

## IAG Symposia Series

<http://www.springer.com/series/1345>

*Editor-in-Chief: Chris Rizos (Australia)*

*Assistant Editor-in-Chief: Pascal Willis (France)*

### Overview

The IAG Symposia Series (IAG Symp.) is a book series of peer-reviewed proceedings of selected IAG Symposia organised by the International Association of Geodesy. It deals primarily with topics related to Geodesy as applied to the Earth Sciences and Engineering: terrestrial reference frame, Earth gravity field, geodynamics and Earth rotation, positioning and engineering applications.

Volumes are available online at the Springer web site (<http://www.springer.com/series/1345>), since volume 101 (Global and Regional Geodynamics, 3-5 August 1989), published in 1990. Most recent volumes are also available from the Springer web site as e-Books. It must be noted that articles published in the IAG Symposia Series since 2000 are referenced in bibliographic databases, such as Scopus and ISI Web of Knowledge, implying in particular that their citations are used in the ISI Web of Science (Thomson SCI) for journal Impact Factors and authors' h-index and citation analysis.

According to the IAG Statutes and By-Laws, the de facto Editor-in-Chief of this series is the IAG President. Following the IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne (July 2011), the new Editor-in-Chief is Chris Rizos for 2011-2015, replacing Michael G. Sideris who was the Editor-in-Chief for the previous four years. In August 2011, Pascal Willis was invited to become Assistant Editor-in-Chief and to organise the peer-review procedure for the IAG Symposia Series. Contacts were made with the publisher of this series (Springer) and the review procedure was significantly changed, starting with volume 139 (Earth on the Edge, Science for a Sustainable Planet, Melbourne, Australia, June 28 – July 1, 2011). A dedicated web site was developed by Springer (<http://www.editorialmanager.com/iags>) to allow full electronic manuscript submission and management of a standard peer-review process. While Pascal Willis handled this web site on behalf of the Editor-in-Chief, editors were selected for each symposium from the list of convenors, taking into account the number of expected symposium manuscripts. Guidelines for authors were developed and are now provided to all authors through the Springer web site. These guidelines include the length of article (6 pages in double column for regular contribution and 8 pages for invited paper) and format description. Written procedures were also provided to all editors to ensure a fair and transparent review process within all sessions and within all the IAG Symposia. For each manuscript, most of the time, three independent experts were selected by the editors to review the submitted manuscript. Based on the returned reviewer reports, the editor makes a decision, which needs to be confirmed by the assistant Editor-in-Chief. Guidelines for editors were also written to allow a consistent reviewing procedure for all manuscripts. To improve communications with the authors, monthly reports were sent out by the assistant Editor-in-Chief to all corresponding authors, anonymously providing some key statistics on the status of manuscripts under review for each symposium, from start of paper submissions to end of the review process. Information emails were also sent out to authors, while papers are handled by Springer Production, until their final publication online and in print. Regular information concerning the review process and the publication of the IAG Symposia Series was regularly send out

through the IAG Newsletter. Finally, following long discussions with Springer, the publication procedure was changed in early 2015 and authors of accepted papers now receive a DOI from Springer with their galley proofs shortly after acceptance, on a paper-by-paper basis, instead of having to wait for the last paper of their symposium to be accepted.

## Structure and activities

The following paragraphs provide information on the IAG symposia volumes published or under review process in the 2011-2015.

### Volume 136

Geodesy for Planet Earth Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 31 - September 4, 2009

Editors: Steve Kenyon, Maria Cristina Pacino, Urs Marti

Co-editors: Rodrigo Abarca del Rio, Zuheir Altamimi, Mike Bevis, Denizar Blitzkow, Sylvain Bonvalot, Claudio Brunini, Rene Forsberg, Yoichi Fukuda, Richard Gross, Shuanggen Jin, Roland Pail, Hans-Peter Plag, Marcelo Santos, Claudia Tocho, Charles Toth, Tonie van Dam, Sandra Verhagen, Leonid Vitushkin

