Khamis, Tom Liggett, Marc Moore, Murray Rosenblatt, Ken Russell, S.S. Shrikhande, Cliff Spiegelman, Sue Wilson and Joel Zinn. We're preparing obituaries for Kenneth Arrow, Donald P. Gaver, Willem van Zwet and Yossi Yahav. Some of these obituaries are for members or Fellows who passed away a few years ago, which is thanks in part to the research of Paul Shaman for the recently announced Scientific Legacy Project, belatedly revealing a death we had been unaware of. As usual, we ask you all to get in touch if you hear of the death of an IMS member or Fellow, so we can arrange for an obituary to be written. You can read all our published obituaries since June 2011 on the Bulletin's website at <https://imstat.org/?s=obituary>.

Anirban DasGupta's Student Puzzle Corner continues, with a few student members engaging, sometimes repeatedly. We still publish lists of recent papers, rotating around IMS core, co-sponsored and supported journals (including electronic journals). We have also featured this year some of the work that members have been doing around COVID-19.

About three-quarters of IMS members receive the printed Bulletins in the mail (2442, plus 32 institutions); the rest opt for the electronic PDF/HTML version only. Since December 2019 the Bulletin's news articles have been posted on the main IMS website, at <https://imstat.org/news/> (previously it was at <http://bulletin.imstat.org>, in case you haven't updated your bookmark!). Tati uploads the news items and articles from each issue just after it has gone to the printers (hence, a couple of weeks before the print copies are mailed out). Google Analytics reports about 6,000 page views for the last 6 months of 2019 (on the old bulletin.imstat.org sub-domain) and 19,587 for the period December 1, 2019 to July 29, 2020 (in the new imstat.org/news/ location).

We post on the IMS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/IMSTATI>), which now has 2,896 followers, when issues are released, and also link to some news items and announcements directly. We also have a Twitter account, [@InstMathStat](https://twitter.com/InstMathStat), where new issue releases, and some news items, are tweeted.

As ever, we invite all members, and particularly Council members, to be proactive in writing or soliciting articles. And if you have any comments, suggestions or feedback, please email bulletin@imstat.org— or you can leave a comment on an article, obituary or news item posted at <https://imstat.org/news/>.

Tati Howell, July 2020

ACTIVITY REPORT: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IN PROBABILITY

july 9th, 2020

The editorial board:

Beatrice Acciaio, Anne-Laure Basdevant, Vincent Beffara, Nathanaël Berestycki, Djalil Chafaï, Paolo Dai Pra, [Leif Doering](#), Alessandra Faggionato, Patrik Ferrari, Peter Friz, [Paul Gassiat](#), Christina Goldschmidt, Patricia Gonçalves, Maria Gordina, [Geoffrey Grimmett](#), Bénédicte Haas, Antti Knowles, Andreas Kyprianou, Hubert Lacoin, Claudio Landim, Guenter Last, Xue-Mei Li, Gabor Pete, Peter Pfaffelhuber, Firas Rassoul-Agha, Victor Rivero, Silke Rolles, Rongfeng Sun, Samy Tindel

In [blue](#) the colleagues that joined the board during the last year.

The number of submissions is rather stable: 264 in 2018, 265 in 2019 and for the first 6 months of 2020 we have 139 submissions. To sum up the numerical data that appear below, fewer papers have been accepted in 2019, 33.5%, with respect to 2018 (36.3%).

Unfortunately the refereeing process has been slightly less efficient both for the papers that were finally accepted and for the rejected ones. For example, in 2018 only 33 papers were rejected in more than 20 days, while in 2019 this number almost doubled (61). On the other hand, the situation improves for the extreme cases, in particular the paper that took the longest to be rejected in 2018 took 305 days, against 266 in 2019.

For the accepted papers things are somewhat better (see the graphs), with a moderate slipping toward longer times: 42 accepted papers received the first answer in 90 days or less in 2018, 37 in 2019. If we go up to 120 days we step from 66 papers in 2018 to 57 in 2019. But one should keep in mind that 7 more papers have been accepted in 2018. The slipping can be seen also in the extreme case (287 days to 339).

The target of giving a first round answer in less than three months is not really approached.

Unfortunately, I fear that the lockdown period will produce a further slowdown, but the effect of the lockdown is difficult to estimate for now. In fact I observe somewhat contradictory phenomena: a slight increase in the number of submissions, the amount of papers for which we are waiting for a revision has doubled (from typically 10 to typically 20), several referees apologize for being late because of lockdown.

