

Status of the IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems

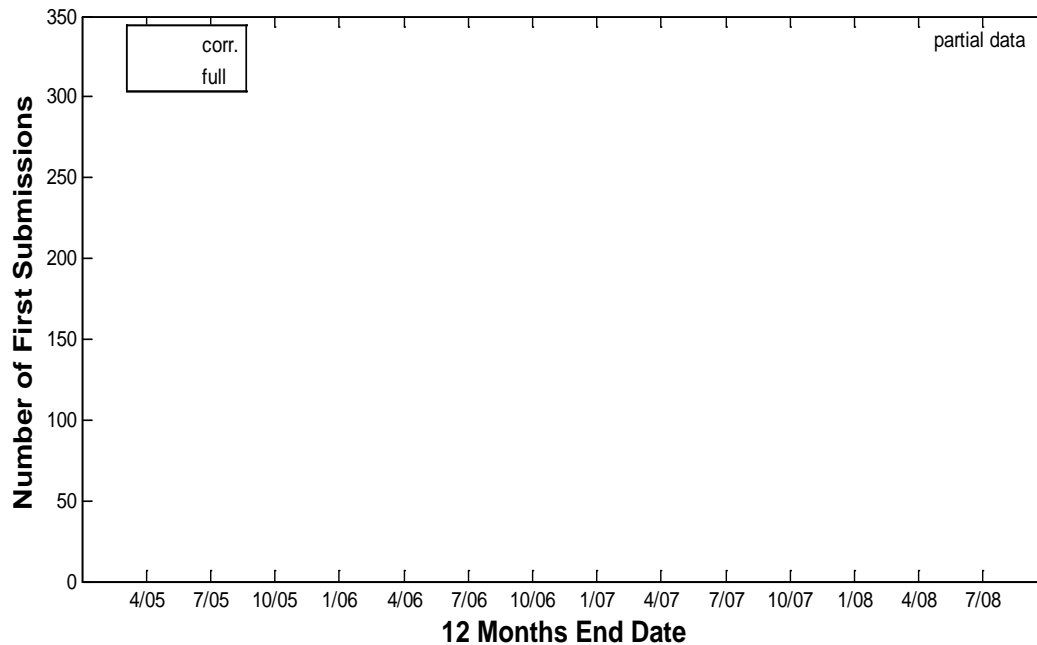
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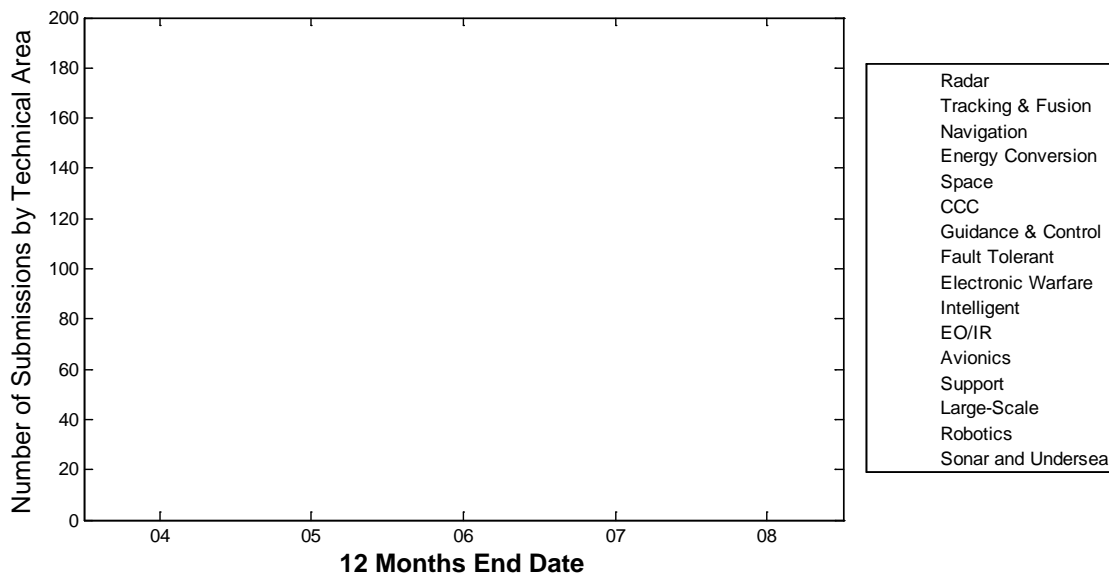
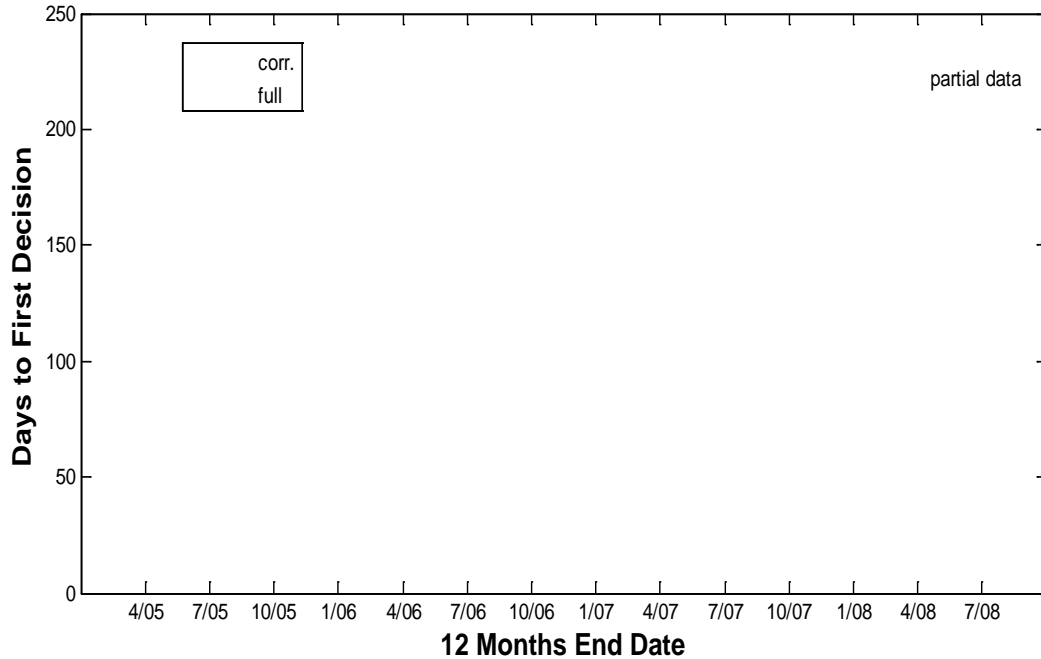
Peter Willett, Editor-In-Chief

