Association for Constraint Programming

Annual General Meeting
CP 2025 – August 13, 2025

Gilles Pesant, President of the ACP

Agenda

The ACP: mission, EC, membership	**5 min**
ACP News	5 min
ACP Awards	5 min
ACP Finances	10 min
Upcoming Events	5 min
EC Initiatives	20 min
Open Discussion	10 min

…followed by short presentation of 2026 conference and summer school!

Mission

« Promote CP in every aspect of the scientific world, by encouraging...

- *its theoretical and practical developments*
- *its teaching in academic institutions*
- *its adoption in the industrial world*
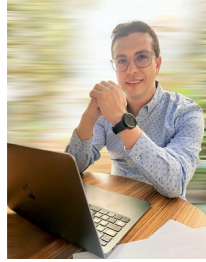- *its use in the application fields »*

And I would add to this...

- grow the community
- promote our members (help career advancement)

Executive Committee

Gilles Pesant
President

Nadjib Lazaar
Treasurer

Miquel Bofill
Secretary

Hélène Verhaeghe
Conference
Coordinator

Ines Lynce
DEI Delegate

David Bergman
Past president

Roland Yap
AISOCC rep.

Roie Zivan
Webmaster

Membership

EC Decision:

- Tie ACP membership to CP conference and Summer School registrations, for two years. (perhaps 3 years, like IJCAI?)

- Provide an alternative to renew membership, for people not being able to attend CP.

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AISOCC

Artificial Intelligence Scientific Organizations Coordinating Council

- New organization formed to facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration among AI scientific organizations.

- Members: AAAI, EurAI, IJCAI, ICAPS, NeurIPS, ACP, ...

- Our representative: Roland Yap

- Member organizations do not give up any of their autonomy

- No membership fee

DEI Scholarships

- Despite identifying recipients in the past two years, hadn't materialized yet (could not travel, etc)

- This year, we awarded 4 (partial) scholarships:

  Buddhi Kothalawala

  Zhengyuan Shi

  Kevin Tole

  Nils Weidmann

Tech support to Webmaster

- A service to our community
- Skills in webpage management, server operation, backup generation, and DNS configuration and maintenance.
- Familiarity with the web technologies we currently use, such as Drupal and Gandi, is essential.

- Interested? Talk to Hélène or me, or write to Roie: zivanr@bgu.ac.il

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ACP Awards

- *Research Excellence*: **Laurent Michel**

- *Early Career Researcher*: **Emir Demirović**

- *Doctoral Research:* **Ruiwei Wang**

   (honourable mention: Isaac Rudich)

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ACP Finances : financial report, **targeted sponsorship,** **membership fee?**	**10 min**
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Financial update

Year	Amount	
2006	70,093€	
2007	49,626€	
2008	63,742€	
2009	63,530€	
2010	72,489€	
2011	56,747€	
2012	59,528€	
2013	54,949€	
2014	55,102€	
2015	58,940€	
2016	68,031€	
2017	53,511€	
2018	75,169€	
2019	66,310€	
2020	52,826€	
2021	58,099€	
2022	38,111€	
2023	34,143€	
2024	33,743€	
2025	48,236€	€37,736