NUMERICAL DATA.

About 2020: the data are of course very incomplete. Over the 139 submitted papers, 85 have been rejected and 21 received a first round positive or non negative answer.

On papers submitted in 2019.

265 submitted paper of which:

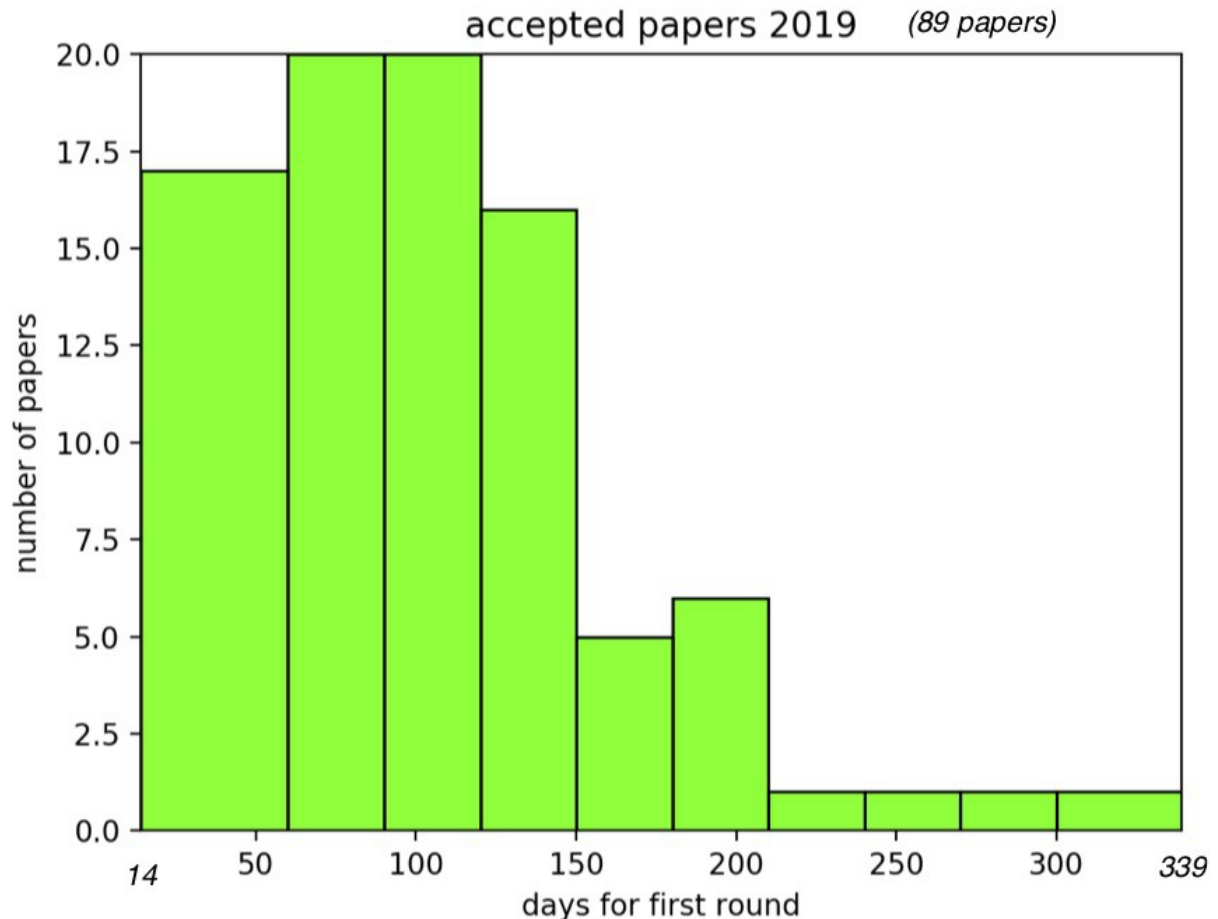
172 rejected (14 with resubmission option)

89 (accepted*, i.e. accepted or received non negative first round answer)

3 withdrawn

1 waiting for first round answer

Here is the histogram of the days till first answer:



In particular:

less than 2 months= 22%

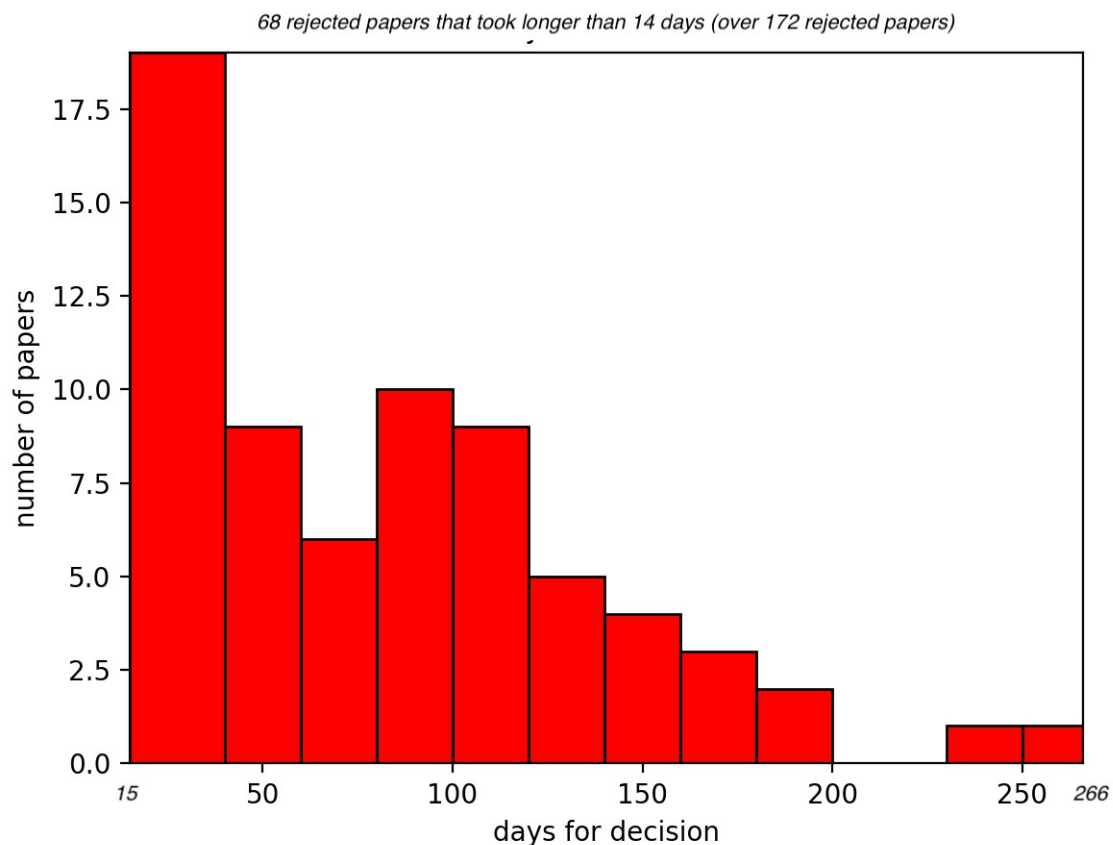
less than 3 months= 44%

less than 4 months= 68%

less than 5 months= 83%

less than 6 months= 89%

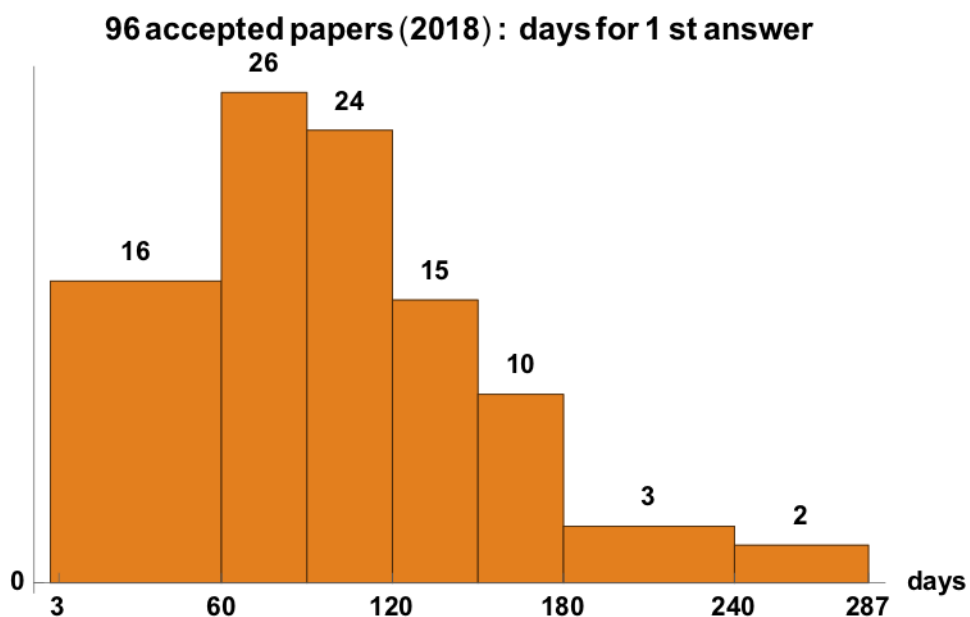
For what concerns the 172 rejected papers (14 with possibility of resubmission), **54% were rejected in less than one week and 60% were rejected in two weeks or less.** The time taken for the remaining 68 papers is represented in the next image:



less than 2 months= 76%
 less than 3 months= 85%
 less than 4 months= 91%
 less than 5 months= 96%

About 2018 (for comparison).

We recall here the situation for 2018 with the histogram of the number of days till first answer for accepted papers.



For the rejected papers:

61–100 days: 11 (2018) → 16 (2019)

101–150 days: 3 (2018) → 16 (2019)

more than 150 days: 12 (2018) → 9 (2019)

Worst case: 305 (2018) → 266 (2019)

July 9th 2020

Giambattista Giacomini (EiC ECP)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Giacomini', written over a faint circular stamp.

EJP report July 2020

1 Editorial Matters

1.1 Current editorial

The current make-up of the editorial is represented in the following table. The ones in **red** were inherited from the Editor-in-Chief tenures of Brian Rider (EJP) and Sandine Peché (ECP). They will remain until the end of the current EJP-ECP Editor-in-Chief tenure but should be the first to be replaced. There are five Associate Editors in **blue** who have been brought on board at irregular moments during the current tenure to help assist with the cumulative overwhelming number of papers we are receiving.

Of these five, it is worthy of note that Geoffrey Grimmett requested that he remain on the board strictly for two years (1st Jan 2020 - 31st Dec 2021).

| Editors-in-Chief | ECP: Giambattista Giacomini | EJP: Andreas Kyprianou | 2 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Associate Editors (ECP & EJP) | Beatrice Acciaio | Geoffrey Grimmett | |
| | Anne-Laure Basdevant | Bénédicte Haas | |
| | Vincent Beffara | Antti Knowles | |
| | Nathanael Berestycki (45) | Hubert Lacoin | |
| | Djalil Chafaï | Claudio Landim | |
| | Paolo Dai Pra | Gunter Last (27) | |
| | Leif Doering | Xue-Mei Li | |
| | Alessandra Faggionato | Gábor Pete | |
| | Patrik Ferrari | Peter Pfaffelhuber | |
| | Peter Friz | Firas Rassoul-Agha | |
| | Paul Gassiat | Victor Rivero | |
| | Christina Goldschmidt | Silke Rolles | |
| | Patricia Gonçalves | Rongfeng Sun | |
| | Maria Gordina | Samy Tindel | |
| Total | | | 28 30 |

After a consultation process, the IMS-Bernoulli selection board have chosen Bénédicte Haas as the new Editor-in-Chief for EJP and Siva Athreya as the new Editor-in-Chief for ECP, two excellent choices. I have been working together with Giambattista to help them get a feel for the two journals and the issues that need attention. The four of us have met twice and Giambattista and I have facilitated a discussion about how they want to reshape the editorial board.

I have advised the incoming Editor-in-Chiefs that I am not aware of any hard and fast rule how long editors can or should serve. Because of the growth in the journal, Associate Editors have been added to the editorial board at irregular times (not in sync with the hand-over to each new Editor-in-Chief). As tempting as it may be for the new Editor-in-Chiefs to entirely clear out the editorial board, I would not recommend removing anyone who has served less than 36 months at the time of hand over. Aside from an issue of fairness, the burn-in to the editorial experience can take up to a year, at which point one has a fully functioning and experienced Associate Editor. Removing an Associate Editor before 36 months is thus an inefficient use of expertise.