Published in 2012, 130 articles, 1046 pages

ISBN: 978-3-642-20338-1

### Volume 137

VII Hotine-Marussi Symposium on Mathematical Geodesy

July 6-10, 2009, Rome, Italy

Editors: Nico Sneeuw, Pavel Novák, Mattia Crespi, Fernando Sansò

Co-editors: Zuheir Altamimi, Athanasios Dermanis, Richard Gross, Wieslaw Kosek, Jürgen Kusche, Hansjörg Kutterer, Torsten Mayer-Gürr, Michael Schmidt, Giorgio Spada, Florian Seitz, Sandra Verhagen, Yanming Wang, David Wolf

Published in 2012, 36 articles, 407 pages

ISBN: 978-3-642-22078-4

### Volume 138

References Frames for Applications in Geosciences

Marne-la-Vallée, France, October 4-8, 2010

Editors: Zuheir Altamimi, Xavier Collilieux

Co-editors: Claude Boucher, David Coulot, Mike Craymer, Richard Gross, Johannes Ihde, Markus Rothacher, Harald Schuh, Michael Sideris, Peter Steigenberger, Joao Agria Torres

Published in 2013, 40 articles, 284 pages

ISBN: 978-3-642-32997-5

### Volume 139

Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet

Melbourne, Australia, June 28 – July 1, 2011

Editors: Chris Rizos, Pascal Willis

Co-editors: Jozsef Adam, Zuheir Altamimi, John Dawson, Athanasios Dermanis, Reinhard Dietrich, Xiaoli Ding, Jeff Freymueller, Yoichi Fukuda, Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska, Richard Gross, Urs Hugentobler, Johannes Ihde, Matt King, Hansjörg Kutterer, Frank Lemoine, Mikael Lilje, Ruth Neilan, Markus Rothacher, Laura Sanchez, Marcelo Santos, Harald Schuh, Nico Sneeuw, Oleg Titov, Joao Agria Torres, Sandra Verhagen, Jens Wickert, Herbert Wilmes

Published in 2014, 80 papers, 617 pages

ISBN: 978-3-642-37221-6

### Volume 140

Quality of Geodetic Observation and Monitoring Systems (GuGOMS'11)

Garching/Munich, Germany, 13-15 April 2011

Editors: Hansjörg Kutterer, Florian Seitz, Hamza Alkhatib, Michael Schmidt

Published in 2015, 25 papers

## Volume 141

Gravity, Geoid and Height Systems (GGHS2012)

Venice, Italy, October 9-12, 2012

Editor: Urs Marti

Co-editors: Oliver Baur, Jianliang Huang, Isabelle Panet, Riccardo Barzaghi, Carla Braitenberg, Shuanggen Jin, Laura Sanchez, Herbert Wilmes

Published in 2014, 42 papers

## Volume 142

VIII Hotine-Marussi Symposium on Mathematical Geodesy (HM2013)

Rome, Italy, 17-21 June 2013

Editors: Nico Sneeuw, Pavel Novák, Mattia Crespi, Fernando Sansò

Co-editors: Robert Čunderlík, Athanasios Dermanis, Thomas Hobiger, Richard Gross, Wieslaw Kosek, Eric Pottier, Michael Schmidt, Matthias Weigelt

Publication expected in summer 2015, 40 papers

## Volume 143

IAG Scientific Assembly

Potsdam, Germany, 1-6 September 2013

Editors: Chris Rizos, Pascal Willis

Co-editors: Hussein Abd-Elmotaal, Zuheir Altamimi, Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska, Xiaoli Deng, Annette Eicker, Jeff Freymueller, Richard Gross, Manabu Hashimoto, Jianliang Huang, Urs Hugentobler, Allison Kealy, Hansjörg Kutterer, Urs Marti, Roland Pail, Laura Sanchez, Joao Torres, Tonie van Dam, Pawel Wielgosz

Publication expected in summer 2015, 99 papers

## Volume 144

Third International Gravity Field Service (IGFS) General Assembly (IGFS2014)

