Treasurer's Report 2016

Introduction

This report details membership and subscription data for calendar year end 2016. The 2016 fiscal year end audit report will be published separately in the Fall of 2017 after the auditors have completed the annual process.

In 2016, the total number of IMS paid members increased, but the total number of members decreased. This is because student members pay no dues and their numbers were down last year. Subscriptions by institutions also decreased this past year. The financial status of the Institute continues to be stable, 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 Applied Statistics; Annals of Statistics; Statistical Science; Current Index to Statistics; IMS Collections; 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 (B); Bayesian Analysis; Bernoulli; Bernoulli News; Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics; Stochastic Systems

Affiliated Publications
Probability and Mathematical Statistics

Membership Data

Total individual paid membership in the Institute as of December 31, 2016 increased 0.3% from December 31, 2015. Table 1 presents the membership data back to 2010. The IMS had a peak in paid membership of 3156 in 2008 and has been decreasing since then. This trend is similar to that of other professional societies. Nevertheless, this is clearly an area of concern, and the Executive Committee continues to look for ways to address this issue.

TABLE 1: Membership, by Calendar Year

	2010	2011	2012*	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change
Regular	1,970	1,863	1,792	1,737	1,616	1,587	1,565	-1.4%
Life/Retired Life	477	495	498	501	516	528	541	2.5%
Reduced Country/Retired/IMS China	399	401	395	369	364	376	337	-10.4%
New Graduate	149	113	112	110	87	58	113	94.8%
Student	1,160	1,116	1,023	1,036	1,187	1,236	1,094	-11.5%
Total	4,155	3,988	3,820	3,753	3,770	3,785	3,650	-3.6%
Total excluding free members (students, and in 2008–9 IMS China)	2,995	2,872	2,797	2,717	2,583	2,549	2,556	0.3%

* *2012 member figures contain some estimates*

Geographic Distribution of Members. The IMS membership is currently distributed as follows (see pie chart, right): 59% United States; 18% Europe; 14% Asia; 4% Canada; 3% Australia and New Zealand; <2% South America, Mexico and the Caribbean; <1% Africa.
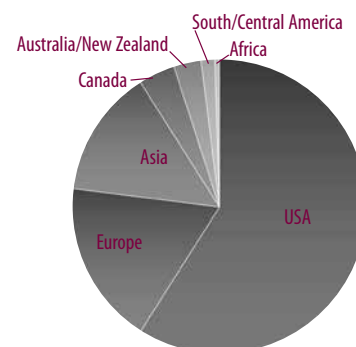
Subscription Data

Selection of Journals by Members:
Print subscriptions by members continued to decrease in 2016, 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 (below) shows the current selection of print journals by members.

TABLE 2: Member subscriptions, by calendar year

PRINT (paid)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change
AAP	280	197	126	84	100	80	68	-15.0%
AOP	298	218	184	99	108	97	75	-22.7%
AOAS	714	480	379	232	171	141	107	-24.1%
AOS	763	555	447	265	284	262	220	-16.0%
STS	1,310	1,035	869	532	534	464	386	-16.8%
Total	3,365	2,485	2,005	1,212	1,197	1,044	856	-18.0%
Members setting up electronic access to IMS journals	1,761	1,435	1,572	1,294	1,234	1,226	1,183	-3.5%

The IMS offers joint membership opportunities with: the Bernoulli Society (BS); International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA); International Statistical Institute+Bernoulli Society (ISI/BS); International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA); and Applied Probability Society/ INFORMS (APS/INFORMS).

Institutional Subscription Data

Table 3 (right) presents comparative subscription data for institutions to each of our scientific journals for 2016 and previous years. Almost all journals experienced subscription decreases in 2016. Overall institutional subscriptions decreased by 1.4%. The decrease to IMS journals, specifically, was 1.0%. We are continuing to see increases in our bundled offerings, which are discounted on the whole. Approximately 60% of the non-member subscribers to IMS journals are in USA and Canada, with the remaining subscribers distributed throughout the world.

Book Sales Data

Tables 4 and 5 (below) present 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. The *NSF–CBMS Regional Conference Series* published no new volumes in 2016. The *IMS Collections* series and the *IMS Lecture Notes–Monograph Series* have ceased publication.

Financial and Audit Report

The fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. The external audit of the IMS will be completed in August 2017.

The full auditor's report will appear in the *IMS Bulletin* in the Fall.

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 decrease in institutional subscriptions is being felt across the market and is not unexpected. The IMS leadership began planning for these decreases over 12 years ago and has ensured that IMS resources are shored up to protect the long-term stability and growth of the society.