Amount vs. Year
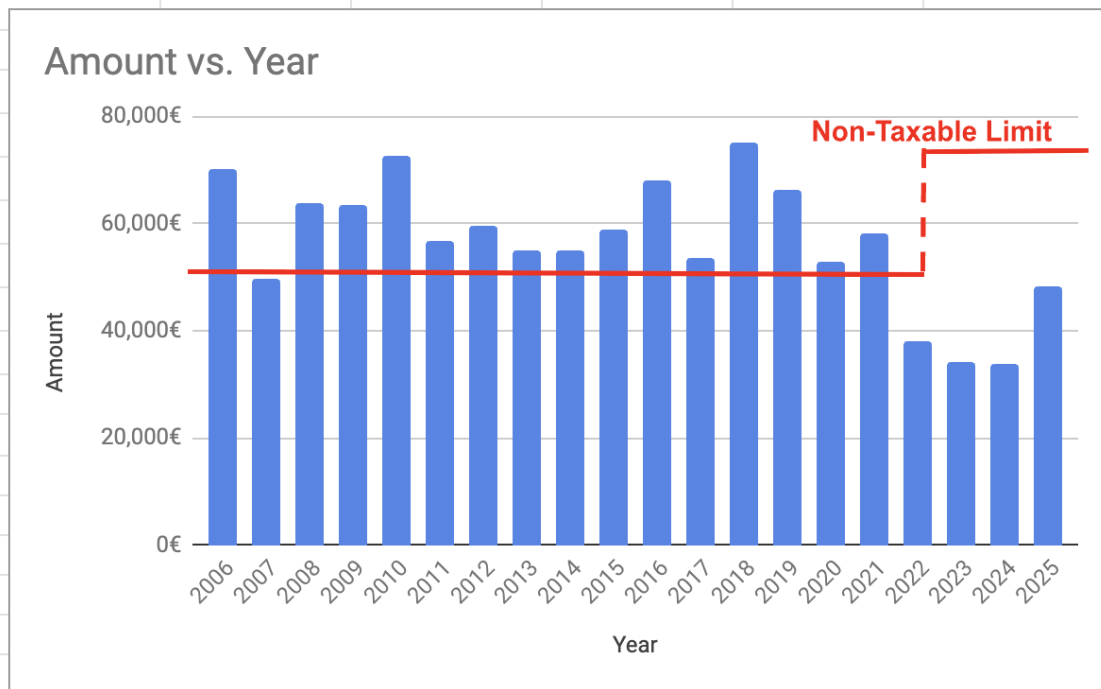
Financial update

Last year	17/07/2024		34,143.13
		IN	OUT
Finalized transactions			
	CP24 Revenue	€14,500	
	Interest 2024	€914	
	CP24 sponsorship	€1,200	
	AIJ dotation (CP25)	€4,525	€4,525
	AIJ dotation (ACP SS25)	€2,745	€2,745
	AIJ dotation (CP23)	€10,000	
	ACP SS 25		€6,089
	ACP EC dinner (David-CP23)		€1,610
	INFORMS 25 sponsorship		€2,433
	sponsoring for ACP school24		
	Banking Fees		€309
	Web Provider		€500
	ACP Early Career award CP24		€500
	ACP EC dinner CP24		€1,080
End Balance	(CP 2025 GLASGOW)		€48,236
Ongoing		IN	OUT
	Website upgrade		€3,000
	ACP doctoral award CP24-CP25		€1,000
	ACP Early Career award CP25		€500
	LIPICS: proceedings CP'24		€3,000
	ACP sponsoring for CPAIOR25		€3,000
Expected			€37,736

Revenues

- Sponsorships, **CP conference surplus**

  « The ACP is a non-profit association, which uses the profit of the organized events to support future events or activities. »

- Should we have a membership fee?

  Proposition : Integrate into CP registration (as implicit « donation »)

Expenses

- CP conference, summer school, awards, scholarships

- EC decision :
  - *targeted* sponsorship (dedicate any sponsorship to the promotion of CP, to a DEI initiative in our community, or for career advancement of our members). ***Basically, align sponsorship with ACP mission.***
    - CPAIOR : travel sponsorship for students
    - INFORMS Computing Society Conference : special CP session
    - Your suggestions are welcome (NeurIPS? ICML? ICLR?)

Example of targeted sponsorship

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Thank you CP 2025 organizers!

- Conference Chairs: **Ciaran McCreesh** and **Blair Archibald**

- Program Chair: **Maria Garcia de la Banda**

- and their team

Summer School 2025

- Ouidah (Benin), August 25-29

- "CP for Sustainable Development"

- 6 speakers

- 43 participants

- 33 from Benin, 40 in all from Africa

- Will take place in French

CP 2026

- Lisbon (Portugal), July 20-23 (part of FLOC)

    – Conference Chair: **Ines Lynce**

    – Program Chair: **Nicolas Beldiceanu**

Summer School 2026

- Jilin U. (China), August 3-6

- « CP: Explanation and Verification »

- Organizers: Peter Stuckey and Jimmy Lee

Fig. 1. Homm Hotel by Night: A Tranquil Lakeside Retreat Amid Urban Lights.

CP 2027

- Jilin U. (China), August or early September

- Organizers: Prof. Yonggang Zhang et al. (with support from P. Stuckey, J. Lee, C. Bessiere)

Fig. 1. Homm Hotel by Night: A Tranquil Lakeside Retreat Amid Urban Lights.

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IFORS Developing Countries OR Resources Website

- CP already well represented in terms of tutorials, etc

- But not so for solvers

- ACP will gather such resources on its website and link with above

- Send us a link to your CP solver!

Standardizing the CP Conference

- Existing guidelines for Program Chair and others; go further?

- EasyChair vs OpenReview, commit to one (with deal)?