Shanghai, China, 30 June – 6 July, 2014

Editors: Shuanggen Jin, Riccardo Barzaghi,

Co-editors: René Forsberg, Urs Marti, Roland Pail

Publication expected in fall 2015, 37 papers submitted, review in progress

## Volume 145

International Symposium on Geodesy for Earthquake and Natural Hazards (GENAH2014)

Matsushima, Miyagi, Japan, 22-26 July 2014

Editors: Manabu Hashimoto

Co-editors: Jeff Freymueller, Richard Gross, Shuanggen Jin, Cécile Lasserre, Simon McClusky, Yusaku Ohta, Tim Wright

Publication expected in fall 2015, 30 papers submitted, review in progress

## Volume 146

Reference Frames for Applications in Geosciences (REFAG2014)

Kirchberg, Luxemburg, 13-17 October 2014

Editor: Tonie van Dam

Co-editors: Zuheir Altamimi, Johannes Boehm, Tom Herring, Mikael Lilje, Richard Wonnacott

Publication expected in late 2015, 31 papers submitted, review in progress

## Statistical information

### Submissions

In total, since the creation of the Springer submission Web site, 475 manuscripts were submitted, without counting volume 141 for which the review was done prior to the existence of

this system. As shown in Figure 1, the IAG Symposia has been quite successful in attracting authors from a large number different countries all over the world, 46 in total, as expected for proceedings of the International Association of Geodesy.

