

Annals of Applied Probability
Annual Report 2007
June 14, 2007

In 2006 there were 220 via the Electronic Journal Management System (EJMS) for 2006. My 6 mos projection had been 224 papers at time of last report, so rates were quite stable. The 10 year historic submission rates are now: 134, 183, 145, 170, 137, 149, 164, 196, 207, 220 manuscripts. The 2006 rate continues to apply to 2007, with 110 manuscripts received in the first five and one-half months of 2007 to date. The submission rate appears to be quite stable.

Ignoring papers still under review, the Acceptance/Rejection split for 2006 was 51/110 (31% accepted). This is essentially the same acceptance rate as that for 2005. There is no explicit effort to control the number of publishable papers in AAP, beyond quality control standards imposed by peer referees and the editorial board.

The number of printed pages for 2006 was 2275 and these were printed according to the Fat Issue Model of 4 issues.

A Lean Issue Model was proposed by the previous editor Robert Adler and approved by IMS council. This model is being applied for volume 17. To date AAP 17(1) 419 pages; AAP 17(2) 358 pages, AAP 17(3), 321 pages. The issue sizes should continue to range between 350 to 450 pages, depending on backlog. Adjustments are being made to maintain some backlog for uniform scheduling within the new model. Based on the current backlog the journal is operating on a median 5-6 months from acceptance to print.

The EJMS continues to be effective with infrequent minor glitches, thanks in a very large part to the dedicated and prompt support provided by Mattson Publishing Services. Continued flexibility to achieve a personalized EJMS design by VTEX for IMS is also an essential aspect of the system. In preparing this report I was reminded that it would be helpful to have an automated summary statistics data base on the review times, submission rates, acceptance rates etc.

The review time is often longer than the target 3 months. Some papers can be quite technical and long, and the process of both finding willing

reviewers and allowing time to conduct the review can take time. Allowances need to be made for this, coupled with the many-fold other demands on peer reviewers and Associate Editors.

The current Editorial Board consists of second term continuations by: Paul Dupuis, Maury Bramson, Claudia Kluppelberg, Russell Lyons, Leonid Mytnik, Timo Seppalainen, Denis Talay, and Ofer Zeitouni. New (first term) members are: Jinho Baik, Rabi Bhattacharya, Brigitte Chauvin, Rick Durrett, Luc Devroye, James Allen Fill, Jean-Pierre Fouque, Charles Newman, Vladas Sidoravicius, Qi-Man Shao, Jason Ross Schweinsberg, Prasad Tetali, Enrique Thomann, and Ruth Williams. Two new AEs were recently added: David Gamarnik and Steve Krone. to replace three departures.

The success of the journal is mostly in the hands of this very hard working and dedicated group of individuals and their anonymous referees who continue to do an outstanding job for the IMS and the larger profession.

Ed Waymire

ANNALS OF APPLIED STATISTICS, EDITORIAL REPORT

June 1, 2007

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Last year the IMS council voted to inaugurate a new "Annals", devoted to statistical applications- in recognition of the importance and vitality of contemporary applied statistics. The Annals of Applied Statistics (AOAS) has three area editors:

Stephen Fienberg: social science, government, sample surveys, and economics

Michael Newton: biology, medicine, and genetics

Michael Stein: physical science, computation, engineering, and the environment.

Papers are submitted for assignment to Editor-in-chief Bradley Efron; authors get to suggest the appropriate area for review, and this has been followed in all but two cases so far. Once assigned, the area editor has complete editorial control. A distinguished panel of 40 associate editors works under the shared direction of the editors. The four editors, Efron, Stein, Newton, and Fienberg, have worked closely together in developing AOAS.

AOAS is published in both print and electronic form. As soon as a paper is accepted it is available electronically on our website,

<http://www.imstat.org/aoas/> .

The site has had over 65,000 hits since opening in September 2006. June 2007 will welcome the print edition of Issue 1, published in the traditional Annals format and front page, with a pink cover.

