

Editorial Transactions Update



This issue marks the beginning of the fourth year of publication of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS and the second year of my editorship. In the first two years, the TRANSACTIONS had four issues annually—306 pages in 1990 under the guidance of Founding Editor, Herbert E. Rauch, and 606 pages in 1991 under the editorial leadership of Michael W. Roth. Due to growth in the field, the TRANSACTIONS expanded to a bimonthly publication in 1992 with 1038 pages. The same number of pages are scheduled for 1993. The backlog from acceptance to press is currently about seven months. The IEEE NNC AdCom (Neural Networks Council Administrative Committee) has authorized another page increase in 1994. I greatly appreciate the support of the NNC President, Russell Eberhart and NNC Publications Chair, Stamatios V. Kartalopoulos, in obtaining it.

Here are some statistics. The printing run in 1992 for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS was 9650 copies per issue. About 1000 of these go to libraries. Currently, approximately 60% of the papers are submitted electronically. We are working to raise this to 90%.

Through November 30, 1992, the TRANSACTIONS has received over 1500 submissions, including full papers, brief papers, and book reviews. Letters are sent directly to the Letters Editor and are not included in this count. In the last year, alone, over 500 manuscripts have been received. To compare with conferences, where acceptance standards and paper content can be quite different, the Baltimore IJCNN received over 750 papers and the upcoming March '93 San Francisco ICNN/FUZZ-IEEE* meeting received about 900 submissions. The acceptance rate for papers submitted to the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS is about one third. I estimate that less than 5% of submitted papers accepted are published without some type of revision.

The Associate Editors of the TRANSACTIONS are strictly blue ribbon. Although the Editor-in-Chief is accountable for the contents of the TRANSACTIONS, the Associate Editors are the

brains of the operation, and are responsible for TRANSACTIONS' quality. There is a rich international mix of Associate Editors. Represented are engineers and scientists from Austria, Finland, Germany, Japan, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This transnational composite was achieved serendipitously through application of a metric of excellence rather than one of nationalistic diversity. Associate Editors are chosen for their expertise in the field and ability to coordinate timely in-depth reviews. Each Associate Editor is approved by the NCC AdCom.

The TRANSACTIONS has a conflict of interest policy whose objective is fair disinterested review of all submitted manuscripts. It has been endorsed by the Publications Committee of the NNC, and presented to the NNC AdCom. I end my editorial with it.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

1. Referee Requests

Authors may request that their paper's review not be coordinated by specific Associate Editors and that their papers not be reviewed by specified individuals. The Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors will comply with all such requests deemed reasonable.

2. Papers by the Associate Editors & NCC AdCom Members

The Associate Editors of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS and members of the NNC AdCom are, by design, some of the world's premier researchers in the field of neural networks. It is therefore desirable and appropriate that they publish in the TRANSACTIONS. In order to assure fair disinterested reviews of papers submitted by Associate Editors and AdCom members, the Editor-in-Chief will delegate review coordination and acceptance decision of papers submitted by Associate Editors to a third party whose identity will not be made known to the Associate Editor or AdCom member author. The third party will be responsible for coordination of the review and decision for suitability for publication.

3. Disqualification

Associate Editors and Referees will immediately disqualify themselves from review of papers in which there exists a conflict of interest.

4. Papers by the Editor-in-Chief

Papers coauthored by the Editor-in-Chief will be submitted to an Associate Editor. The Associate Editor will assign editorial responsibility of the paper to a third party who, for that paper, will be responsible for coordination of the review and decision for suitability for publication. The identity of the third party will remain unknown to the Editor-in-Chief.

* See the Call for Participation ads in this issue.