Editorial

The state of the field of Machine Learning, if journal submissions are any indication, is extremely healthy and undergoing continued growth. This optimistic assessment is based on increased submissions and continued high quality standards. In fact, for the first time in its history *Machine Learning* has a backlog of accepted papers for publication, counting regular and special issues. "Horrors!" you may exclaim as a potential author, but rest assured that the backlog is quite short (some 90 days), and quite normal for a journal like ours. We will manage the backlog carefully.

Our initiative to broaden the horizons of *Machine Learning* has borne fruit, and is partly responsible for the increased volume of submitted papers. To wit, we are looking forward to the publication of special issues in areas as diverse as connectionist learning, learning in case-based reasoning, reinforcement learning, and machine discovery, as well as issues on previously published topics such as learning theory and genetic algorithms. The regular journal submissions continue at a healthy clip, as do the submissions to the technical notes section with its faster turn-around review cycle for short single-topic papers. We have also seen a good start in the book review section, and encourage our readers to submit or suggest new books to review of direct relevance to machine learning.

I was going to include in this editorial some words about one area of machine learning that is not yet as well represented in *Machine Learning*—computer models of human learning—and ask whether there is interest in a special issue on this topic. But, instead, I will keep this editorial short and on an upbeat note. One does not often enjoy the feeling that everything seems to be working well, and we may as well relish the feeling all-the-while ensuring the continued good health of the journal by keeping up the collective good work. It is easy to edit a journal when authors, editors and reviewers keep sending and processing a steady stream of quality material.

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