

# Editorial

**A** YEAR AFTER beginning my term as Editor-in-Chief, I would like to take stock of where we are and to overview some of our plans for the coming year. I begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to all of the people who have contributed to the success of TCAD in the past year. In this issue, you will find an honor roll of about 900 reviewers who have helped us evaluate papers during 2010. I gratefully acknowledge their service and the time that they have volunteered to our community. Profuse thanks are also due to the talented and hard-working members of our Editorial Board who help keep the journal running smoothly.

Our turnaround time for reviews in the past year has been excellent, with an average round of reviews lasting 64 days. Our acceptance rate is 39.8%. While this may be a tad higher than some other journals, it largely reflects the selective prefilters that authors apply as they consider a submission to TCAD; a large number of our submissions are extended versions of work that has been accepted to selective conferences. The two-year impact factor stands at 1.230 and the five-year impact factor at 1.631. We continue to work toward maintaining or improving upon every one of these statistics, without losing sight of the fact that the quality of a journal is more than just a set of numbers.

This year, we intend to move from the current submission system to the ManuscriptCentral system that is used by a number of journals in our broad area. From the TCAD side, the process is being managed by our extremely capable Corresponding Editor, Sara Dailey. This is no small undertaking. If all goes as anticipated, we will complete the move to this system at the beginning of 2011. We hope to make the process painless to the TCAD community and are working hard to keep things going smoothly through the transition. However, we ask for your patience with any unforeseen glitches that may occur. As always, we welcome constructive suggestions to improve the submission and review experience.

This year, we plan to work toward better and more consistent enforcement of our requirements for originality. The guideline for an original contribution to TCAD is that it should have about 30% significant new material over and above any material published elsewhere. The word “significant” alludes to a technical contribution rather than, say, an expanded literature review, and the ~30% figure above is a guideline rather than a concrete figure, given the subjective nature of such an evaluation. As part of the new submission process, authors will be asked to clearly demarcate differences between their submitted manuscript and any versions that have been previously published or are under review.

In the past year, we have published special sections on ISPD 2009, NOCS 2009, and MEMOCODE 2009. We continue to target conference-specific special sections in the coming year. In addition, we have an open call for papers for a special section on PARCAD: Parallel CAD Algorithms and CAD for Parallel Architectures/Systems, with submissions due on January 30, 2011. We welcome ideas from the community on topics for future theme issues.

To summarize, TCAD is in healthy shape. We continue to work to improve our performance and impact, and hope to continue serving our readership well in the coming year. I look forward to working with the volunteers in our community again this year. If you have an idea that can help us improve in any way, do not hesitate to get in touch!

SACHIN S. SAPATNEKAR, *Editor-in-Chief*  
 Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
 University of Minnesota  
 Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA  
 (e-mail: sachin@umn.edu)



**Sachin S. Sapatnekar** (S'86–M'93–F'03) received the B.Tech. degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, India, the M.S. degree from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana.

From 1992 to 1997, he was with the faculty of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Iowa State University, Ames. Since 1997, he has been with the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, where he currently holds the Distinguished McKnight University Professorship and the Robert and Marjorie Henle Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is the author/editor of eight books and has published widely in the area of computer-aided design of very large scale integrated circuits.

Dr. Sapatnekar is the recipient of the National Science Foundation Career Award, six Conference Best Paper Awards, and the Semiconductor Research Corporation Technical Excellence Award. He has served as the General Chair and Technical Program Chair of the ACM/EDAC/IEEE Design Automation Conference, the ACM International Symposium on Physical Design, and the IEEE/ACM International Workshop on the Specification and Synthesis of Digital Systems (Tau). He has served on the editorial boards of several

publications, including this journal, IEEE DESIGN AND TEST OF COMPUTERS, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON VERY LARGE SCALE INTEGRATION SYSTEMS, and the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS II.