Zhengjun Zhang
IMS Treasurer

TABLE 3: Institutional paid subscriptions, by calendar year

PRINT	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change
AAP	684	645	687	632	600	591	580	-1.9%
AOP	967	901	908	839	795	779	769	-1.3%
AOAS	320	331	380	342	346	368	349	-5.2%
AOS	1,158	1,127	1,132	1,008	985	948	962	1.5%
STS	899	861	865	769	753	717	708	-1.3%
Bulletin	166	142	128	169	102	96	90	-6.3%
CIS	267	273	249	229	216	199	182	-8.5%
AIHP ˢ	286	289	326	324	297	305	304	-0.3%
Bernoulli ˢ	278	280	321	307	292	299	298	-0.3%
BJPS ˢ	78	88	117	119	124	135	135	0.0%
Total	5,101	4,966	5,001	4,738	4,510	4,437	4,377	-1.4%
Total IMS journals	4,028	3,865	3,888	3,590	3,479	3,403	3,368	-1.0%

ˢ *denotes IMS-supported journals. Numbers in* [brackets] *are prior to journal becoming IMS-supported.*

TABLE 4: *Total sales from the* NSF-CBMS Regional Conference Series, *the* Lecture Notes–Monograph Series, *and* IMS Collections

	to 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Total *NSF-CBMS* sales (9 volumes)	6,019	108	57	13	40	12	5	1	**6,255**
Total *LNMS* sales (58 volumes)	28,276	297	124	40	9	19	15	9	**28,789**
Total *IMS Collections* sales (10 volumes)	9	3	5	3	7	4	4	1	**36**

TABLE 5: *Total sales of* IMS Monographs *and* IMS Textbooks

Book	to 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
IMS Monographs (six volumes published to date)	n/a	660	586	789	604	1046	543	4,115	**8,343**
IMS Textbooks (six volumes published to date)	n/a	639	491	326	636	1093	1254	777	**5,216**
Total Monographs & Textbooks sales	n/a	**1,299**	**1,077**	**1,115**	**1,240**	**2,139**	**1,797**	**4,892**	**13,559**

Editor's Report on *Annals of Applied Probability* for the period 2016-01-01 – 2017-05-31

The editorial board (on June 5, 2016):

Editor: Bálint Tóth
Associate editors: David Anderson, Nathanaël Berestycki, Charles Bordenave, Amarjit Budhiraja, Francois Delarue, Jean-Dominique Deuschel, Randal Douc, Andreas Eberle, Patrik Ferrari, Luiz Renato Fontes, Ayalvadi Ganesh, Christina Goldschmidt, Massimiliano Gubinelli, Ben Hambly, David Hobson, Dmitri Ioffe, Claudia Klüppelberg, Vlada Limic, Gábor Lugosi, Jean-Francois Marckert, Ronald Meester, Sylvie Méléard, Elchanan Mossel, Miklós Rásonyi, Brian Rider, Sebastien Roch, Nizar Touzi, Benedek Valkó, Remco van der Hofstad, Ramon van Handel, Anton Wakolbinger, Jianfeng Zhang

Changes in the editorial board since last report: Mireille Bossy and Kavita Ramanan have both resigned.

Status of papers submitted between 2016-01-01 -- 2016-12-31, on June 5, 2017:

\\\	Number of submissions	Length ave / std (in number of pages)
Submitted:	373	31 / 12
In review:	62	35 / 10
Assigned to AEs (still in 1st round):	23	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Awaiting revision:	26	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Revised (in 2nd or 3rd round):	13	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Accepted	56	30 / 11
Rejected:	205	28 / 11
Rejected with resubmission:	19	34 / 13
Withdrawn:	31	41 / 19

Acceptance rate:
Withdrawn papers and those submissions which are still in the first round of review are disregarded. Papers which survived the first round of review are considered as (very likely to be) accepted.

$$\frac{56+13+26}{56+13+26+205+19} = \frac{95}{319} = 30\%$$

Status of papers submitted between 2017-01- 01 -- 2017-05-31, on June 5, 2017:

\\	Number of submissions	Length ave / std (in number of pages)
Submitted:	154	32 / 14
In review:	77	34 / 11
Assigned to AEs (still in 1st round):	75	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Awaiting revision:	2	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Revised (in 2nd or 3rd round):	0	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Accepted	1	55 / 00
Rejected:	64	27 / 15
Rejected with resubmission:	3	40 / 12
Not yet assigned to AE	2	36 / 08
Withdrawn:	7	39 / 22

Acceptance rate: too early to say.

June 5, 2017   Bálint Tóth
                                                                       (AAP editor 2016-2018)

ANNALS OF APPLIED STATISTICS
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

Tilmann Gneiting, Editor-In-Chief

June 5, 2017

At the *Annals of Applied Statistics* (AOAS), we are mourning the death of Steve Fienberg, who had served as Editor-In-Chief in 2013–2015. We are missing him dearly. Steve's contributions to our profession in general and to IMS and AOAS in particular are huge, and we have been soliciting papers for a special issue (most likely, the March 2018 issue) in commemoration of his research and professional life.

2016 marked the tenth full year of operation for AOAS. Our Editorial Board is currently composed as follows:

Tilmann Gneiting	Editor-In-Chief
Edoardo Airoldi	Editor for Computational Biology and Machine Learning
Beth Ann Griffin	Editor for Social Science, Biostatistics and Policy
Karen Kafadar	Editor for Biology, Medicine, and Genomics
Brendan Murphy	Editor for Social Science and Government
Nicoleta Serban	Editor for Physical Science, Engineering, and the Environment

As we continue to receive record numbers of submissions (see below), and Editor Karen Kafadar has recently been elected President of the ASA, the appointment of a further Editor has become essential. I am glad to report that from September 1, 2017 on Leonhard Held of the University of Zurich in Switzerland will be serving as Editor for Epidemiology and Clinical Science.