1.2 Editorial expertise

We have added three more editors (Paul Gassiat, Geoffrey Grimmett and Leif Döring), expanding the expertise covering stochastic processes, SPDEs, mathematical finance, percolation and statistical physics. There are also two specific areas which I continue to find particularly problematic to deal with:

- BSDEs and variants thereof: There are a large number of papers which lie in and around this field and it is quite difficult to gauge novelty. Often current editors (including myself) are not confident about finding referees.
- Stein's method and variants thereof: This field suffers from a lack of diversity in the refereeing pool and one has to work hard to find appropriate and disconnected referees from the authors.

In both cases, I have been the one who has mostly dealt with these papers. I have had to learn who is who in the community and, over the last couple of years, I have developed a collection of "go-to" people that I ask for referee names.

I have advised the new Editor-in-Chiefs of ECP/EJP there to be an Associate Editor with some expertise in these fields, but I want to leave this for the new incoming Editor-in-Chiefs to deal with. I have also noticed a slow creep in the number of papers which look at probabilistic analysis of machine learning and stochastic numerical algorithms that are mathematically deep enough to be considered at EJP. It is probably too early to address this through the editorial board, but one should keep an eye on it.

2 Paper handling matters

2.1 Data (1st January 2018 - 21st July 2020)

The cumulative over the period 1st Jan 2018 - 21st July 2020 appears as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| In review | 244 |
| Accepted | 266 |
| Rejected | 501 |
| Rejected with resubmission | 66 |
| Withdrawn | 19 |
| Total submitted | 1096 |

Based on the data above, excluding the papers that are in review, we thus see an acceptance rate of around 24%. This is an apparent sudden drop in acceptance from the data available in March 2020 (used as part of a handover document to the new Editor-in-Chief) which had an acceptance rate of 29%. I believe this to be the result of noise in the system at the time of writing this report as the acceptance rate has remained around 30% for the duration of my tenure. Brian Rider's final report indicated he had an acceptance rate of just under 30%. Hence the acceptance rate is around the same. Brian's 2017 report also indicated '*In 2014 and 2015 EJP saw 378 and 365 submissions, respectively, with an acceptance rate a bit above 30%*'

2.2 Data (1st January 2018 - 11th March 2020)

Figure 1 in the Appendix gives the response time data (number of days until first decision). It is notable that the distribution of the time to first decision has a heavy tail. This tail appears to be slightly heavier than in my previous reports. The gold standard of ideal of communicating a first decision within 180 days (approx 6 months) has become increasingly difficult to enforce through my tenure. Note that it is inevitable that the tail will become heavier through the 3-year tenure of any given Editor-in-Chief as cases will accumulate.

2.3 Editorial fatigue

Aside from the data indicating that the tail of the distribution of time to first decision is becoming heavier, I would say that I have anecdotally perceived that there is fatigue among some of the editors and the initial enthusiasm is naturally wearing off and response times are becoming longer. Part of this may be associated to the COVID crisis in which some of my editors pointed towards difficult conditions at home with the need to home school their children. Putting the latter aside, has been my advice to the incoming editors that it would be good to give editors the option to step down after 36 months of service because of fatigue.

3 Final note

This is my final report for EJP. It has been a great honour to have been the caretaker for the *Electronic Journal of Probability*. EJP and ECP are extremely precious projects that were gifted the probabilistic community and have become a beacon of excellence. In this respect, I would like to thank the IMS, Bernoulli Society and the community at large for the trust that was bestowed upon me. During my tenure, in addition to maintaining the absolute highest of academic standards, I hope to have stressed the importance of diversity in the editorial oversight process, in particular with regard to gender inclusivity.