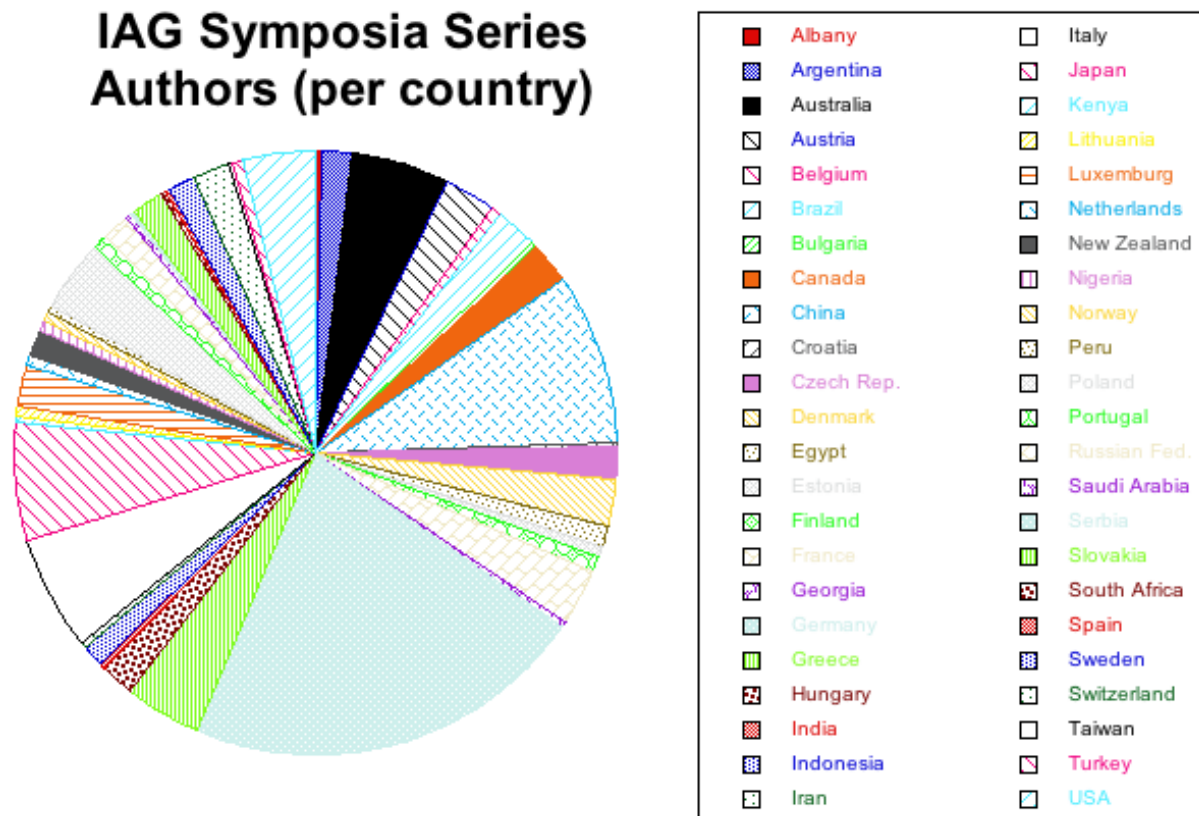


Figure 1: Geographical distribution of corresponding authors of manuscripts submitted to the IAG Symposia Series (2011-2015)

The following Table provides the top 10 countries which submitted the largest number of manuscript from 2011 to 2015 (using the Springer submission Web site):

Table 1: Number of manuscripts submitted per country in 2011-2015 (first 10)

Country	Submitted manuscripts
Germany	95
China	40
Japan	29
Italy	26
Australia	23
Greece	19
Poland	17
USA	17
France	13
Austria	12

The number of submission varies with the number of IAG Symposia per year and also on the number of manuscripts submitted to each meeting (also see below).

### Review statistics

Reviewers were selected by editors from key experts from all over the world, from 45 different countries, indicating a good international representation (see Figure 2).

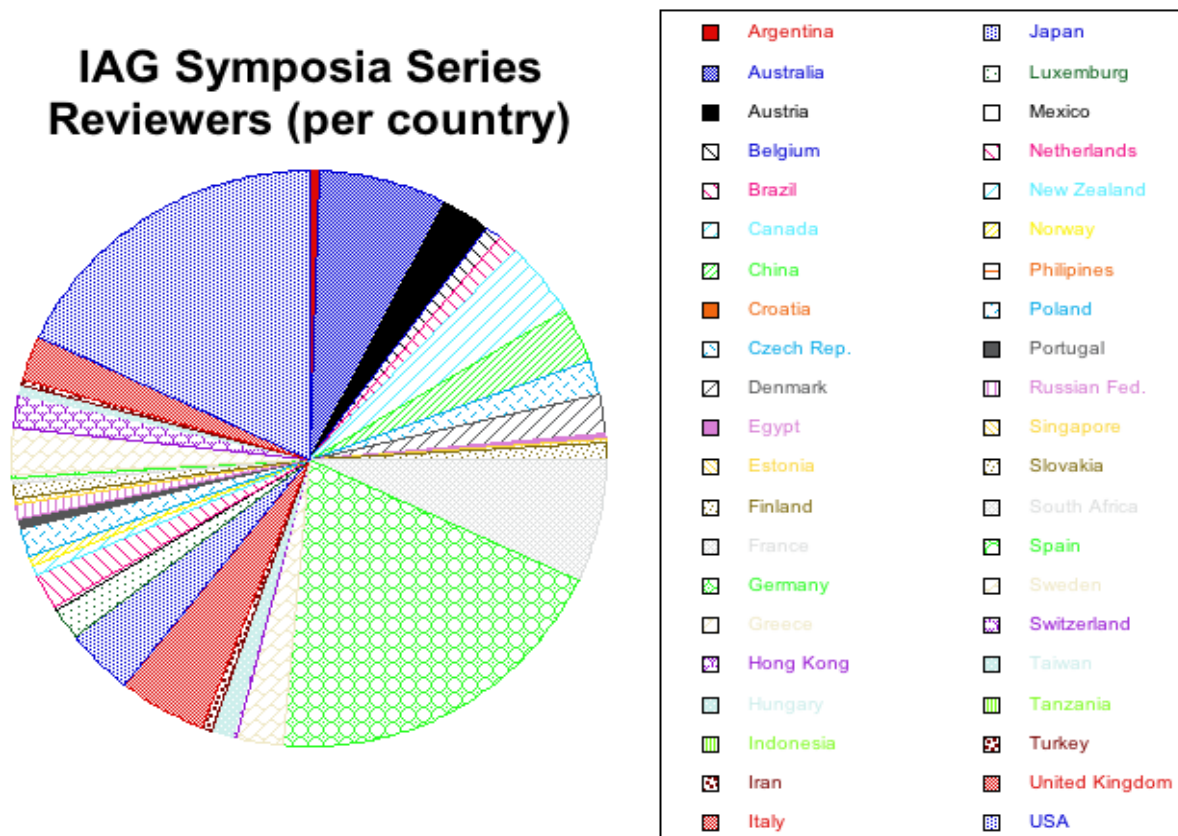


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of reviewers of manuscripts submitted to the IAG Symposia Series (2011-2015)

