Editorial

Jack D. Gaskill, Editor

Author Sequence for Technical Publications

From time to time in my editorials I have asked for feedback from readers of the journal, and I am happy to report that I have actually been getting a fairly good response. There have been some complaints, but most of the feedback has been in the form of constructive suggestions for changes in the journal, support for changes that have already been made, or questions. In this editorial I wish to address a question that my good friend and tennis instructor, Adolf Lohmann, recently asked.

Basically, Adolf wondered how many teams of authors use an alphabetical sequence to determine the order in which the names of those involved are listed on a technical publication. He also asked how many teams of authors put the "most important" contributor at the head of the list. In the latter case, he was curious about the method used to determine who is "most important": would that individual be the one with the largest paycheck, the one who put in the greatest number of hours on the project, or the one who made the primary suggestion?

Adolf told me that at the Institute of Physics at the University of Erlangen-Nurnberg authors are listed in alphabetical sequence. This, he claims, avoids debates each time there is a new publication, and Adolf feels that the individuals whose last names begin with Z would probably not mind if everybody adopted this method. He asked if I could come up with some statistics regarding the method used by various groups around the world. Consequently, I am asking readers of *Optical Engineering* to let me know the solutions they have found acceptable for determining author order.

In my opinion, the alphabetical sequence method has a number of advantages; however, it does seem that occasionally an individual whose name would not appear first in alphabetical order really is the most significant contributor to a particular publication. In such cases, I would suggest that the primary contributor's name come first, followed by the remaining authors in alphabetical order. If a Ph.D. student were to submit a publication regarding his or her dissertation research, it seems to me that the student's name should come first, followed by the major professor and other collaborators listed in alphabetical order. What do you think? I am interested in receiving your views.

OPTICAL ENGINEERING EDITORIAL SCHEDULE

June 1987

Contributed papers on optical engineering

July 1987

Visual Communications and Image Processing

T. Russell Hsing
Bell Communications Research
Room 2L-181
435 South Street
Morristown, NJ 07960-1961 201/829-4950

August 1987

CCD Characterization, Modeling, and Application

James R. Janesick
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California Institute of Technology
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, CA 91109 818/354-7734

September 1987

CCD Manufacture and Application

James R. Janesick

October 1987

CCD and CID Theory and Application

James R. Janesick

November 1987

Optomechanical Instrument Design

Roger Reiss	Daniel Vukobratovich
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1111 Lockheed Way	602/621-4219
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415/965-3888	

December 1987

Contributed papers on optical engineering

January 1988

Progress of Optics in the United Kingdom

John C. Dainty	Lionel R. Baker
Blackett Laboratory	Sira Ltd.
Imperial College	South Hill, Chislehurst
London SW7 2B2, UK	Kent BR7 5EH, UK
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Neural Networks

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