September 9, 2008

Transactions Overview

Below, please find the data on submissions and times to first decision. It appears that we have reached a plateau pretty much where we want to be in terms of processing time: about 3 months until first decision. We are stable in terms of submissions to the Transactions, at 300-350 articles of various types per year. The number of correspondence submissions seems to be increasing.





The plot above illustrates the technical areas' levels of activity, plotted over time. The level of interest in the radar area continues to increase. I also notice an uptrend in our "Guidance and Control" and "Navigation" technical areas, perhaps due to improving reputation in these areas. There appears to be a small drop (not confirmed) in the Tracking & Fusion area – this may be due to friendly competition from ISIF's new JAIF (Journal of Advances in Information Fusion), or it may be nothing at all.

Author News

I usually use this space to describe problems we have had with authors. There has been a great deal of communication (perhaps 2-3 emails per day, to the EIC) inquiring about reviews and publication/appearance dates. However, there has been very little conflict.

There have been several incidents lately of serial submission. One case involved some authors who had submitted a paper to us shortly after its having been declined by AIAA JGCD. (The case was brought to my attention by the rejecting AIAA editor who noticed the paper on the author's website.) The authors in this case claimed (1) that they thought they had brought the manuscript's previous history to TAES attention in the proper way, and (2) that they didn't think they needed to note the history because it had been rejected by AIAA without review. Taken together these were puzzling, but ultimately (2) was reasonable, and warranted warnings rather than disciplinary action.

A second case involved an author who didn't like the results of the first round of review and simply resubmitted. This would be acceptable if noted, but the author was, unfortunately, untruthful in her submission. Since the second submission was to the same associate editor (who, again unfortunately, did not notice the resubmission until quite late in the process), the EIC decision was simply to reject the second paper, and not proceed further.

Associate and Technical Editor News

Bill Polivka has announced that he will be cutting back, and eventually stepping down, as Energy Conversion Systems Technical Editor. He recommended the appointment of Professor Sudip Mazumder from the University of Illinois at Chicago as a new Associate Editor, and either he or the senior Associate, Mummadi Veechary, will take over from Bill.

As indicated earlier, Murali Rangaswamy's Radar Systems technical area has been seeing strong growth. We have thus brought Ram Narayanan on board as seventh Associate in that area.

Barry Carlton Award

The 2006 Barry Carlton Award goes to Thomas Brehard and Jean-Pierre Le Cadre, from IRISA/CNRS in France, for "Closed-Form Posterior Cramer-Rao Bounds for Bearings-Only Tracking" (Volume 42, Issue 4, October 2006 Page(s):1198 - 1223).

The 2006 award has been rather difficult, since despite my editorials and reminders, there were not external nominees. This award was recognized by internal nominators (associate and technical editorial staff). Even this procedure was rather fraught – one paper was strongly supported by a large number of the staff, but in the end the strong opinions of one member overrode that support. (In fact, the dissenting view was from the editor who accepted the paper – that editor felt that the paper was good, but not award quality. Other papers had objections from the staff as well. In the end, though, I am happy with the Brehard/LeCadre paper: it is a very solid

piece of theoretical work with practical applications. And the recipients are worthy of recognition.

I do have some external nominations for 2007 & 2008. But, as always, PLEASE help us (and the authors' careers) by nominating good papers!

Manuscripts by Country of Origin

I thought it would be interesting to try a “guest” table. This shows the percentage of papers that come from each country, as stated by the authors.

Algeria	0.09
Australia	3.21
Austria	0.26
Unknown	1.39
Belgium	0.17
Brazil	0.43
Canada	5.64
China	21.35
Cyprus	0.09
Czech Republic	0.09
Egypt	0.35
Finland	0.43
France	2.26
Germany	1.04
Greece	0.17
Hong Kong	0.61
India	3.65
Iran	1.48
Israel	1.04
Italy	3.56
Japan	1.30
Jordan	0.09
Korea (south), Republic Of	3.73
Malaysia	0.09
Malta	0.09
Mexico	0.26
Morocco	0.09
Netherlands	0.52
Norway	0.35
Pakistan	0.26
Poland	0.09
Portugal	0.09
Russia	0.17
Singapore	1.82
South Africa	0.17
Spain	2.17
Sweden	0.43
Switzerland	0.09
Taiwan	4.25
Thailand	0.26
Turkey	0.78
Ukraine	0.09
United Kingdom	3.47
United States of America	31.77
Vietnam	0.09