Refining the Oakland submission model

May 21, 2019

Original proposal

Permit submission and acceptance of results any time they're ready

- Frequent submission opportunities

- Rapid turnaround to published paper

Improve quality of papers and review process

- Create incentives for high-quality and constructive reviews

- Facilitate a more collaborative process between reviewers and authors

- Smooth the reviewing workload to a low-volume, ongoing effort

The current status

2019

- 12 deadlines per year
- PC members reviewed 6 times a year
- Online PC meeting monthly
- Authors get a short turn-around (2 months)

Before 2018

- 1 deadline per year
- Several rounds of reviews
- In-person PC meeting

Observed Benefits

- Flexibility for authors -> Papers submitted when ready
- Accepted papers become available immediately
- Improved quality of papers through Revise option
- Reduced overall load for PC members
- Led to changes in the submission models used by the entire community

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2019

- 12 deadlines per year
- PC members reviewed 6 times a year
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Before 2018

- 1 deadline per year
- Several rounds of reviews
- Author rebuttal
- In-person PC meeting

Current Concerns

- PC members are continuously reviewing
- Fast turnaround precludes a formal, second round of reviews
  - Papers do not always get enough high-expertise reviews

Changes in 2020

Reduce (continuous) load on PC members

- Increase the size of PC to 122
- Split the PC into multiple groups
- Each PC member participates in only 3 review cycles

Remaining pain points

- Fast turnaround precludes a formal, second round of reviews
  - Papers do not always get enough high-expertise reviews
- PC fragmentation may exacerbate expertise challenges

Proposal going forward (2021 and beyond)

Goal: Substantially improve review quality

- Make the review cycle longer (at least 2.5 months)
- Introduce a second round of reviews
- Limit PC fragmentation to ensure consistency

...But this comes at a cost

- Need to reduce the number of submission deadlines
- Possible solutions: Move to quarterly or bi-monthly deadlines

We will work on a full proposal and ask for community input