- Double-blind reviewing process / papers on arXiv

- Use of AI assistants (AAAI'26)

  Our participation in AISOCC may be useful here.

Establishing a disciplinary process

- Being ready for various potential situations
- e.g. CP'25 submissions violating rules about use of GenAI
- Inspired from different sources: ACM, professional orders, …
- Discuss and share through AISOCC

Publication outlets for our community

« Over the past several years we have been discussing our main research publication outlets, the CP proceedings and the Constraints journal. This has led to the proceedings moving from Springer's LNCS to LIPIcs starting in 2021, but there hasn't been any decision about the journal yet.
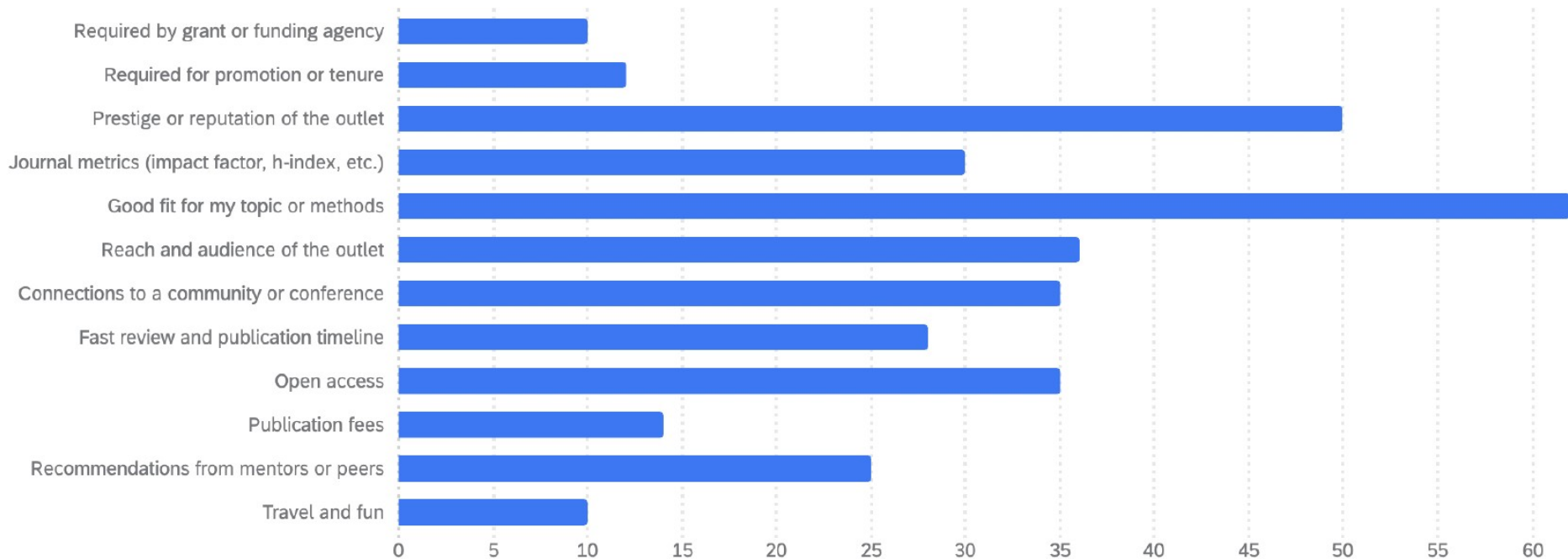
An ad-hoc journal committee jointly appointed by the Editor-in-Chief of Constraints, Mark Wallace, and the EC past president, David Bergman, met over the year and put together this survey to help us decide how to move forward as a community. »