The Area Editors continue to oversee the bulk of the manuscript review, aided by an outstanding board of Associate Editors, and they are responsible for the continued high quality of the papers we publish.

This past year the annual number of submissions reached another record of 564, of which 75 have been accepted for publication thus far, and 52 remain active, awaiting either a revision or an editorial decision. The increase in submissions is an indication that AOAS is increasingly well recognized as a highly respected journal, one that covers the full range of disciplines amidst an ever-expanding range of domain-specialized journals. The yearly totals since 2007 are as follows:

Table 1: AOAS Submissions and Impact Factor by Year

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. Submissions	286	274	352	418	468	472	494	462	497	564
No. Accepted	96	98	121	109	96	90	111	101	83	75
	34%	36%	34%	26%	21%	19%	22%	22%	17%	13%
No. Active						2	1	5	12	52
						0%	0%	1%	2%	9%
Impact Factor		2.45	2.57	1.75	1.58	2.24	1.68	1.46	1.43	
5 Yr. Impact Factor		2.48	2.58	2.44	2.55	2.90	2.44	2.31	2.16	

While the recent decrease in the Thomson Reuters impact factors should not be overinterpreted, we will continue to consider measures in order to raise the journal's visibility. For example, we published two discussion papers in 2016, and a further discussion paper is scheduled to appear in the December 2017 issue.

Our concerted efforts to reduce the time in the review process have been successful. Specifically, 41.8% of the 2016 submissions received a first editorial decision within a week, 54.6% within a month, 73.4% within three months, and 96.3% within six months:

Table 2: Review Time to Initial Decision

Days to First Decision	≤ 7	8–30	31–90	91–180	≥ 181	TBD	Total
2014	163	30	102	107	60		462
	35%	6%	22%	23%	13%		
2015	196	30	95	141	35		497
	39%	6%	19%	28%	7%		
2016	236	72	106	129	20	1	564
	42%	13%	19%	23%	4%	0%	

Once more, I wish to thank Elyse Gustafson and Geri Mattson for their outstanding support of our daily operations.

Annual Report - Annals of Probability

Period of the report: Jan 2015 to May 2017

Prepared by Maria Eulalia Vares (editor)

AoP	Accepted	Rejected/Withdrawn	Review	Submitted
2015	87	227	9	323
2016	28	201	84	313
Jan-May2017	1	71	70	142

The number of journal pages for the 2015 submissions that are already accepted is around 3900. The publication of extra pages has been helpful to deal with the backlog problem. In 2017 we should have 4200 pages, of which 624 correspond to the memorial issue for Donald Burkholder that appeared as Volume 45, No. 1, published in January. The main problem regarding the control of the backlog has to do with the long papers. Besides the efforts that have been made, we are now even more selective with long submissions.

Sincerely,

Maria Eulalia Vares

The Annals of Statistics, 2016 Annual Report

Ed George and Tailen Hsing, Editors

SUBMISSIONS: We received 718 submissions in 2016, a historical high; the number of submission in 2005–2015 were, respectively, 343, 397, 479, 490, 505, 532, 502, 555, 607, 697, and 694. Of those, 16 submissions were withdrawn before or during review. In addition, we handled 136 requests for revision. 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. An overview of the data is given in Figure 1.
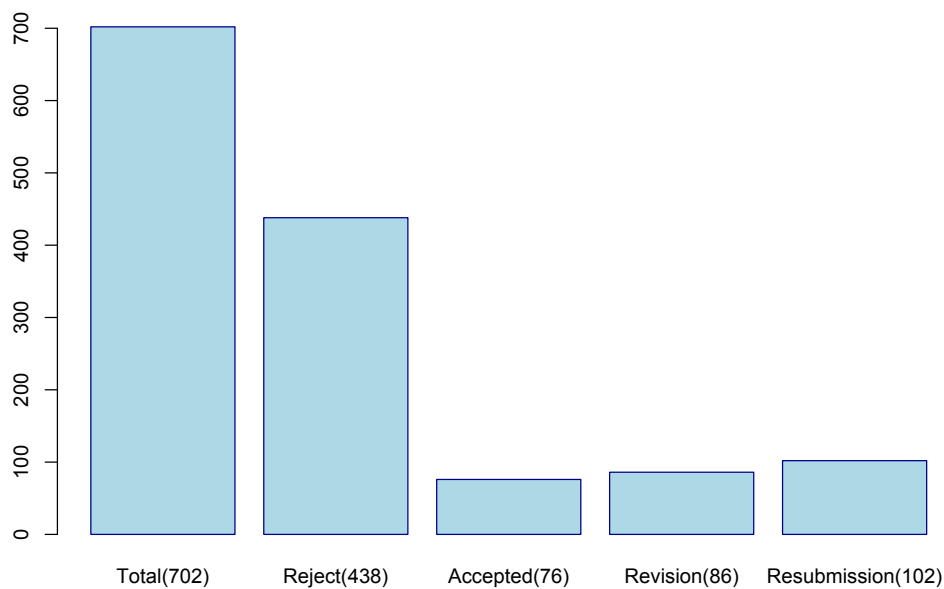
Figure 1: *Submissions in 2016*