AOAS opened for general submissions in November 2006. A total of 151 papers had been submitted by May 31 of this year. Of these, 20 were accepted for publication, 58 rejected, and 25 suggested for resubmission after rewriting. (A large proportion of rejections were of worthy papers that nevertheless did not have sufficient applied content.) 45 papers were under review. The editors have set a time limit of three months on initial reviews, which has been successfully met for more than 95% of the papers. Submissions have been divided roughly evenly between the three areas, with a modest excess in biostatistics.

Bradley Efron

Annals of Probability 2007

Here are the statistics for the Annals of Probability for submissions in calendar year 2006:

Submissions: 230
Accept: 49
Conditional accept (after revision): 23
Rejected or withdrawn: 141
Still in review: 17.

This shows a relatively low acceptance rate. There are a few reasons for this:

- There has been a concerted effort to raise the quality and reduce the backlog of the Annals.
- Those papers that seems more appropriate for Annals of Applied Probability or Annals of Statistics were rejected immediately with letters suggesting those journals were more appropriate. These decisions were made without regard to the apparent quality of the paper. The rationale is that all of the Annals ... are intended to be premier journals and the difference is in the subject area.
- Because of some quirks in the electronic submission system (and persistence of a few authors) some papers that eventually got rejected or withdrawn actually were submitted several times. There is a little bit of overcounting in the number of submissions (maybe a total of about 10 overcounts).

The intent is to continue to have high standards to make the Annals a premier journal. As a point of comparison: if we publish six 400-page issues a year, this corresponds to about 75--85 papers per year (given current page lengths). Our acceptance rate after the still in review papers are decided on will match this (conditioned on still being out for review, the probability of acceptance is higher).

Greg Lawler

The Annals of Statistics, 2007 Annual Report

Susan Murphy and Bernard Silverman, Editors

SUBMISSIONS: Submissions were up in 2006 and very high relative to the historical norm: 397 manuscripts were received (in comparison to 292, 274, 319, 362, 323, 343 in 2000 – 2005, respectively). For the first four months of 2007, there are 173 submissions (higher than 128 submissions during the same period in 2006). Our editorial policy continues to emphasize 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.

ACCEPTANCE RATE: During 2006, we have made 77 acceptance, 279 rejection, and 67 tentative decisions on all live manuscripts. The acceptance rate among these 356 final decisions in 2006 is about 22% percent. This together with 61 acceptance, 71 rejection, 34 tentative decisions in the first four months of 2007 by the prior editors, give an acceptance rate of 28% among 488 papers with final decisions. This is compared with 29% for the manuscripts submitted during 2005. The historical acceptance rate for the Annals has been about 25-30 percent. At the time of this writing (Early June, 2007) we have 254 papers in the EJMS system of which 12 papers have been accepted and 124 papers have been rejected with the remaining in various stages of review (some of these papers are from the prior editors' tenure).

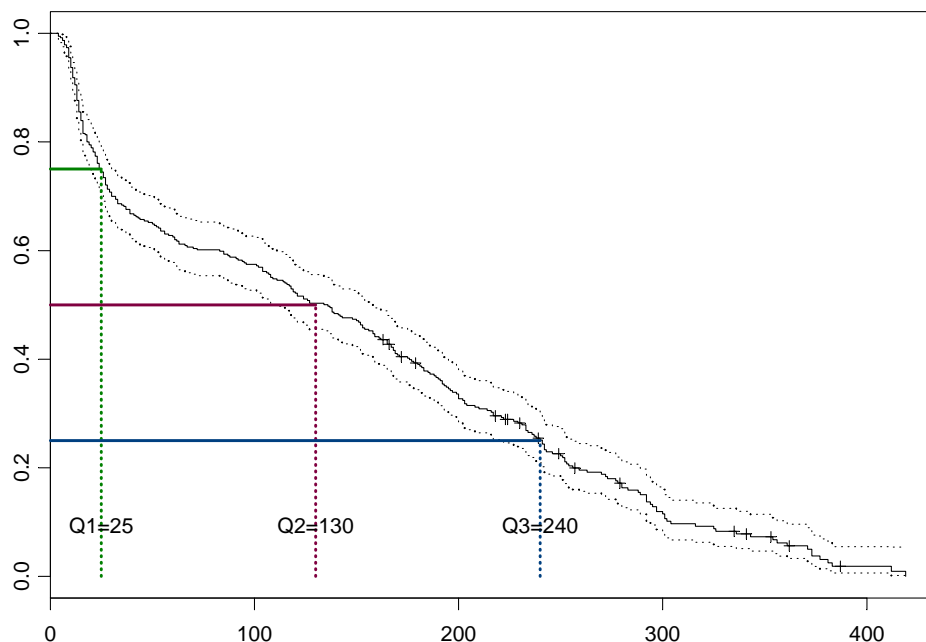
BACKLOG: During 2006, we filled volumes six to seven months in advance of the official volume date, and we are thereby achieving on-time production. The sizes of recent volumes are 1998(2469), 1999(2080), 2000(1795), 2001 (1811), 2002(1811), 2003(2095), 2004(2775), 2005(2999), 2006(3050). There is a current backlog of about 3.5 issues. This is about one issues worth of manuscripts larger than it was last year at this time. Manuscripts accepted now may not appear until June 2008.