75 responses

- 60+ from academia (33 faculty, 20 postdocs,10 students)
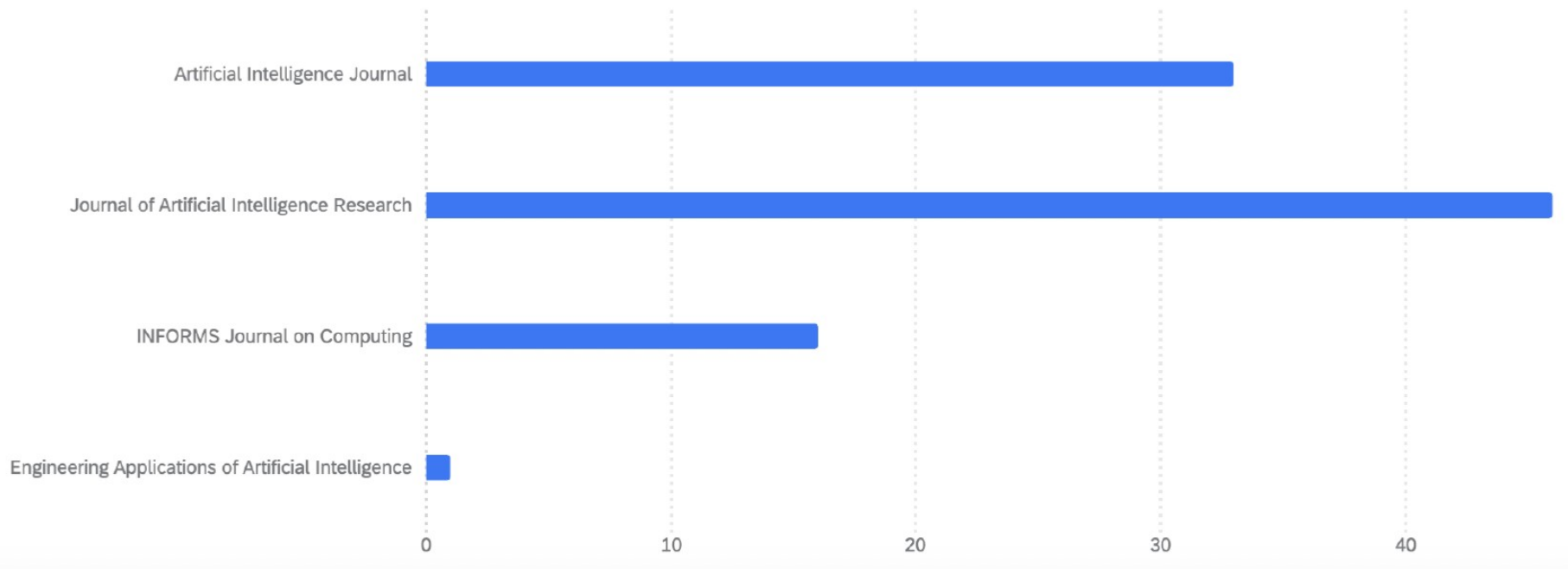
- 31 senior researchers: 11+ years since PhD

Survey

What are the criteria you use to choose which outlet to submit your research to? 72 ⓘ ···

Survey

Survey

What conferences do you typically submit to? 70 ⓘ
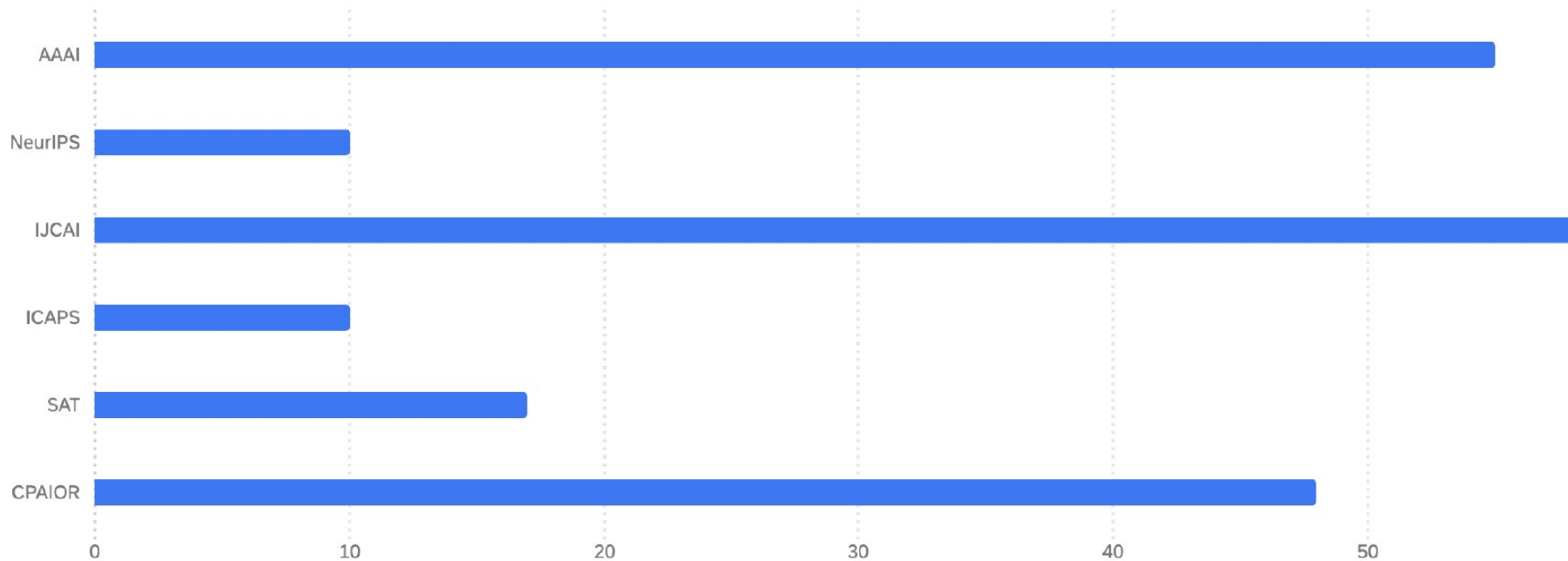
A bar chart with the following approximate values:
- AAAI: 55
- NeurIPS: 10
- IJCAI: 58
- ICAPS: 10
- SAT: 17
- CPAIOR: 48