ACCEPTANCE RATE: During 2016, we accepted 76 papers, rejected 438, and rejected 102 papers with encouragement to resubmit. Currently, 86 submissions are still under revision or review. Up to now (June 2017), the acceptance rate among these 702 papers is 10.82% (13.12% in 2015, 10.33% in 2014, 11.70% in 2013). Note that, since some papers are still under review, this is not the final acceptance rate among the manuscripts submitted in 2016.

BACKLOG: During 2016, we printed 2779 pages (2794 pages in 2015, 2585 pages in 2014, 3110 pages in 2013). In 2017 we expect to use at most an allotment of 3600 pages. Currently, there is no backlog.

PAGE REQUEST: We request an allotment of 3600 pages for 2017.

REVIEW TIMES: The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2016 are 9 days, 86 days and 175 days. The corresponding quartiles from 2015 were 4 days, 71 days and 136 days. The details of the review times are summarized in Figure 2,

which provides an estimated survival curve of initial decision time for submissions in 2016. Figure 3 provided an estimated survival function of the second decision time for submission in 2016.
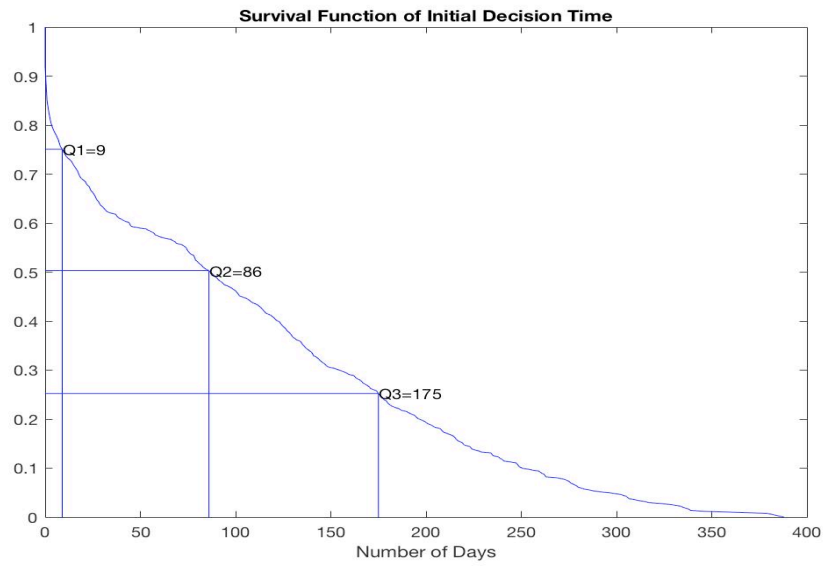

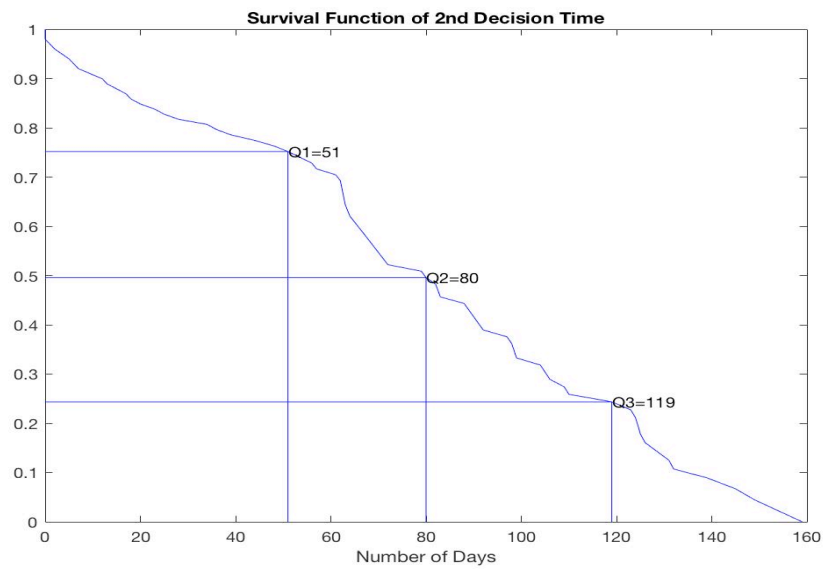Figure 2: *Survival Function of Initial Decision Time*

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

Annual Report - Statistical Science

Cun-Hui Zhang, Editor

June 10, 2017

As of June 10, 2017, 59 manuscripts were at various stages of review (38) or revision (21) for Statistical Science; Of these 6 have been back with authors for over two years, and could probably be discounted. From June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017, 222 manuscripts were submitted; of these, 6 have been withdrawn. Of the remaining 216 submissions, 147 have been rejected, 44 are still in various stages of review or revision, and 25 have been accepted. The table provides this information broken down by month of submission. Compared with the previous year, it shows a similar rate of submission and a somewhat lower rate of acceptance. The figure provides a Kaplan-Meier plot of the time from submission to first decision, with about 45 percent responses made within 2 weeks and more than 70 percent within 4 months.