PAGE REQUEST: The current page allotment is 3000 pages; to reduce the backlog it would be good to allot 3300 pages (about .5 an issue more) for 2007. This is a conservative request particularly given the increase in submitted papers.

EJMS: In January, 2007 we moved to an electronic journal manuscript system (EJMS). This move has proceeded smoothly with much credit due to Geri Mattson, our Publishing Services Manager and the new Associate Editors. The Annals web page is now being maintained by Laila Hakem in connection with all the rest of the IMS website. It contains features, such as tables of contents of back issues, up-to-date lists of accepted papers, linking of accepted papers to authors' URLs, and editorial policies.

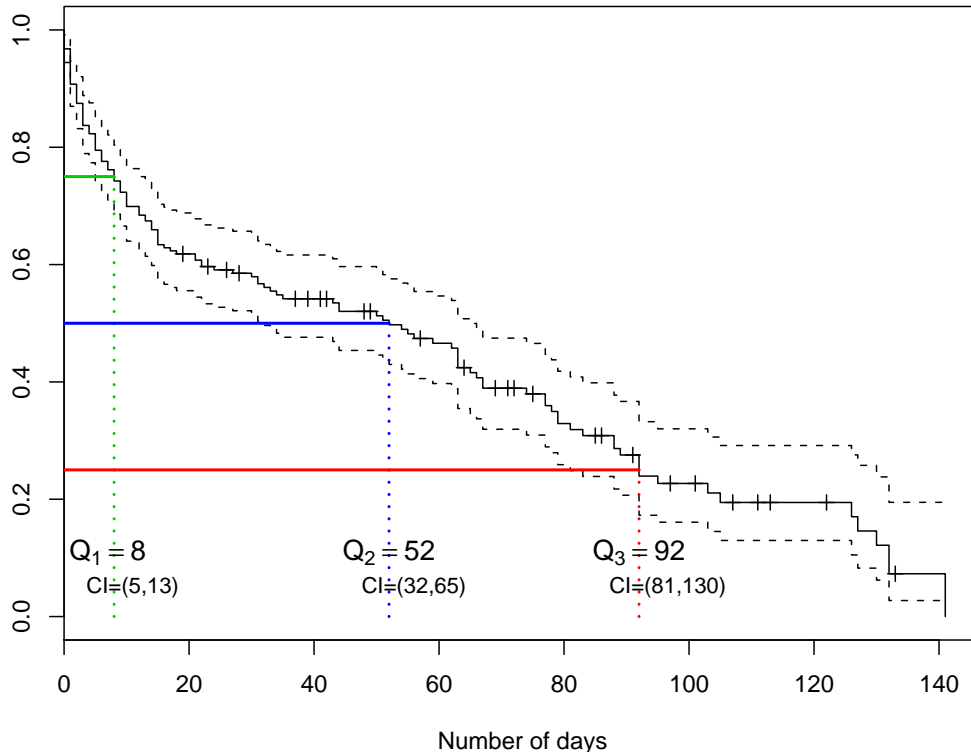
REVIEW TIMES: The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2006 are 25 days, 130 days and 240 days. They are decisively shorter than the quartiles of 40 days, 180 and 255 days from 2005. The details of the review times are summarized in the graph below, which provides an estimated survival curve of initial decision times for submissions in 2006.