The rejection rate for the IAG Symposia varies from 20% to 30%, which is quite low compared to the current rejection rate for regular peer-reviewed journals (usually over 50%). The IAG Symposia Series has been able to attract young authors, and authors from developing countries, which may have not submitted a paper to a regular international peer-reviewed journal. It is expected that these new authors will continue publishing in such journals, notably the Journal of Geodesy.

It must be noted that this rejection rate also includes papers that were rejected before the review process because of self-plagiarism related problems, or because a few authors were not able to correct their manuscript as recommended by the editor and chose to withdraw their paper. In several cases, successive major revisions were necessary before the paper could be accepted for publication in these proceedings, to ensure the scientific quality of the published articles.

### Turnaround time for review

The duration of the review process is of critical importance for the authors and for the long-term value of these proceedings. Following regular intervention by the assistant Editor-in-chief concerning the review process of each manuscript, the duration of the whole review process has been kept to a minimum. On average, it takes less than 1 day for Springer to do the technical check of the papers, and less than 1 day for the associate Editor-in-Chief to assign a manuscript to the proper editor, after verifying length of the article and possible plagiarism problems using iThenticate. It then takes about 10 days for the editors to invite three independent reviewers. On average it takes about 2 months for an author to get a first decision for this manuscript, and at worst 9 months for all papers to get a final decision.