Andreas E. Kyprianou

21st, July 2020

Appendix: Histograms

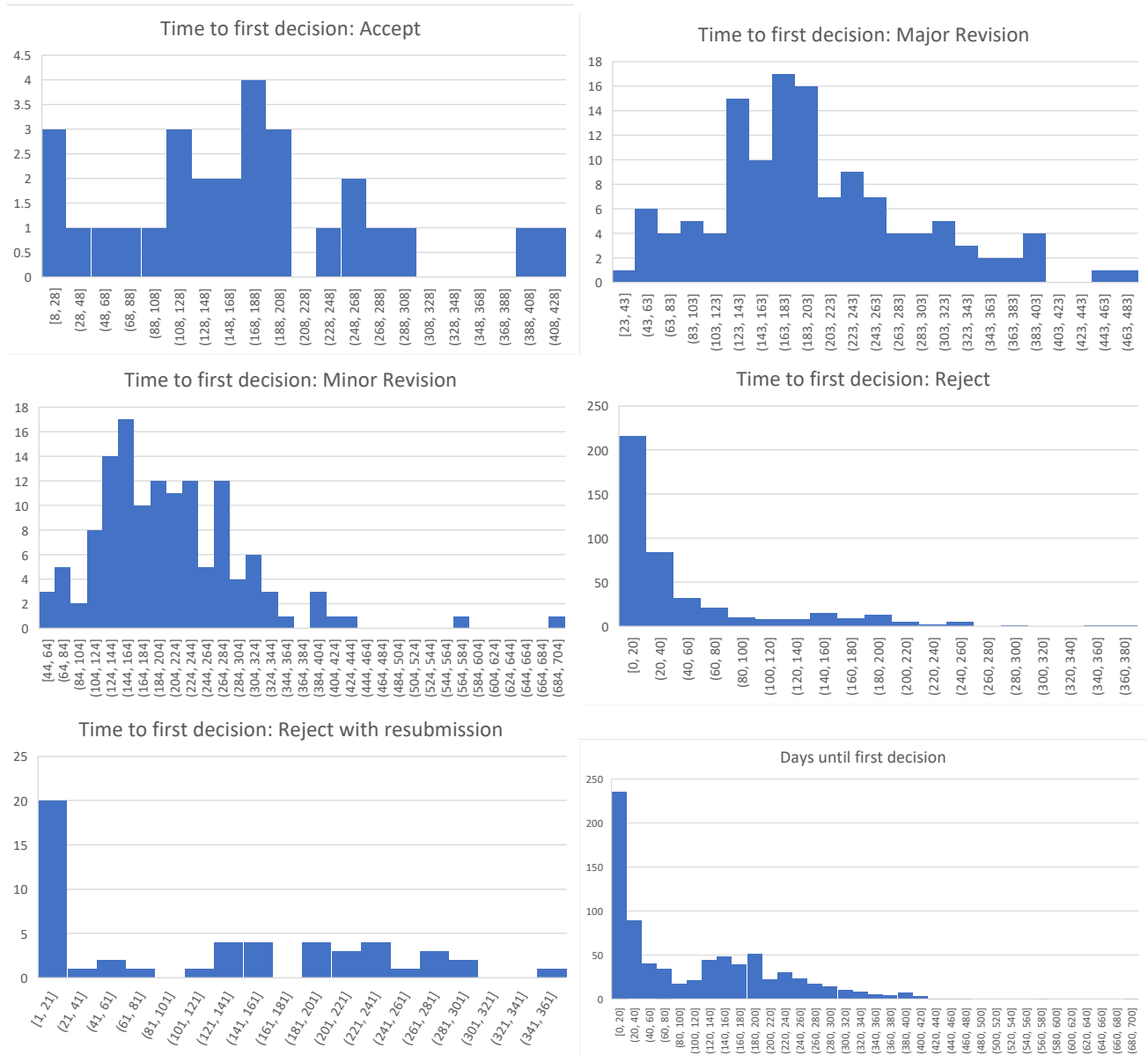


Figure 1: Response-time data from the period 1st January 2018 - 11th March 2020

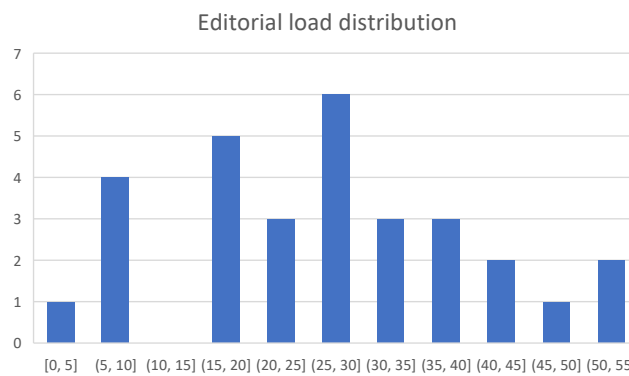


Figure 2: Editorial load 1st January 2018 - 11th March 2020

Annual Report

Electronic Journal of Statistics

Domenico Marinucci

July 10, 2020

This report covers the following periods:

- (i) January 1 - December 31, 2019
- (ii) January 1 – June 30, 2020

Period: Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2019

In 2019, 453 papers were submitted to EJS, basically constant with respect to the previous year 2018 (when they were 447). Out of these, in the first round 244 papers were rejected, 40 rejected with encouragement to resubmit, for 96 and 39 major or minor revisions (respectively) were proposed, while 7 were accepted directly; for 8 a decision has still to be taken while the remaining ones were withdrawn. Note that these data refer to the first decision only – out of the papers received in 2019, 92 have been accepted by today, 62 are still pending. Hence among the 2019 submissions 20.3% (92/453) were accepted, 13.7% (62/453) are still pending, all the others have been rejected or withdrawn. For a comparison, note that a final decision has been reached for all 451 submissions of 2018; among all these, 149 were eventually accepted (33%).