Survival function of review times



The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for 173 manuscripts submitted Jan.-April, 2007 are 8 days, 52 days and 92 days (see the second graph).

Survival function of review times



With the cooperation of our board of Associate Editors and Referees, we will continue to make efforts to maintain this distribution.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The former Editors, Morris L. Eaton and Jianqing Fan, would like to thank our Editorial Coordinators and Editorial Board for all their help that makes the journal running smoothly. In addition, our Editorial Coordinators, Sarah Johnson Sexton and Mary Beth Falke, and our Editorial Board, Yacine Aït-Sahalia, Peter Bühlmann, T. Tony Cai, Ming-Yen Cheng, Dorota M. Dabrowska, Rainer Dahlhaus, Anirban DasGupta, Holger Dette, Holger Drees, Lutz Dümbgen, Sam Efromovich, Charles J. Geyer, Subhashis Ghosal, Irene Gijbels, Peter Hall, Xuming He, James P. Holbert, Vladimir Koltchinskii, Michael R. Kosorok, Jan T. A. Koster, Bing Li, Jun Liu, Enno Mammen, Adam Martinsek, Thomas Mathew, Rahul Mukerjee, Hans-Georg Müller, Per A. Mykland, Michael D. Perlman, Dominique Picard, Donald St. P. Richards, Christian P. Robert, Peter M. Robinson, Qi-Man Shao, Xiaotong Shen, Vladimir Spokoiny, Michael Stein, Sara van de Geer, Mark van der Laan, Larry Wasserman, Michael Wolf, Qiwei Yao, Yi-Ching Yao, Bin Yu, Ruben H. Zamar, are currently providing the support and dedication that is essential to the success of The Annals of Statistics.

The current Editors, Susan Murphy and Bernard Silverman, would like to thank the members of the editorial board for working hard to use the EJMS website and for providing quality reviews quickly; the editorial board is composed of Peter Bühlmann, Enno

Mammen, Peter Bickel, Pascal Massart, T. Tony Cai, Rahul Mukerjee, Ray Chambers, Hans-Georg Müller, Ming-Yen Cheng, Per A. Mykland, Anirban DasGupta, Byeong Park, Lutz Dümbgen, Wolfgang Polonik, Sam Efromovich, Gareth Roberts, Subhashis Ghosal, Peter M. Robinson, Irene Gijbels, Andrea Rotnitzky, Richard Gill, Hvard Rue, Peter Hall, Theofanis Sapatinas, Xuming He, Clay Scott, Chris Holmes, Qi-Man Shao, Tailen Hsing, Boxin Tang, Feifang Hu, Craig Tracy, Edward L. Ionides, Alexandre Tsybakov, Vladimir Koltchinskii, Ingrid Van Keilegom, Michael R. Kosorok, Stephen G. Walker, Bing Li Keith Worsley, Runze Li, Qiwei Yao, Albert Lo, Chunming Zhang and Wei-Liem Loh. Lastly we would like to thank Geri Mattson, for easing the transition to EJMS.

IMS Bulletin: Report to Council 2007

Bernard Silverman stood down as *IMS Bulletin* Editor after five years in December 2006, and was replaced by Xuming He (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), with Tati Howell remaining as Assistant Editor. We have appointed a small board of Contributing Editors: Terry Speed (Berkeley/WEHI) continues with his regular column, and is joined by Peter Bickel (Berkeley), Nicole Lazar (Georgia), Louis Chen (NUS Singapore) and Rick Durrett (Cornell). The role of the CEs is to contribute, either directly or by soliciting articles.