Survey
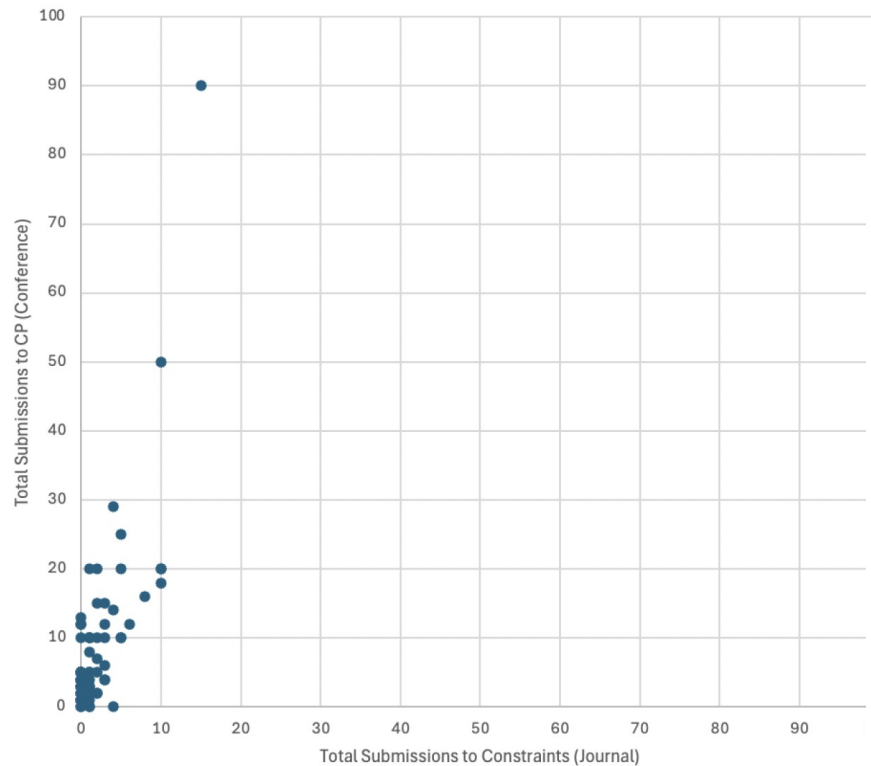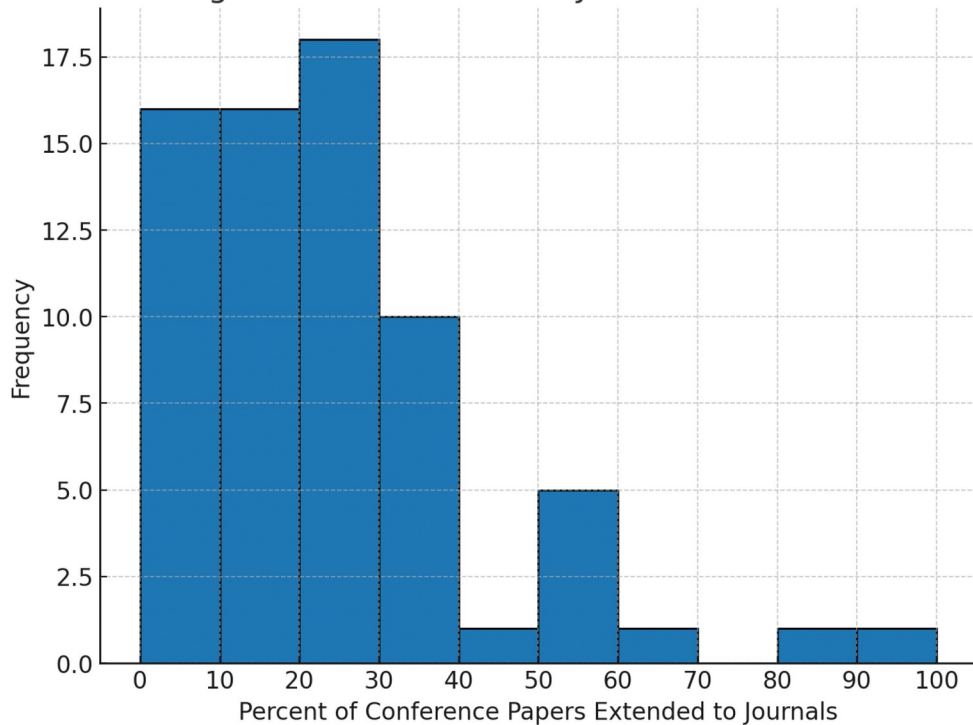
Constraints Report from EiC (Mark Wallace)

