

EDITORIAL

This index covers the years 2007–2009, during which time the Applied Probability Trust (APT) published Volumes 44–46 of the *Journal of Applied Probability* (*JAP*) and Volumes 39–41 of *Advances in Applied Probability* (*AAP*). These six volumes, each of four issues, included a total of 423 papers (of which 29 are short communications), occupying 7098 pages (approximately 296 pages per issue).

During the period 2007–2009, we also published obituaries for D. G. Kendall (*JAP* **45**, 293–296), one of the fathers of modern applied probability, and C. C. Heyde (*JAP* **45**, 587–592; *ibid.* 593–594), who served as Editor-in-Chief of the AP journals from 1990–2008 and as a Trustee of the APT from 1984 until his death in 2008; the APT is deeply indebted to him for his contributions.

The percentages of papers originating in groups of countries is given in Table 1. The most marked development is the rise in the number of papers from Western Europe.

In terms of subject areas, queueing (including networks and communications applications) has traditionally been the largest in the AP journals. This picture is now somewhat changed: mathematical finance, insurance risk, branching processes (another traditional cornerstone), and decision problems in various forms have grown substantially and are now also highly represented.

Stochastic geometry and statistical applications (*SGSA*) plays a special role deserving individual attention within *AAP*, where major developments were expected and for which the diverse constituency needed a ‘home journal’. The developments in this area and the increase in published material in *AAP* has certainly justified this initiative.

Table 2 gives a list of papers grouped according to subject area, covering 363 out of the total of 423 published papers. Each paper is assigned to one area only; this of course causes some ambiguity since many papers have equal weights in two or more of the categories

The submission numbers remain constant within Poisson fluctuations. About 30 percent of the submissions are rejected instantaneously, most often as being inappropriate for the journals: too theoretical, more of an engineering or statistics paper, etc. However, in some cases the reason could also be a lack of either application relevance or probabilistic substance. The ideal is of course that a paper should cover both aspects, but in some cases a substantial strength in one may dispense for weakness in the other. Papers in areas such as queueing, finance, insurance risk, and reliability are also often judged better for the specialized journals in these fields.

TABLE 1: Percentages of papers originating in each group of countries.

	1995–1997	1998–2000	2001–2003	2004–2006	2007–2009
USA and Canada	31	25	25	25	23
UK	10	8	8	10	9
Western Europe	32	40	40	36	41
Eastern Europe	5	4	7	5	3
Japan	2	2	3	3	2
Australia and NZ	7	8	6	6	6
Middle East, Africa, Asia	11	10	11	13	14
South and Central America	2	2	1	2	2

TABLE 2: Number of papers published in *JAP* and *AAP* by selected subject.

Branching processes	27
Combinatorial probability, urn schemes	22
Decision problems not in other category	14
Epidemics	12
Finance	30
Genetics	10
Heavy tails	9
Insurance risk	20
Large deviations	8
Lévy processes	13
Long-range dependence, fractals	13
Markov decision processes, game theory	17
Monte Carlo simulation	18
Optimal stopping	13
Pattern and sequence analysis	15
Queueing	35
Random graphs, particle systems, mathematical physics	14
Random walks, renewal theory	10
Reliability	19
Markov process problems not in other category	20
SGSA	43
Stochastic ordering	9

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the invaluable work done by the board members (who play an increasing role in the editorial process) and the referees, who receive far too little credit for the anonymous work they are doing.

Aarhus University, Denmark
July 2010

SØREN ASMUSSEN