

# Statistica Sinica Co-Editors' Report

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## Executive Summary:

In the past 12 months, from August 1, 2020, to July 31, 2021, Statistica Sinica receives 451 submissions, including nine to a special issue and 442 original articles; The total number of submissions remains relatively stable in the recent years. Of the 442 original papers, we have accepted 61 and rejected 278, with other 109 under various revision stage. Because we decided not to use the 'rejection with revision allowed' option, our number of revisions is higher than before. Overall, we expect that our eventual acceptance rate for this group of papers will be higher than that in the past. Although it is very possible that we have received better papers this year, we may need to consider raising our acceptance standard slightly higher, as we have a strict limit on the number of pages to publish each year.

During the first year of our tenure, we have modified the editorial policies to expedite the review process. As a result of the effort of the editorial team, the median, the third quartile and the 95 percentile review times are shortened significantly comparing to the earlier years around the same censor time. We deeply appreciate the extraordinary effort by our associate editors to make such an improvement possible. This would certainly make the journal more attractive to authors and will attract more and better papers.

Currently we have an 18-month backlog for accepted papers to be published formally, though we post all accepted papers online immediately after acceptance. In order to shorten the backlog without reducing the number of accepted papers, we plan to publish additional online-only special issues that are not restricted to the publication page limit.

The journal's impact factor in 2020 reaches almost all-time high (1.26 for two-year IF and 1.64 for five-year IF), thanks to the efforts of the former editors, associate editors and contributing authors. On the other hand, the ranking of the journal does not reflect the achievement, partially due to the expansion of the competing journal pool used in the ranking. Various efforts are being made to enhance our impact factor, including organizing more special issues on emerging topics.

## 1. Submissions and Acceptance Statistics

Table 1 shows the composition of the manuscripts received in the past 12 months. Table 2 shows a comparison of the number of submissions and the number of papers accepted during the year. Note that the accepted papers may have been submitted in the years before. Table 3 shows the current status of the papers, grouped by the years the papers were submitted. Table 4 shows the number of submissions by country in the past three years.

**Table 1.** Manuscript received from August 2020 to July 2021

Manuscript Type	Number of Manuscripts	Percentage
Original Article	442	98%
Special Issue Paper – In Honor of Professor Tze Leung Lai	9	2%
Total	451	

**Table 2.** Submissions and acceptances for the past 6 years.

	Aug 2015 – Jul 2016	Aug 2016 – Jul 2017	Aug 2017 – Jul 2018	Aug 2018 – Jul 2019	Aug 2019 – Jul 2020	Aug 2020 – Jul 2021
Acceptance	104	150	146	88	84	119
Submission	567	531	486	450	468	451

**Table 3.** Review status for the past 3 years.

	Aug 2018–Jul 2019		Aug 2019–Jul 2020		Aug 2020–Jul 2021	
Rejected w/o external review	220	48.8%	179	38.0%	188	41.7%
Rejected with external review	109	24.2%	145	30.8%	83	18.4%
Rejected with revision allowed	43	9.5%	55	11.7%	7	1.6%
Major/Minor revision	2	0.4%	7	1.5%	45	10.0%
First submission under review	0	0%	0	0.0%	39	8.6%
Revision under review	0	0%	4	0.8%	19	4.2%
Withdrawn	0	0%	2	0.4%	0	0.0%
Accepted	77	17.1%	79	16.8%	70	15.5%
Total	451		471		451	

**Table 4.** Top ten countries with the highest submissions for the past 3 years.

Rank	Aug 2018 - Jul 2019		Aug 2019 - Jul 2020		Aug 2020 - Jul 2021	
1	USA	141 (41.1%)	USA	127 (29.8%)	USA	148 (32.8%)
2	China	108 (31.5%)	China	121 (28.4%)	China	117 (25.9%)
3	Canada	19 (5.5%)	H.K.	17 (4.0%)	Canada	21 (4.7%)
4	Italy	12 (3.5%)	Canada	15 (3.5%)	H.K.	17 (3.8%)
5	India	12 (3.5%)	UK	14 (3.3%)	Italy	14 (3.1%)
6	Iran	11 (3.2%)	Iran	12 (2.8%)	Taiwan	12 (2.7%)
7	Taiwan	10 (2.9%)	Singapore	10 (2.3%)	Brazil	11 (2.4%)
8	Spain	10 (2.9%)	Taiwan	9 (2.1%)	India/ Pakistan	9 (2.0%)
9	H.K.	10 (2.9%)	Australia/ Japan	8 (1.9%)	Iran/Japan/ UK	8 (1.8%)
10	Germany	10 (2.9%)	Saudi Arabia	7 (1.6%)	Saudi Arabia	7 (1.6%)

