

Editorial

AS MY second term as Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS (TCAD) comes to an end, I would like to provide an update on the transactions.

More than two years ago, the electronic submission and review system was enhanced so that final submissions of accepted papers could be done electronically. Making the whole submission and review process completely electronic eliminated the need for using postal mail for any part of the review and submission process. One of the advantages of using this fully electronic system is that papers can be properly tracked, eliminating potential delays. To date, 474 accepted final submissions have been submitted electronically. In addition, we have also cloned the TCAD electronic submission/review system for the other IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (CASS) journals. This provides a common platform for electronic submission and review for all four CASS journals—all of which now use this system extensively.

During the past four years, the TCAD website has received a total of 2535 regular and special issue papers (revised versions of the papers are counted as a submission). The number of new submissions has been as follows: 356 papers in 2002, 338 papers in 2003, 392 papers in 2004, and about 410 papers in 2005 (expected estimate). The number of submitted papers is steadily increasing, which is a healthy sign for this journal. These include papers for 11 special issues/sections that were published or are under review/publication. Three of these special issues will appear in print in 2006. These are *Biochips* (February 2006), *International Symposium on Physical Design (ISPD2005)* (April 2006), and *International Workshop on Logic Synthesis (IWLS2005)* (May 2006). A summary of the various special issues and the acceptance ratios up to September 30, 2005 is provided in the first table.

The processing times for these papers are shown in the second table. The entries are to be interpreted as follows. All times are in days and are counted from the date the papers were submitted. Columns 2–5 of the first row list, in order, the mean times taken by the EIC to make any decision (i.e., a decision to accept, a decision to recommend revision, and a decision to reject). The next four columns list the same for Associate Editors (AEs). The second and third rows are similar to the first, except that they list the maximum and minimum times, respectively.

I am happy to report that we have met the original goal of having mean decision times under 100 days. In fact, the journal has done really well in this regard—the mean decision time is 83 days, thanks to some exceptionally dedicated AEs. There

Issue	Submitted	Under Review		Decisions				Acceptance Ratio
		1st Cycle	2nd Cycle	Accept	Revise	Reject	Total	
Regular Issue	2188	96	45	572	1036	433	2041	30%
Special Issue BMAS	62	0	0	16	28	17	61	26%
Special Issue Biochips	30	0	0	14	15	1	30	48%
Special Issue DAC2002	30	0	0	9	21	0	30	30%
Special Issue DATE2004	32	0	0	12	18	2	32	42%
Special Issue ISPD2002	38	0	0	17	20	1	38	47%
Special Issue ISPD2003	43	0	0	13	26	4	43	31%
Special Issue ISPD2004	32	0	0	12	14	6	32	37%
Special Issue ISPD2005	28	0	12	1	14	1	16	7%
Special Issue ISQED2004	14	0	0	6	7	1	14	46%
Special Issue IWLS2002	15	0	0	6	7	2	15	40%
Special Issue IWLS2005	23	0	1	1	8	13	22	4%
TOTAL	2535	96	58	679	1214	481	2374	30%

	EIC's Decision				AEs' Recommendation			
	Overall	Accept	Revise	Reject	Overall	Accept	Revise	Reject
Mean	83	65	93	82	82	65	92	82
Maximum	306	280	285	306	306	280	284	306
Minimum	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1

were some pathological cases that required a much longer time to reach a decision as seen by the overall maximum of 306 days.

Although we have worked very hard to reduce the average review cycle time, at present, there are a large number of papers in the publication queue. Since there has been an increase in the number of submissions to the journal, and several authors have published extremely long papers during the past year, a large publication backlog now exists. The number of pages that are published in a given year is fixed, and this backlog cannot be eliminated unless CASS increases the page budgets for the journal for a given year. During 2005, we were given a 15% increase in the page budget, which has helped. However, at present, a paper will be in the publication queue for almost a year once the final manuscript has been received. This can be very disappointing to the authors and I am hoping that CASS can increase the page budgets next year to reduce this backlog significantly. I would also appreciate it if authors would make every attempt to not submit overly long papers to the journal.

I have had the opportunity of working and interacting with many excellent people, and I want to thank them all for their

help and support during the past four years. I have strived towards timely publication of high-quality papers with the help of a technically strong, energetic, and dedicated editorial board. I thank all the AEs, the guest editors, and reviewers for their commitment and efforts in making TCAD a high-quality journal. I specially recognize and thank Professors Krishnendu Chakrabarty, Niraj Jha, Sachin Sapatnekar, and C.-J. Richard Shi. They have been outstanding and extremely responsive AEs, handling a large number of papers while keeping an average review cycle time of under 70 days. It has been a real pleasure working with them. I thank Steve Cleveland and Tom Lieuallen for providing excellent support and enhancements for the electronic review and submission systems as well as for their efforts in cloning the system for the other CASS journals. Last, but not least, I also thank Tina Batten who was

an exceptional Corresponding Editor. Tina ensured that authors, reviewers, and AEs got a timely response to their queries and kept things moving!

It has been a great experience serving as EIC of TCAD, and I thank CASS for its support and for giving me this opportunity. I wish the new EIC, Professor Enrico Macii, and the editorial team continued success.

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October 1, 2005