	Received	Rejected	In review or revision	Accepted	Withdrawn
Jun-16	8	7		1	
Jul-16	17	13	2	2	
Aug-16	21	14		5	2
Sep-16	24	16	1	7	
Oct-16	25	18	4	3	
Nov-16	19	11	5	2	1
Dec-16	22	14	4	3	1
Jan-17	17	12	4	1	
Feb-17	10	4	6		
Mar-17	16	12	4		
Apr-17	27	16	8	1	2
May-17	16	10	6		
	222	147	44	25	6

First response times by year of submission
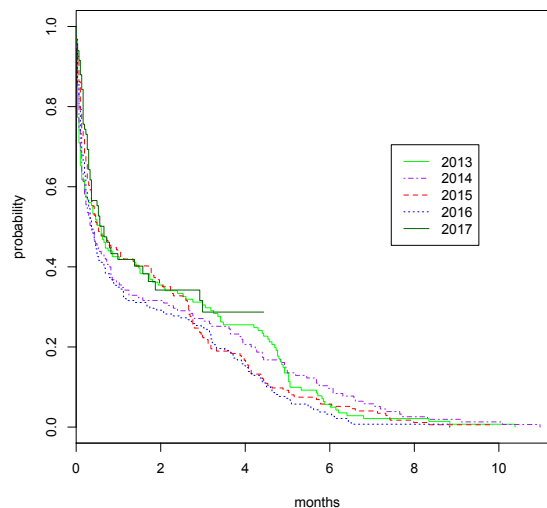
I anticipate that the total number of manuscript pages for 2017 will be about 640 as allotted. Roughly the same number of pages should be planned for 2018.

I took over from Peter Green as Editor of Statistical Science on January 1, 2017. Peter did an outstanding job and passed along a healthy backlog of accepted and high quality in-review papers. Peter has been extremely helpful during the transition, offering kind and generous advices on various issues and continuing to handle legacy submissions and special issues.

Statistical Science recently published a special section on "Complex Surveys" with Guest Editors Chris Skinner and Jon Wakefield. In addition, the following special issues are in various stages of preparation, "Stochastic Models for Infectious Diseases" with Guest Editors Vladimir Minin and Theo Kypraios, "Missing Values" with Guest Editors Julie Josse and Jerry Reiter, and "Nonparametric Inference under Shape Constraints" with Guest Editors Richard Samworth and Bodhisattva Sen.

I am very grateful to each of the members of the editorial board: Peter Bühlmann, Jiahua Chen, Rong Chen, Rainer Dahlhaus, Robin Evans, Edward George, Peter Green, Steven Lalley, Ian McKeague, Peter Müller, Sonia Petrone, Nancy Ried, Richard Samworth, Bodhisattva Sen, Glenn Shafer, David Siegmund, Michael Stein, Eric Tchetgen Tchetgen, Alexandre Tsybakov, Jon Wakefield, Jon Wellner, Minge Xie, Ming Yuan, Tong 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 2017

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.

Anirban DasGupta (Purdue University, USA) finished his three-year term as Editor in December 2016, having served since January 2014, and handed over to Vlada Limic (CNRS research director at Université Paris Sud 11, France). Vlada is already familiar to Bulletin readers as the author of "Vlada's Point" (http://bulletin.imstat.org/category/vladas-point/), having been a Contributing Editor for three years. Tati Howell (London, UK) remains as the Bulletin's Assistant Editor. Vlada appointed four new Contributing Editors:

- Yoram Gat (Google Israel)
- Takis Konstantopoulos (Uppsala University, Sweden)
- Regina Nuzzo (Gallaudet University, Washington DC, USA)
- Kavita Ramanan (Brown University, RI, USA)

They join the existing members of the team, Anirban DasGupta, David Hand, Xiao-Li Meng, Dimitris Politis and Terry Speed. We are grateful to our outgoing CEs – Robert Adler, Peter Bickel, Stéphane Boucheron and Hadley Wickham – for their contributions over the previous three years.

Vlada is developing a new idea: POPI, a Project, Object or Perspective of (potential community) Interest. These brief articles will include input from a member of our community who tells us about their favorite POPI of the moment. POPI ideas can be sent to us at bulletin@imstat.org.

In the past year, we have published obituaries for: Paul Joyce, Vidyadhar P. (V.P.) Godambe, Emanuel Parzen, Theodore W. (Ted) Anderson, Lajos Takács, Charles M. Stein, Stephen Fienberg and Ulf Grenander. You can find them all on the Bulletin's website at http://bulletin.imstat.org/category/obituary/. Obituaries are in preparation for Alastair Scott, Joseph Hilbe and Ken-ichi Yoshihara. Thank you to those who have remembered to pass on the news that an IMS member or fellow has died, so that we can arrange for an obituary to be written.