This year, we have published contributed articles on a number of topics of interest to IMS members, including profiles of junior faculty members, thoughts and issues on student mentoring, and on applied probability journals. Articles on potentially controversial issues are being contemplated. In addition, we are also working towards more coverage of the statistics/probability research communities outside North America, and hope to see more interest in this direction.

In this past year, we have moved to a paperless (PDF-based) workflow with The Sheridan Press. The completed PDF is now uploaded directly to the Sheridan website, and proofs are checked online. This has meant a print cycle about 3 days shorter, and perhaps more significantly, a saving to IMS of around \$700 per year in shipping charges.

The PDF version of the *Bulletin* (at www.imstat.org/bulletin) is still popular, receiving around 5,000 downloads per month (data from January & February 07 website usage report www.imstat.org/reports/). However, we acknowledge that PDF is not the most ideal format for web viewing. Tati is working with Andy Stevens, IT Project Manager, towards being able to display the information from the *Bulletin* in a more web-friendly format. We are also contemplating making past articles of the *Bulletin* more easily searchable online. After more careful consideration, we plan to submit a plan with a cost estimate to the Executive Committee.

Across a year, there is substantial variation in the proportions of news items, meeting reports and job advertisements, and we continue to work to find a balance of interesting items for IMS members and other *Bulletin* readers.

As ever, we rely very much on IMS members to volunteer their news. We invite all members, and particularly Council members, to be proactive in this area – and in offering to write longer articles. Please don't be shy! We receive occasional feedback (mostly positive) which is very welcome, but we would like to engage more with readers. If anyone has comments, suggestions or feedback, please email bulletin@imstat.org.

Xuming He & Tati Howell
June 2007

Report to Council - IMS Lecture Note and Monograph Series

The Series continues to serve the IMS membership by providing a venue for lecture notes, monographs, conference proceedings, and festschriften.

The following volumes have appeared over the past year:

LNMS #50

Recent Developments in Nonparametric Inference and Probability

Jiayang Sun, Anirban DasGupta, Vince Melfi, Connie Page, Editors

LNMS #51

High Dimensional Probability

Evarist Giné, Vladimir Koltchinskii, Wenbo Li, Joel Zinn, Editors

LNMS #52

Time Series and Related Topics. In Memory of Ching-Zong Wei

Hwai-Chung Ho, Ching-Kang Ing, Tze Leung Lai, Editors

More details are available at <http://www.imstat.org/publications/lecnotes.htm>

The following volumes are in production and will appear shortly:

LNMS #53

Multivariate Statistics: A Vector Space Approach

Morris L. Eaton (scanned version of his now-out-of-print book)

LNMS #54

Complex datasets and inverse problems: tomography, networks and beyond

Regina Liu, William Strawderman & Cun-Hui Zhang, Editors

LNMS #55

Asymptotics: particles, processes and inverse problems

Eric Cator, Geurt Jongbloed, Cor Kraaikamp, Rik Lopuhaä, Jon Wellner, Editors

Around 8 more volumes are in various stages of preparation.

It is a pleasure to thank Executive Director Elyse Gustafson for her continuing guidance and assistance in the past year, and Geri Mattson for her efficient technical help.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Davison and Rick Vitale

June 13, 2007

Report of the Managing Editor—Statistics

Paul Shaman

The 2006 page count for *The Annals of Statistics* totaled 3,047, and *Statistical Science* published 588 pages in 2006.

As of this writing (June 15th) final corrections are being made to the April 2007 issue of *The Annals of Statistics*, page proofs for the June 2007 issue are being read and page proofs for the August 2007 issue are ready for reading. The lineup for the October 2007 issue has been set. There are 75 unassigned pending articles, which will fill about four more issues. Thus, on average, the length of time from acceptance of an article until it appears in print in *The Annals of Statistics* is currently about 14 months.

As of this writing page proofs are being read for the February 2007 issue of *Statistical Science*, and pages are in production for the May 2007 issue.

The tables following give page counts for the past two years.