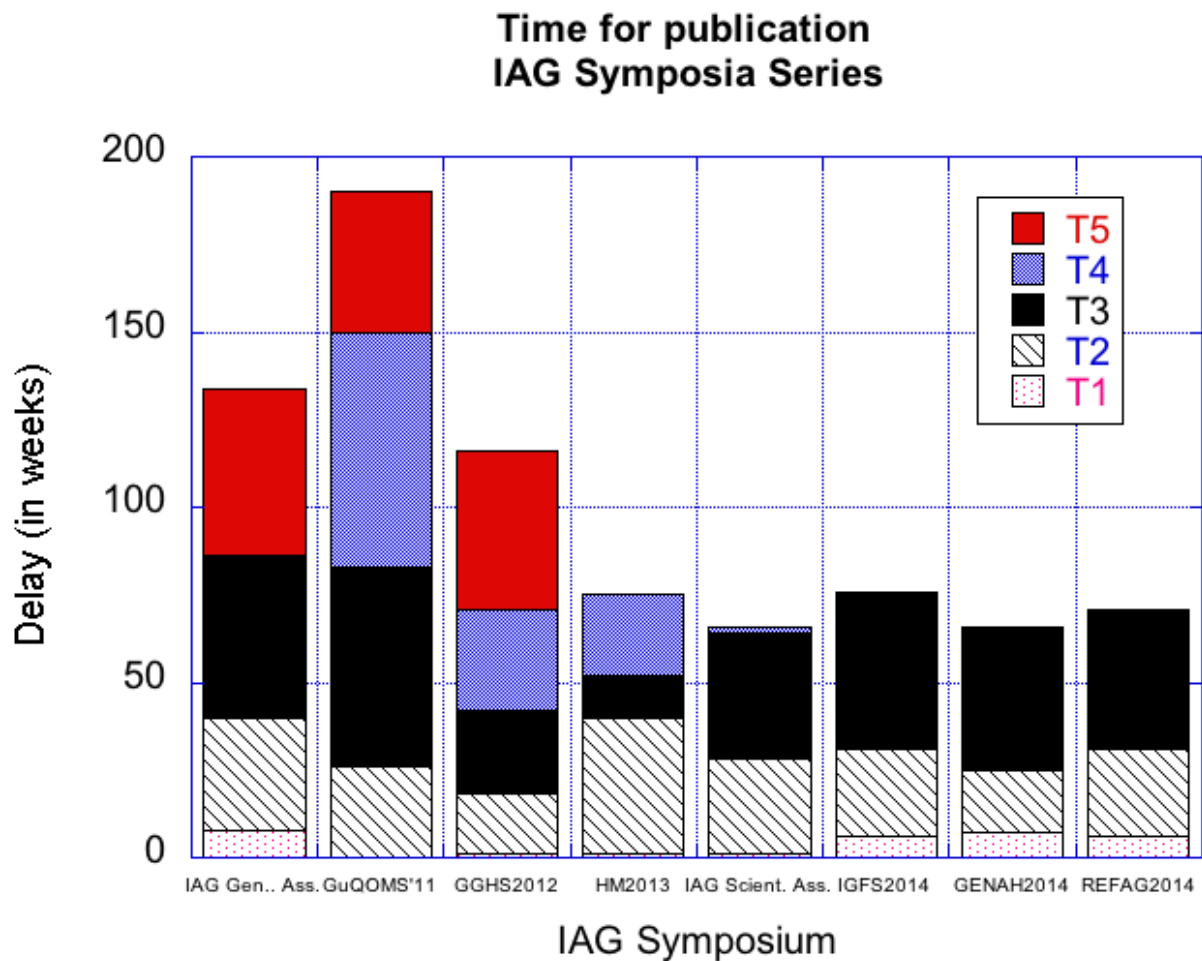


Figure 3: Successive steps and delays involved from symposium organization and publication of the proceedings of the IAG Symposia Series (2011-2015).

- T1 = time between the attendance at the symposium and the submission of the first manuscript
- T2 = time between the submission of the first manuscript and the submission of the last manuscript
- T3 = time between the decision for the last paper in review and the submission of the last paper
- T4 = time for preparing files and editorial documents for Springer Production
- T5 = time for Springer to publish the volume

Figure 3 requires some explanation and proper analysis in order to provide some guidance for the publication of future volumes of the IAG Symposia Series. First of all, the review process (T3) is kept to a minimum, ranging from 12 to 57 weeks, and usually takes about 6 months,

including several revision(s) of the article. This is only a third of the total time for publication after the symposium. This is much faster than regular peer-reviewed journals for which the average period for the review process can be up to a year. Surprisingly the time allowed by the editors to submit a paper after the symposium is quite long ( $T1 + T2$ ), and is usually close to 30 to 40 weeks, taking about the same time as the review process itself. It is suggested in the future that authors submit shortly after the symposium and that submissions may not be accepted for review if submitted too late, for example more than 3 months after the symposium. The publication by Springer is taking much too long (from 40 to 45 weeks). The expected publication time as announced by Springer was supposed to be about 3 months. In Figure 3,  $T4$  is rather large because it was decided not to send out the editorial material and the files to Springer that were prepared, as Springer was already unable to publish the volume corresponding to the IAG General Assembly in Melbourne, and had received already too much work to do. As shown for other symposia, the preparation of such files is done in advance and the finalisation between the assistant Editor-in-chief and the editor(s) of the volume takes less than a week.

In conclusion, the IAG now has a good tool with the Springer submission web site which allows for a timely and efficient review process, using standard procedures and documents developed during this four-year period. Most of the delays for publication come from the inability of Springer to publish these volumes in a timely manner, even when all files are now available for all papers in Doc or L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X format. It is suggested that the IAG investigate this cooperation agreement with Springer, and perhaps look for other potential publishers if some significant improvement cannot be made. Finally, some delay in publication could also be minimised by the IAG deciding to fix a deadline for submission after an IAG symposium (e.g. a maximum 3 months after the meeting). For information, some scientific associations ask authors to submit their manuscript before the symposium, as a condition to be allowed to make their presentation. This is probably an extreme solution, however some limit should be established.