Among the 2019 submissions, the statistics for the days to a first decision are as follows:

Average: 84,1; Q1: 5 ; Q2 (Median): 80; Q3 :152,

where the average is basically identical to the one in 2018 (75,9), while the median is larger than in 2018 (it was 30; the first and third quartile are much closer to their previous values).

Overall, 128 papers were published in 2019, to be compared with 136 in 2018.

Period: Jan 1 - June 30, 2020

The reporting period this year is January 1 – June 30, during which 269 papers were submitted, with evidence of a steady increase over the last years (in the same periods, 250 papers were submitted in 2017, including about 20 for a special issue, 240 in 2018, 248 in 2019). So far, 138 papers have been rejected, 2 rejected with possibility to resubmit, for 6 and 7, respectively, major or minor revisions were proposed, two papers were withdrawn and only one was accepted on the first round; 113 papers are still waiting for a first decision. The rejection rate among papers for which a first decision has been reached is clearly very high but this proportion is very much biased upward and hence not very significant. Note, however, that about 50% of all submissions are now rejected directly by the Editorial Board without being sent to referees.

Among all submissions, the statistics for the days to a first decision are as follows:

Average: 23.7; Q1: 2 ; Q2 (Median): 6 ; Q3 : 22.5

All these numbers show a slight increase with the figures for the first months of 2019 (which were: Average: 14; Q1: 1 ; Q2 (Median): 4; Q3 :11); however it must be noted that the proportion of papers for which a decision has been taken is much larger this year.

Finally, the number of published pages by calendar year since 2010 are (Remark: Starting in 2014, the annual volume was split in two issues):

| Year | Number of Pages | Number of Articles |
|------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2010 | 1546 | 56 |
| 2011 | 2030 | 70 |
| 2012 | 2626 | 98 |
| 2013 | 3169 | 113 |
| 2014 | 3192 | 137 |
| 2015 | 3195 | 108 |
| 2016 | 4009 | 129 |
| 2017 | 5451 | 162 |
| 2018 | 4740 | 136 |
| 2019 | 5453 | 128 |
| 2020 | 2528 | 71 |

Current list of Associate Editors

There are currently 53 Associate Editors for EJS:

Felix Abramovitch, Edoardo Airoidi, Christophe Andrieu, Ery Arias-Castro, Alexander Aue, Francis Bach, Fadoua Balabdoui, Moulinath Banerjee, Gilles Blanchard, Florentina Bunea, Francois Caron, Ismael Castillo, Ngai Hang Chan, Yen-Chi Chen, Guang Cheng, Arnak Dalalyan, Herold Dehling, Mathias Drton, Chao Gao, Subhashis Ghoshal, Irene Gijbels, James Hobert, Mark Hoffmann, Kengo Kato, Vladimir Koltchinskii, Rafal Kulik, Antonio Lijoi, Jean-Michel Loubes, Eric Moulines, Sayan Mukherjee Axel Munk, Boaz Nadler, Richard Nickl, Debashis Paul, Giovanni Peccati, Emilio Porcu, Annie Qu, Mathieu Rosenbaum, Judith Rousseau, Theofanis Sapatinas, Armin Schwartzman, Johan Segers, Bodhisattva Sen, Xiaotong Shen, Ling Shiqing, Alexandre Tsybakov, Sara van de Geer, Ingrid van Keilegom, Harry van Zanten, Frederi Viens, Wei Biao Wu, Yingnian Wu, Minge Xie.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their extremely valuable support.

Report on Probability Surveys

Ben Hambly - Editor-in-Chief since 1st January 2015

Probability Surveys has a valuable role to play for the probability community providing well written articles on topics that are in need of consolidation or summary at points in their development. Probability Surveys publishes surveys articles covering any aspects of probability theory, its applications and its interactions with related fields. Any survey format is welcome (short and long, without proofs or with some proofs) as long as the article conveys a substantial amount of information about an interesting subject in an accessible way and with respect for the existing knowledge and literature in the area.