The Annals of Statistics

Issue	2005 printed pages	2006 printed pages
February	462	558
April	514	489
June	478	531
August	527	488
October	524	523
December	493	458
Total	2998	3047

Statistical Science

Issue	2005 printed pages	2006 printed pages
February	110	112
May	93	186
August	111	128
November	116	162
Total	430	588

The February 2007, April 2007, June 2007 and August 2007 issues of *The Annals of Statistics* have 463, 465, 420 and 497 pages, respectively.

The February 2007 issue of *Statistical Science* has 152 pages.

The following table gives figures for the page count of *The Annals of Statistics* for the years 2002-2006.

The Annals of Statistics

Year	Printed pages	No. of articles ¹
2002	1809	64
2003	2092	76
2004	2772	94
2005	2998	98
2006	3047	100

¹A discussion paper is counted as one article, and corrections and addenda are not included in the count. There were three discussion papers in 2006.

For the years 2002-2006 the printed pages for *Statistical Science* totaled 467, 531, 737, 430 and 588, respectively.

Annual Report - *Statistical Science*
Edward I George, Executive Editor
June, 2007

As of May 31, 2006, 37 manuscripts were at various stages of review or revision for *Statistical Science*. From June 1, 2006 – May 31, 2007, an additional 119 manuscripts were submitted. Of the total 156 manuscripts considered during this period, 63 were rejected, 31 are still in various stages of review or revision, and 62 have been accepted.

Month	Received	Rejected	Under review or revision	Accepted
Pre Jun 06	37	14	6	17
June 06	23	7	1	15
Jul 06	9	5	2	2
Aug 06	9	5	2	2
Sept 06	7	2	2	3
Oct 06	11	8	1	2
Nov 06	5	2	3	0
Dec 06	2	1	0	1
Jan 07	15	5	2	8
Feb 07	9	5	0	4
Mar 07	13	5	5	3
Apr 07	9	3	3	3
May 07	7	1	4	2
Total	156	63	31	62

I am pleased to report a continual increase both the quality and the quantity of submissions to *Statistical Science*. We currently have a backlog of more than two issues. Two special issues for 2008 are under preparation: “A Half Century of Minimax Shrinkage Estimation” (Guest Editor - Bill Strawderman), and “Thirty Years of the EM Algorithm” (Guest Editors – Xiao Li Meng and David Van Dyke). I anticipate that the total manuscript pages for 2007 will be around 600. Roughly the same number of manuscript pages should be planned for 2008.

With only one exception, all submissions to *Statistical Science* since June 1, 2006 have come through the EJMS system. Furthermore, virtually all communications between the Editors and me, and between the authors and me, now occur within the system. However, I don’t believe there is very much interaction within the system between the Editors and referees, not that this is a problem. I am very grateful to both Mattson Publishing Services and VTEX, who continue to be very responsive to my needs. I am also hopeful that as we go forward, EJMS will be further enhanced to provide more record keeping summaries.

Finally I would like to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of my Editorial Board: Roger Berger, Alicia Carriquiry, Dean Foster, Constantine Frangakis, Sallie Keller-McNulty, Rob McCulloch, Sally Morton, Peter Mueller, Richard Smith, Marty Wells and Mike West, and the invaluable editorial support I have received from Elyse Gustafson, Patrick Kelly, Geri Mattson and Paul Shaman.

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Annual report of the IMS Web Editor

The last year was spent on the development of the new IMS Web site, with little attention to technical enhancements of the current Web site. However, the contents was updated continuously, simultaneously on the current Web site and the test installation of the new site. There were considerable delays in the development of the new service called "Online Marketplace". This will be a part of the Web site where all financial transactions are made. IMS members and the general public will be able to purchase books, journals, and pay membership dues using credit cards online. At this point, all the basic functionality is there but a number of fixes and enhancements are needed before the new Web site can go live online.

The main development of the new Web site was outsourced overseas to save money. The cost of this decision turned out to be a considerable delay in the delivery of the product. Starting June 2007, further development of the new Web site will be supervised on the technical side by Andy Stevens, the new IMS IT Manager. At this point, it seems that the new Web site should be operational within a month or two.

Sincerely yours,

Krzysztof Burdzy