

Note about this paper's publication

The paper *The functional singular value decomposition for bivariate stochastic processes* (Gervini, 2010, *ArXiv* 1211.7336) was published in *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis* (vol. 54, pp. 163-172) and subsequently retracted by the editor. You can read their version of the affair on the journal's website, which is not inaccurate but is incomplete. My version is the following.

Prior to submitting this article to CSDA, I had submitted another paper to this journal and it took them *one full year* to come up with the first round of reviews (and it was rejected). So when I submitted this paper, I immediately had misgivings about it and decided to submit it to JMVA. I see, in retrospect, that I should have withdrawn it from CSDA right away, but I thought it was very unlikely that both journals would accept it, in which case I would withdraw it from one of them. But, as I expected, one journal (JMVA) rejected it and CSDA published it.

So the protestations about ethics are somewhat abstract, in my view, since there was no actual harm done to any of the journals. It is true that when one submits a paper to a journal one makes the commitment not to send it anywhere else, *but* the implicit agreement is that the editorial board will give reasonably fast consideration to the paper, not sit on it for one year.

This issue has been brought up many times in the Statistics community. Some progress has been made, but not uniformly and not consistently (not long ago, *JASA* and *JRSS-B* took eight months to produce the first round of reviews of papers I had submitted). The two goals of publication are dissemination and peer validation; today *ArXiv* has largely solved the problem of dissemination, but for peer review we still need the journals, and timeliness is still an issue.

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