We are still publishing lists of recent papers, rotating around IMS core, co-sponsored and supported journals (including electronic journals).

The Student Puzzle Corner, set by Anirban DasGupta, has been taking a break but we hope to restart it soon.

Most IMS members receive hardcopy printed Bulletins in the mail (3223 members, plus 90 institutions). A minority (427, about 13%) opt for the electronic PDF/html version only. The Bulletin's website, http://bulletin.imstat.org, is maintained by Tati, who uploads the news items and articles from the front section of each issue, just after the issue has gone to the printers (hence a couple of weeks before the print copies are mailed out). At the time of writing there are 639 articles posted (112 since the last report), which collectively have received 193 comments. We would welcome more comments. The site has been protected from over 210,000 spam comments by Akismet (a WordPress plugin) since November 2012.

Google Analytics reports about 23,000 "sessions" by 18,000 users in the past year. The timing of peak visits to the website usually coincided with the monthly eBulletin emailed out to all members that contains a link to the latest issue. We also post on the IMS Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/IMSTATI) when issues are released, and link to some news items directly. We have a Twitter account, @InstMathStat, where 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 leave a comment on our blog.

Vlada Limic & Tati Howell
June 2017

Annual report for Electronic Communications
in Probability

June 1, 2017

Editorial board

Louigi Addario-Berry, Nathanael Berestycki, Noam Berger,
Djalil Chafai, Julien Dubedat, Giambattista Giacomin, Massimialiano Gu-
binelli, Antti Knowles, Vladimir Koltchinski, Claudio Landim, Malwina Luczak,
Annie Millet, Leonid Mytnik, Hirofumi Osada, Sandrine Péché (Chief Editor,
ECP), Gabor Pete, Peter Pfaffelhuber, Alejandro Ramirez, Firas Rassoul-
Agha, Brian Rider (Chief Editor, EJP), Victor Rivero, Peter Tankov, Josef
Teichmann, Feng-Yu Wang.

Comments

The move to EJMS is far behind and it seems that everything works quite well. We have been
rather selective in 2016 with a lot of articles rejected. We try to reject papers longer than 12 pages,
with some exceptions.
Regarding the backlog, we are too long to make a decision. The average time to the first answer is
60 days approx for 2016 but there are too many papers for which we take more than 100 days to
give the authors an answer. The same is true for 2017 but we are trying to improve our
performance.

Statistics

For 2017 (up to 31 May) :
Submitted : 101
Published : 2
Still in process : 42
Rejected (archived) : 55 + 2 with possible resubmission

For 2016:
Submitted: 289
Published: 19 among those submitted (+26 that have been accepted but submitted in 2015)
Still in process: 76 (with 57 in revision)
Rejected (archived): 192+ 12 with possible resubmission

For 2015: the statistics were probably distorted due to the move to EJMS.
Submitted: 282
Published: 45 (possibly 12 after 2015)
Rejected (archived): 183

For 2014:
Submitted: 302
Published: 91 (possibly after 2014)
Rejected (archived): 205.

2017 Report for EJP

Current Editorial Board

Omer Angel, Louigi Addario-Berry, Nathanaël Berestycki, Noam Berger, Djalil Chafaï, Julien Dubedat, Giambattista Giacomin, Massimialiano Gubinelli, Antti Knowles, Vladimir Koltchinski, Claudio Landim, Malwina Luczak, Annie Millet, Leonid Mytnik, Hirofumi Osada, Sandrine Péché (Chief Editor, ECP), Gábor Pete, Peter Pfaffelhuber, Alejandro Ramirez, Firas Rassoul-Agha, Brian Rider (Chief Editor, EJP), Victor Rivero, Peter Tankov, Josef Teichmann, Feng-Yu Wang.

The main news

The transition to EJMS is officially complete. While we went live, that is, started taking submissions through EJMS, in January 2016, both EJMS and OJS were maintained throughout that year with the remaining queue at OJS only transferred "by hand" at the end of 2016. There were minor headaches along the way in dealing with two systems, but I'm sure all members of the board would agree that we are all the better for making the switch.

The numbers

Submission rates remain robust, while the statistics point to our being increasingly selective. In 2014 and 2015 EJP saw 378 and 365 submissions, respectively, with an acceptance rate a bit above 30%. For the last year-and-one-half we've seen:

Papers submitted in 2016

    Total submitted: 382
    Accepted: 69
    Rejected: 247
    Rejected with resubmission: 7
    Average days to rejection / first decision: 30 / 70
    Still in process: 59 (24 in round one, 35 in revision or 2nd/3rd rounds.)

I compute an estimated acceptance rate thus:

$$(69 + 35)/(382 - 7 - 24) = \text{ just under } 30\%.$$

Note: I have removed from the pool the reject-with-resubmissions (some have come back, some not), and those papers on which there is no first decision. I have included in the numerator the 35 papers in revision and higher rounds as these appear to be, with overwhelming probability, on their way to acceptance.