Over the last 5 years the journal has published:

Volume 12 (2015) 4 Surveys and 103 pages

volume 13 (2016) 4 Surveys and 244 pages

Volume 14 (2017) 5 Surveys and 327 pages

Volume 15 (2018) 6 Surveys and 306 pages

Volume 16 (2019) 6 Surveys and 332 pages

There are currently 15 Surveys at various stages in the editorial process. The current acceptance rate for papers is around 50%.

In the past the journal has provided the probability community with useful overviews of a range of areas within the field. However there was been a decrease in the number of submissions in recent years. If the journal is to maintain its high profile it is important that the submission rate increases. I would encourage any readers of this report to consider submitting a survey to Probability Surveys!

Statistics Surveys, Annual Report to the Institute of Mathematical Statistics

July 23, 2020

Prepared by: Wendy L. Martinez, Coordinating Editor

Statistics Surveys is sponsored by the American Statistical Association, the Bernoulli Society, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and by the Statistical Society of Canada. The editorial board contains one representative of each of these four societies and a coordinating editor. The board consists of: Marloes Maathuis (Institute of Mathematical Statistics), Sara van de Geer (Bernoulli Society), Ranjan Maitra (American Statistical Association), Richard A. Lockhart (Statistical Society of Canada), and Wendy L. Martinez (Coordinating Editor). David Banks' term on the board ended during this reporting period, and we want to thank him for his excellent service.

Wendy Martinez has been serving as the *Statistics Surveys* representative on the American Statistical Association Committee on Publications (CoP) since the start of the journal. It makes more sense to have Ranjan Maitra (the ASA Editor on *Statistics Surveys*) be appointed as the ASA CoP representative instead of Wendy. This change became effective June 2019. Furthermore, Dr. Maitra was officially appointed to the ASA CoP (outside of his position as an Editor of *Statistics Surveys*) by ASA 2020 President Wendy Martinez.

We held a meeting of the Editorial Board at the JSM 2019, and we thank IMS for supporting this meeting. As usual, we discussed the problem of obtaining more submissions. There were no major issues brought up at the meeting. We were planning to meet during JSM 2020 in Philadelphia, but that has now gone virtual. Wendy will explore options of holding a virtual Editorial Board meeting after the JSM, so in August or September of 2020.

Statistics Surveys did not have an invited session at JSM 2019 or JSM 2020.

ISSUES: The editors would like to highlight just one issue they had to deal with during this past year. We mentioned two papers that were in the system for more than a year, waiting for a revision. Wendy contacted the authors, and they said they would work on the revision. There appears to be little progress on getting revisions. Wendy will contact the authors again and will remove from the system, if necessary.

SUBMISSIONS During the period January 01, 2019 – June 30, 2020, twenty-three (23) manuscripts were submitted to the journal. This number is small when compared with other IMS journals, however this is to be expected given that the survey nature of viable papers requires such papers to be lengthier and to have been written by a smaller, select group of authors with substantial experience and strong credentials in their chosen subject areas. The editorial board has taken informal steps to increase the number of submissions, and there is a willingness amongst the board to encourage authors of potentially viable articles to revise and resubmit manuscripts.

The current status of the manuscripts is as follows:

Accepted: 7

Rejected: 13

Papers in review: 5

Rejected with resubmission encouraged: 2

THE BOARD OF ASSOCIATE EDITORS

For most of the reporting year, the editorial board consisted of: Martin Lindquist, Daniel Commenges, Enno Mammen, Guido Consonni, John Marden, Noel Cressie, Geoff McLachlan, Rainer Dahlhaus, Hannu Oja, Anirban DasGupta, Dominique Picard, Sujay Datta, Louis-Paul Rivest, Mathisca De Gunst, Qi-Man Shao, Jianqing Fan, Xiaotong Shen, Edward I. George, Simon Tavaré, Subhashis Ghosal, Stephen B. Vardeman, Nils L. Hjort, Grace Wahba, John D. Kalbfleisch, Yuhong Yang, Claudia Klüppelberg, Donglin Zeng, Vladimir I. Koltchinskii, Cun-Hui Zhang, Jerald F. Lawless, and Jun Zhu. The editors are very grateful for their continued assistance.

EJMS

The EJMS is working well. Geri Mattson and Elyse Gustafson are always quick to provide their advice and help when called upon.