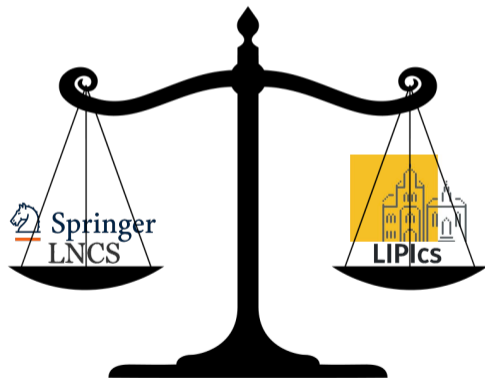


# Report on the CADE Proceedings Publisher Survey Results

Pascal Fontaine  
Stephan Schulz



## Context

- ▶ Publishing venue has been recurring discussion in the community
- ▶ In summer 2023, the Trustees decided to address the question openly

The board of trustees decided to have a **consultative** survey to collect the **opinion** of the community.

- ▶ Position statements given in AAR Newsletter 142, October 31, 2023
  - ▶ Renate Schmidt for LNCS
  - ▶ Marijn Heule for LIPIcs
- ▶ Survey sent to all CADE and AAR members  
(two identical forms, but response can be identified coming from CADE or AAR members)
- ▶ Invitation to answer the survey sent on February 28, 2024
- ▶ Survey closed end of May, 2024

# The survey

## Part 1

- ▶ Two symmetrical questions were asked
- ▶ Answer range from 1 ("not at all") to 5 ("yes, absolutely")
- ▶ Various possibilities to comment

The questions:

- ▶ *Do you think we should keep on publishing the CADE proceedings with LNCS/Springer? (1-5)*  
*Could you elaborate on the above answer?*
- ▶ *Do you think we should change from LNCS to LIPIcs proceedings for CADE? (1-5)*  
*Could you elaborate on the above answer?*

# The survey

## Part 2

- ▶ *Can you comment on the effect of a change from LNCS to LIPIcs for the visibility, evaluation, ranking of your work?*
- ▶ *Does the AAR Newsletter include all relevant arguments? What else should the board of trustees consider in favour of either LNCS or LIPIcs that is not covered?*
- ▶ *What Open Access (OA) funding is currently available in your environment (institution/country/...)? What do you need to do to obtain Open Access funding for a conference paper? Would your environment be supportive of Green OA? (Shortly: Gold OA is fully open, Green OA is self-archiving. See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\\_access](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access) for more information)*
- ▶ *Any other comment?*

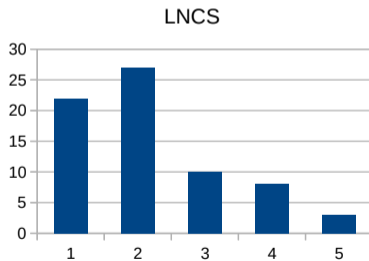
## Results (1/8)

- ▶ 82 answers in total
  - ▶ 39 answers from recipients of the CADE call for survey
  - ▶ 31 answers from recipients of the AAR call for survey
  - ▶ 2 answers by email
  - ▶ for comparison: 79 votes at the last CADE Trustee election
- ▶ nearly everybody provided names/institution
  - ▶ a big majority are well-known as contributors to CADE/IJCAR
  - ▶ no evidence of unusual voting patterns/ballot stuffing
- ▶ many written replies to free-text questions,  
almost no numbers-only answers

## Results (2/8)

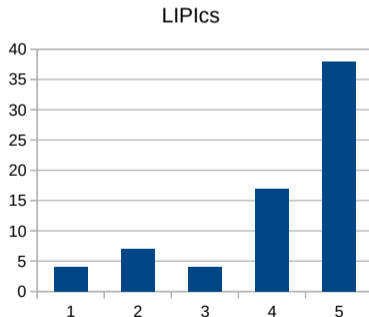
Do you think we should keep on publishing the CADE proceedings  
with LNCS/Springer?

1 ("not at all") to 5 ("yes, absolutely")

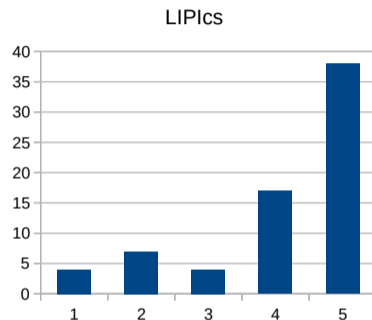
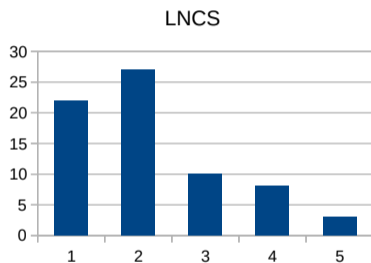


## Results (3/8)

Do you think we should change from LNCS to LIPIcs proceedings for CADE?  
1 ("not at all") to 5 ("yes, absolutely")



## Results (4/8)



No significant difference when comparing responses. . .