Papers submitted in 2017

Total submitted: 178
Accepted: 6
In revision or beyond round one: 12
Rejected: 103

Obviously too early to call an acceptance rate. The time to first decision(s) thus far right on the 2016 averages.

Annual Report

Electronic Journal of Statistics

Domenico Marinucci

June 10, 2017

This report covers the following periods:

(i) January 1 - December 31, 2016
(ii) January 1 - May 20, 2017

Period: Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2016

In 2016, 479 papers were submitted to EJS, with a rather huge growth with respect to the previous two years (406 papers were submitted in 2015 and 401 in 2014). Out of these, 269 were rejected, 35 rejected with encouragement to resubmit, for 96 and 44 major or minor revisions (respectively) were proposed, while 8 were accepted directly on the first round; for 27 papers a first decision has still to be reached. As a consequence, the rejection rate among papers for which a first decision was reached was equal to (269+35)/(269+35+96+44+8)=304/452=67.2%.

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

Average: 72,53; Q1: 4 ; Q2 (Median): 73.5; Q3 :123

Overall, 129 papers were published, including an invited paper by Cai-Ren-Zhou, with discussion by Zou, Tsybakov, Balasubramanian-Yuan and Paul-Wang.
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Period: Jan 1 - May 28, 2017
The reporting period this year is January 1 – May 28, during which 193 papers were submitted (compared to 182 up to May 20 in 2016). So far, 98 papers have been rejected, 3 rejected with encouragement to resubmit, for 4 and 3 a major or minor revision was required, respectively, and 85 are still waiting for a first decision. The rejection rate among papers for which a decision has been reached is very high ((98+3)/(98+3+4+3)=93%), but this result is clearly biased, because rejections are much higher among papers for which a decision is reached quickly. In particular, consistently with the previous years about one third of submissions have been rejected directly by the Editor in Chief.

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

Average: 22; Q1: 2 ; Q2 (Median): 5; Q3 :15,75

As mentioned before, for obvious reasons these figures cannot be compared with the statistics for 2016 – whole 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 # of Pages

2010 1546
2011 2030
2012 2626
2013 3169
2014 3192
2015 3195
2016 4009
2017 2546

Special issues

Two special sections have appeared in the second issue of 2016. The first one was based on the February 2014 SAMSI workshop on Statistical Inference in Sparse High-Dimensional Models, co-edited by Flori Bunea and Marloes Maathuis; the second was based on selected papers presented at the 10th Conference on Bayesian Nonparametrics that took place in June 2017 at the NCSU campus, edited by Subhashis Ghoshal.

A special issue on "Artificial Intelligence and Statistics", edited by Aarti Singh and Larry Wasserman, is due to appear in Autumn 2017.

Current list of Associate Editors

There are currently 48 Associate Editors for EJS:

Felix Abramovitch, Ery Arias-Castro, Alexander Aue, Francis Bach, Fadoua Balabdoui, Moulinath Banerjee, Gilles Blanchard, Florentina Bunea, Francois Caron, Ismael Castillo, Ngai Hang Chan, Guang Cheng, Arnak Dalalyan, Herold Dehling, Petros Dellaportas, Mathias Drton, Noureddin El Karoui, Chao Gao, Subhashis Ghoshal, Irene Gijbels, James Hobert, Vladimir Koltchinskii, Rafal Kulik, Antonio Lijoi, Han Liu, Jean-Michel Loubes, Sayan Mukherjee Axel Munk, Richard Nickl, Victor Panaretos, Debashis Paul, Giovanni Peccati, Dimitris Politis, Annie Qu, Philippe Rigollet, Alessandro Rinaldo, Mathieu Rosenbaum, Theofanis Sapatinas, Armin Schwartzman, Xiaotong Shen, Ling Shiqing, Alexandre Tsybakov, Harry van Zanten, Frederi Viens, Wei Biao Wu, Yingnian Wu, Minge Xie, Ming Yuan.

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. All papers are refereed. 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 9 (2012) 8 Surveys and 479 pages
Volume 10 (2013) 3 Surveys and 93 pages
Volume 11 (2014) 9 Surveys and 440 pages
Volume 12 (2015) 4 Surveys and 103 pages
volume 13 (2016) 4 Surveys and 244 pages

There are currently 11 Surveys at various stages in the editorial process.

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 over the past year. It is not clear what the reasons for this are but if the journal is to maintain its 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!

Relations with vtex are very cordial and effective.

Annual Report of the Scientific Legacy Editor, 2016-2017

The role of the Scientific Legacy Editor is to present the accomplishments and contributions of IMS members, and, in doing so, to describe and enhance knowledge of the history of the IMS. The IMS Scientific Legacy project, under continuing development, aims to document the accomplishments and biographies of IMS Fellows and other honored IMS members via webpages.

A contract with Mathematical Sciences Publishers (MSP) to host webpages for the honorees is in force until 31 December 2018. The server is located in U.C. Berkeley's Data Center, and the webpages will be hosted there. Design of the pages is IMS-branded and consistent with the appearance of the IMS website, `imstat.org`.

