

Editorial: The Blossoming of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS

THIS issue marks the end of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS. Starting with the January 2012 issue, our Transactions will be renamed “IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS AND LEARNING SYSTEMS.”

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS was inaugurated in 1990. Since its inception, the Transactions has been devoted to the science and technology of neural networks that disclose significant technical knowledge, exploratory developments and applications of neural networks from biology, and software and hardware with an emphasis on artificial neural networks. In the past 22 years, TNN has grown steadily with the hard work of my predecessors, including Herbert E. Rauch (1990), Michael W. Roth (1991), Robert J. Marks II (1992–1997), Jacek M. Zurada (1998–2003), and Marios M. Polycarpou (2004–2009), as well as the hard work of editorial boards and all reviewers. It is my great honor to join this prominent group and serve as the editor-in-chief of IEEE TNN.

From Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2010, Transactions received 600 new submissions (not counting resubmissions and revised submissions). Among these 600 submissions, there are 169 papers accepted for publication, which leads to a final 28-percent acceptance rate for 2010. All of these accepted papers went through a thorough review process and most of them, if not all, went through a “major revision.” No papers were accepted after the first round of review (we need to have a uniform recommendation from all three reviewers). Recommendations from our reviewers and the associate editor in the first round were “major revisions” (called “reject and resubmit” in TNN’s ScholarOne Manuscripts system) or “minor revisions.” Manuscripts that contained potentially publishable results but were not conveyed clearly, or lacked certain details in the presentation, were recommended for major revision.

Few papers in 2010 received a uniform recommendation from all three reviewers for “minor revision.” Some papers went through two rounds of reviews before acceptance, while others went through three to four rounds. The first round of review usually finishes in three to four months. On average, papers are accepted within 10 months from first submission.

Currently, we are working hard to reduce that number to less than eight months from the initial-submission date. In the past five years, TNN has published about 170 papers each year, which fits the above numbers of papers accepted in 2010. Our backlog has been kept at a healthy two months for the past few years. We have slightly more than 50 associate editors handling the review of 600 new submissions. Each associate editor was assigned an average of 12 papers in 2010 (one new paper assignment per month).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following 10 hardworking associate editors whose terms have ended this year. They are: Cesare Alippi, Sheng Chen, Ming Dong, Akira Hirose, Zeng-Guang Hou, Sanqing Hu, Irwin King, Jinhua Lu, Sergios Theodoridis, and Peter Zhang. Thank you for your great service to TNN. I wish everyone much success in future endeavors.

It has been my great pleasure working for one of IEEE’s most prestigious publications, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS. With the name change starting next year, the dedication of the entire editorial board, and the hard work of our reviewers, the Transactions will be ready to face the challenges of the next 10 years. With the evolution of the fields of neural networks in particular and computational intelligence in general, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS AND LEARNING SYSTEMS will continue to grow and to succeed in this ever-changing world.

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