## 2. Manuscript Processing Time

Table 5 shows the turnaround statistics of initial decisions for the past three years, with the decision times censored on August 18, 2021. About 75% of the editorial decisions during 2020-2021 take less than 78 days, but 5% take over 124 days. The comparison with the earlier years in Table 5 is biased as we still have 39 papers to be processed and those tend to be landed on the right side of the distribution when completed. In Table 6 we report a more fair comparison, with roughly the same censored time (based on the previous annual reports.) Our processing time is indeed significantly shorter than the previous years.

**Table 5.** Percentiles of review time in days for the past 3 years.

Period	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th	Sample Size
Aug 2018 – Jul 2019	3	10	29	100	171	450
Aug 2019 – Jul 2020	5	13	37	105	185	467
Aug 2020 – Jul 2021	3	8	24	78	124	412*

\*Additional 39 manuscripts awaiting an initial decision

**Table 6.** Comparison of review time in days for the past 3 years (data censored on different dates).

Period	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th	Sample Size	Data Censored time	Awaiting initial decisions manuscripts
Aug 2018 – Jul 2019	2	9	20	85	154	364	Jul. 2, 2019	73
Aug 2019 – Jul 2020	5	13	31	99	171	441	Oct. 19, 2020	27
Aug 2020 – Jul 2021	3	8	24	78	124	412	Aug. 18, 2021	39

## 3. Backlog for Publication

In the past year, we have published four issues containing 91 articles. There remain 180 accepted manuscripts waiting to be published. Among them, 24 will appear in the general issue in Oct 2021 and 9 will appear in an online special issue in Oct 2021. The backlog is about 18 months from acceptance to publication.

## 4. Rankings and Impact Factors

Table 7 shows the ranks of *Statistica Sinica* based on the 2-Year Impact Factor and the 5-Year Impact Factor provided by the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) in the area of Statistics and Probability from 2012 to 2020. Table 8 shows the ranks of *Statistica Sinica* in Scimago Journal Rankings among all journals of Statistics and Probability in the Scopus database from 2012-2020. The ranking is performed using the algorithm Google PageRank™.

**Table 7.** JCR rankings for the recent 9 years.

Year	Number of Journals	Ranking (2-Year Impact Factor)		Ranking (5-Year Impact Factor)	
2020	125	76	(1.261)	64	(1.647)
2019	124	72	(0.968)	67	(1.230)
2018	123	71	(0.947)	66	(1.256)
2017	123	71	(0.886)	51	(1.399)
2016	124	70	(0.899)	46	(1.632)
2015	123	66	(0.838)	42	(1.611)
2014	122	44	(1.158)	36	(1.591)
2013	119	37	(1.226)	44	(1.365)
2012	117	25	(1.440)	41	(1.418)

**Table 8.** SCImago journal rankings for recent 9 years.

Year	Total Number of Journal	Journal Rank	Quartile
2020	257	50	Q1
2019	246	41	Q1
2018	219	41	Q1
2017	196	23	Q1
2016	183	26	Q1
2015	179	20	Q1
2014	179	14	Q1
2013	179	12	Q1
2012	176	19	Q1

## 5. Special Issue

We organized one special issue “In Honor of Professor Tze Leung Lai with Yi-Ching Yao ([yao@stat.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:yao@stat.sinica.edu.tw)) and Zhiliang Ying ([zying@stat.columbia.edu](mailto:zying@stat.columbia.edu)) as the guest editors. This special issue will be published in Volume 31, Number 5 as an online-only issue.