Under contract with the IMS, Joe Corneli has converted a master file in Unicode (UTF-8) format with the Fellows information to a format which allows direct uploading to webpages. Currently this converted file is being corrected and expanded, and this work needs to be completed to allow launching of the webpages. Additions to the file as new information becomes available will be made to allow continuing updating of the webpages.

The list of IMS Fellows currently numbers 1,134, of whom 358 are known to be deceased. Last month 20 new Fellows were announced. For each Fellow, the webpage will list education and honors, and provide references and links to many sources, including biographies, memoirs, Festschriften, oral histories, archive collections, bibliographies, portraits, and obituaries and in memoriam articles.

An article discussing the history of the IMS Fellows and noting some interesting persons among them appeared in the August 2015 issue of the *IMS Bulletin*. The online version is accompanied by lists of honors and awards achieved by the Fellows, such as Nobel Prizes, knighthoods, and academy memberships. The online list is updated every year. The latest version is available at bulletin.imstat.org/2015/07/ims-fellows-a-little-history/.

Three persons have been involved in the legacy project. Jim Pitman long worked to publicize the achievements of statisticians and mathematicians. As Scientific Legacy Editor, Paul Shaman is responsible for planning, and concentrates on data acquisition. Ruth Williams is the liaison between the project and the IMS Executive. She has been instrumental in moving the project forward.

Paul Shaman

16 June 2016

Report of the 2016 Nominations Committee

The nominee for IMS President, Xiao-Li Meng, was contacted on November 16, 2016 and accepted a few weeks later. The list of Council nominees was set on December 7. All but one of the individuals we asked agreed to run, so we only had to go to the first alternate. Proceedings of the committee went smoothly overall, with only minor logistical problems. Most committee members were active and responded in a timely manner, but a few did not vote in all rounds of voting. Some issues worth noting.

- We narrowed down the choices for President to two outstanding candidates before we did any voting. Having only two candidates simplified the voting but was perhaps a bit risky in that there was a small but nonzero chance both individuals might have been unwilling to run.

- The rules for tiebreaks in choosing Council nominees are a bit arcane and, I have to admit, I initially misapplied them after the first round of voting for the Council before catching my mistake. It is probably not worthwhile to automate the voting procedure, but my successors should be reminded to read the rules carefully before announcing results.

- The main substantive issue the committee discussed was how to increase the geographic diversity of the Council, which is dominated by residents of North America and Europe. We made a concerted effort to nominate some people from outside these regions, but none of them were elected to the Council. We discussed a number of ideas for increasing geographic diversity, including having specific regional representation on the council. Such a change may require amending the IMS constitution, which would not be easy, but is worth at least considering if the IMS is to be a truly worldwide organization.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Stein

New Researchers Conference

The IMS Committee on new researchers has been active in organizing the 2017 New Researchers Conference (NRC). To organize the NRC, the co-chairs of the organizing committee have been able to secure $15000 in funding from the Office of Naval Research and $3000 from Google. We are optimistically waiting to hear about a $15000 grant proposal we submitted to NIH, and we also have funding from NSF that was secured by last year's organizing committee.

On the organizational front, the logistics for venue, lodging, and food have been finalized. 59 participants have been selected; they are a mix of junior faculty and postdocs. The following senior faculty and administrators will present plenary talks and/or participate in panel discussions:

Rina Foygel Barber (University of Chicago)
Peter Bickel (UC Berkeley)
Nilanjan Chatterjee (Johns Hopkins University)
Ciprian Crainiceanu (Johns Hopkins University)
Alison Etheridge (Oxford University)
Ed George (UPenn)
Misrak Gezmu (NIH)
Jennifer Hill (NYU)
Shane Jensen (UPenn)
Nandini Kannan (NSF)
Carey Priebe (Johns Hopkins University)
John Storey (Princeton University)
Jon Wellner (University of Washington)
Josh Vogelstein (Johns Hopkins University)

Seminar on Stochastic Processes

A subcommittee was formed to select a tutorial speaker for the 2018 Seminar on Stochastic Processes.

Activities at JSM

A social mixer is being organized for JSM 2017, to bring together participants from past NRCs and to further expand group membership and involvement. Several invited and topic-contributed sessions featuring New Research Group members have been organized and accepted.

Additional notes

The New Researchers Group was involved in the SouthEastern Probability Conference at Duke. The chair of our committee has made contact with the chair of the New Investigator's Committee for the Statistical Society of Canada for the purpose of coordinating on joint interests.

Report of the Committee to Select Administrative Officers

During the last year the Committee to Select Administrative Officers (Rong Chen, Marten Wegkamp, and Gesine Reinert as chair) was tasked with nominating the IMS Executive Secretary.

For the first time ever we received an email recommending someone for this position., namely Professor Edsel A. Peña. The proposal was discussed electronically among the committee members. As a result the committee unanimously proposes Professor Edsel A. Peña for IMS Executive Secretary, from August 1, 2017, until August 19, 2020.

Gesine Reinert, Oxford, May 25th, 2017