- **Published issues**
  - June 2024: 7 papers, 5 of which open access
  - December 2024: 4 papers, 1 of which open access
  - 2025: no issue so far
- **Submissions**
  - Last 365 days: 9 accepted, 8 rejected, 90 summary rejects
  - 2025: 1 accepted, 7 under review
- **2024 Impact Factor**: 1.3 (previously 0.5 in 2023)
- **Promotion efforts**
  - Awards: prominent and classic *Constraints* articles
  - Supporting videos
  - Free access

ACP Association for Constraint Programming

Constraints Journal

Constraints, published by Springer, is the journal for our community. Through the generosity of Springer's SharedIt program, we will also be providing access to the journal issues at this site, starting with Volume 29, Issues 3,4. In addition we will be providing here short introductory videos for the papers, provided by the authors.

Further information about the journal, earlier issues, a search facility, submission information, etc. is included in the Springer website for the journal, which can be found here.

Volumes

- Volume 29, issues 3,4

Survey

Perceived issues with *Constraints*

- Low ranking (and CP conference already a high-quality outlet / prestige discrepancy)

- Lengthy reviewing process

- Not open access

- Typesetting, Editorial Manager (Springer); LIPics better at handling papers

- Uncertainty about the future of the journal

- Need compelling reason over AIJ & JAIR

Survey

How to encourage high-quality submissions to *Constraints?*

(aside from resolving previous issues)

- special tracks at AAAI/IJCAI where Constraints papers would be advertised
- possibility to present at CP conference
- lure submissions from too large general AI conferences (to journal or conference?)
- bidirectional offer: Journal track for j2c and Fast track for c2j

Survey

Starting a new completely open-access journal on CP?

- Yes, but with low fees (covered by the ACP?); at no cost for author & reader (diamond)
- No, Springer has open-access agreements with a lot of institutions nowadays
- Some mixed feelings, because...
  - Lack of bibliometric data during transition would be hard (esp. on younger researchers)
  - ACP EC would need to ensure high quality
  - Open access is not the main difficulty with journal: would that increase submissions?
- … and include other constraint-solving communities

Survey

Merging *Constraints* with other related research communities?

- Yes, with JSAT (though the latter currently on hold?)

  February 26, 2025 We are in the process of setting up a new reviewing system and publisher. Stay tuned!.

- Merging several weak journals does not make a strong one

Survey

Merging submissions to the conference and the journal?

- anytime submission with presentation at conference and publication in journal special issue
- move CP and CPAIOR proceedings to Constraints e.g. PACMPL
- best conference submissions (e.g. top 20%) published in journal instead e.g. ICLP
- accepted journal papers are given presentation slot at conference
- follow IACR or VLDB models (Springer; free access for members?)

Survey

Merging submissions: offer quarterly publication and each paper accepted is then invited to the annual conference (e.g. IACR)

- generally the favourite option

- encourages better reviewing process (several rounds)

- but open access (not Springer)

- but fast reviewing

- and even combine with CPAIOR to offer 2 presentation venues per year

Survey

Merging submissions: offer quarterly publication and each paper accepted is then invited to the annual conference (e.g. IACR)

But… (some words of caution)

- journal paper takes more time; harder for students
- harder to justify travel funds for students
- drop in conference attendance?
- several reviewing bursts per year; do we want this?
- fewer papers because journal standards are higher, or should allow shorter papers?

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