3. The Publications of the Bernoulli Society

BERNOULLI

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BERNOULLI aims to provide information, in terms of research articles, of all major developments in Statistics as well as Probability, and is unique in this respect.

Manuscripts were accepted from end of 1993, and the first issue, actually the first two issues combined, appeared in June 1995. The regular publication schedule for BERNOULLI is four issues annually, to appear in March, June, September, and December. For the 1995 volume the total number of printed pages was 400 and Volume 2 will be of the same size. However, it was realized in the spring of 1996 that a significant increase in the number of printed pages would be required from 1997 onwards to avoid a major publication backlog and, after consultation with Chapman and Hall, the Executive Committee of Bernoulli Society agreed to set the size of the 1997 volume at slightly over 500 pages, a 25% increase. This reflects a steady increase in the submission rate to BERNOULLI over the period under report and the significant fact that the quality of the submissions has, in general, been of a very high standard.

Table 1 shows the number of papers in Volumes 1 and 2, roughly categorized according to the four areas of Theoretical Probability, Applied Probability, Theoretical Statistics, and Applied Statistics. It is a point of concern that the number of papers dealing with the more applied aspects, particularly of statistics, is relatively low. It would be most unfortunate if, from the contents of the first issues, the impression came to prevail that the journal was primarily for highly mathematical papers and, in particular, that statistical work with limited mathematical content is unsuitable for BERNOULLI. Thus, the Editors strongly encourage the submission of high quality work in applied areas of Probability and Statistics.

Subject area	Number of papers
Applied Probability	6
Theoretical Probability	13
Applied Statistics	3
Theoretical Statistics	16
History	2

Table 1: Number of papers in volumes 1 and 2 categorized into subject areas.

Table 2 shows the increase in submitted papers over the period together with statistics on accepted and rejected papers.

	Submitted	Accepted	Rejected
1994	60	28	20
1995	75	17	29
1/1-30/9, 1996	68	3	16

Table 2: Number of submitted, accepted and rejected papers according to the year of submission.

During 1996 the Editorial Board has been expanded, the new members being Adrian Baddeley (University of Western Australia), Richard D. Gill (University of Utrecht) and Peter Guttorp (University of Washington).

The editorial work has been greatly helped and furthered by excellent reports from the referees of the papers, and it is a real pleasure to be able to express here the appreciation of the members of the Editorial Board for the assistance provided by the referees.

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Final report of the past editor Robert J. Adler.

After three hard, tiring, but interesting years the editorship of SPA was passed over to Jean Jacod on May 1, 1996, at which stage a new editorial team also replaced the previous one.

SPA has continued to show both growth and stability over the past three years. The growth has been in two areas: the number of papers submitted to the journal has grown considerably, as has the number of pages published. The data are summarised in the following table:

Year	Pages published	Submitted	Accepted/ condit.acc.	Rejected	Withdrawn/ Unresolved	Acc. rate
1990	1098	168	101	67		60
1991	1094	186	87	99		47
1992	1476	190	95	95		50
1993	1802	208	84	107	3	41
1994	2262	189	66	106	4	36
1995	2154	238	97	130	11	43

As can be seen from the figures, despite this growth, a raising of standards (reflected by a lowered acceptance rate) has led to a rather constant number of papers being accepted for publication.

Thus, one asks, "why are more pages required to publish the same number of papers?". The answer here is two-fold. A minor factor is that papers in probability and stochastic processes seem to be getting longer all the time. This is due in part to word processor induced verbosity and TeX induced repetitiveness, and in part to the increasingly technical nature of our discipline.

The major factor, however, is that over the past three years, the backlog, as measured from the date of acceptance of the final version of a paper until its appearence in print, has dropped from over 13 months to a little over 3. This is more or less the minimum possible given the technical constraints of commercial publishing. (The initial backlog was generated by the fact that in the late 1980's and early 1990's the number of journal pages did not grow at a rate corresponding to increasing submission rates.)

This makes SPA one of the most timely publication outlets today for papers in probability and stochastic processes, an enviable achievement not shared by many of its cohorts.

Since this is my final report, let me take the opportunity to thank my associate editors for a truly sterling job. Without the constant efforts of these grossly under-appreciated and hard working experts, and the referees who, in turn, supported them, there would have been no SPA over the past three years.

Robert Adler
Chapel Hill

The Journal of Time Series Analysis

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Editor's Report:

JTSA is now in its 17th year of publication and is progressing very well. We continue to receive a healthy input of good quality papers, and the journal publishes approximately 40 papers per annum spread over 6 issues. Authors continue to provide papers covering a wide spectrum of time series topics, but as in previous years the emphasis is still on theoretical and methodological areas. More papers on applied topics would be welcomed.

There have been no changes in the composition of the Editorial since the last major re–organisation in 1994.

It may be worth reminding readers of Bernoulli News that members of the Bernoulli Society can subscribe to the Journal at a 10% reduction in rates. Anyone interested should contact the publishers: Blackwells, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 1JF, England, email: blackwell.subscriptions@world.std.com

Maurice Priestley
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Visit the Bernoulli Society on WWW

General information on the society, its journals, conferences, standing committees, and so on can be found at

http://www.math.ruu.nl/bernoulli

This site has been set up by Erik van Zwet (vanzwet@math.ruu.nl) and is currently administered by him and the scientific secretary (gill@math.ruu.nl).

This newsletter is also available on the web. You find it and links to various interesting sites, also those listed in the last issue of this newsletter, at

http://www.uni-mainz.de/bernoulli

This site has been set up by Annette Schärf (schaerf@mathematik.uni-mainz.de) and is currently administered by her and the editor of Bernoulli News (cklu@mathematik.uni-mainz.de).

You are welcome to visit us and send us your comments.