- ▶ from junior and senior people
- ▶ from the CADE invitation and from the AAR invitation



# Results (5/8)

## Free-text feedback (LNCS)

- ▶ Production ease/quality
  - ▶ Most frequent grievance: inefficient or bad Springer typesetting/production process
  - ▶ One occurrence: problems with Springers production process are overstated
- ▶ Reputation
  - ▶ Many consider that Springer is established, respected, and has longevity
  - ▶ Some consider that Springer/LNCS reputation has gone down
  - ▶ One occurrence: LIPIcs may accept low-quality conferences for political reasons in the future
  - ▶ One occurrence: CADE has by now a better reputation than LNCS
- ▶ Business model
  - ▶ Many respondents prefer full Open Access and/or less commercial publisher
  - ▶ Many feel that Springer is too expensive
  - ▶ Some feel that Springer price is acceptable
  - ▶ Some remark that Springer Green OA would be a cheaper alternative than Gold OA
  - ▶ One occurrence: respondent's institution requires full Open Access publisher

## Results (6/8)

### Free-text feedback (LNCS), continued

- ▶ Once occurrence: Springer provides (in theory more accessible) HTML version
- ▶ Once occurrence: Springer has served us well
- ▶ Once occurrence: Indexing for LNCS is good, for LIPIcs unknown
- ▶ Several respondents remark that others (SAT, CP, FSCD, ITP) have already moved to LIPIcs with good results
- ▶ A few respondents write that CADE and IJCAR (and FroCoS, TABLEAUX (and JAR)) should have the same publisher

# Results (7/8)

## Free-text feedback (LIPIcs)

### ▶ Production ease/quality

- ▶ Many respondents report good former experience with LIPIcs
- ▶ Some respondents write that LIPIcs format is better, has professional typesetting
- ▶ Some respondents remark that LIPIcs proceedings are directly based on author's files: no retyping, no style change, no proof reading of heavily reworked documents
- ▶ One occurrence: good submission tools
- ▶ One occurrence: bad experience with LNCS

### ▶ Reputation

- ▶ Some write that LIPIcs is more selective
- ▶ Some write that Springer/LNCS reputation and quality has gone down
- ▶ Some write that LIPIcs is less prestigious/less visible
- ▶ One occurrence: good conferences increase reputation of LIPIcs

# Results (8/8)

## Free-text feedback (LIPIcs), continued

### ▶ Business model

- ▶ Some write LIPIcs is run professionally and there is no doubt about its survival
- ▶ One occurrence: publicly funded editors longevity is not guaranteed
- ▶ One occurrence: there is no need for a commercial publisher anymore
- ▶ A few write that LIPIcs board biased towards initiators, whereas commercial publishers are more independent
- ▶ Many remark that LIPIcs is committed to open-access, and is non-profit/community oriented
- ▶ Many remark that LIPIcs is less expensive, and can easily be integrated in conference fees
- ▶ One occurrence: some universities reject the hybrid model, e.g. LNCS, with fees for OA to authors, otherwise to readers

### ▶ Miscellaneous

- ▶ Some say that the move to LIPIcs should be done with FroCoS, TABLEAUX, and IJCAR
- ▶ Some say moving to LIPIcs might be too soon
- ▶ One occurrence: maybe we can make LNCS change their processes?

# Visibility, Evaluation, Ranking

- ▶ Most frequent comment: No changes expected
  - ▶ Good experiences with ITP and SAT
  - ▶ Conference ranking/prestige is more important than publisher (2nd most frequent comment)
- ▶ Some saw more prestige for LNCS, a few for LIPIcs
- ▶ Some expect more visibility with LIPIcs
- ▶ Full Open Access is preferred
  - ▶ Requirement by funders (e.g. Plan S)
  - ▶ Personal preference
- ▶ Indexing (Scopus, Web of Science) is important

## Comments on the AAR position statements

- ▶ All relevant arguments were well covered (most frequent comment by far)
- ▶ Not all relevant arguments were listed
  - ▶ Missing: Unreasonable timelines and lack of diffs with Springer
  - ▶ Missing: Springer will be here in 20 years
  - ▶ Missing: Indexing information for LIPIcs
  - ▶ Missing: Discussion of composition of editorial board of LIPIcs
  - ▶ Missing: Discussion of “Plan S” (Springer does not meet objectives)
  - ▶ Missing: Effect on IJCARE if CADE goes LIPIcs
  - ▶ Missing: Effect on JAR if CADE goes LIPIcs
  - ▶ Missing: Connection of CADE community to Dagstuhl via Deduction seminars
- ▶ We had both “Springer’s provision of HTML for accessibility was not covered” and “Springer’s provision of HTML for accessibility is overrated”
- ▶ Several general comments for or against specific arguments and/or publishers

## Additional information

- ▶ Several comments mentioned the importance of indexing
- ▶ Indexing of LNCS was covered in the AAR newsletter arguments
- ▶ We have contacted LIPIcs to inquire about indexing
  - ▶ Scopus indexes LIPIcs
  - ▶ DBLP indexes LIPIcs
  - ▶ Google Scholar uses the provided API to index LIPIcs
  - ▶ Several smaller services index LIPIcs
  - ▶ Clarivate (Web of Science, CPCI) decides on a per-conference basis, not a per-publisher base
    - ▶ LIPIcs is in contact with Clarivate and tries to get conferences they publish in

See <https://www.dagstuhl.de/en/publishing>

LIPIcs and LNCS indexing efforts are similar, actual outcome in practice is hard to determine

## Conclusion

- ▶ The topic has been discussed over several years
- ▶ We held a **consultative** survey to collect the **opinion** of the community
  - ▶ Most survey participants feel well-informed
  - ▶ Most survey participants appreciate the quality of the debate
- ▶ A big majority of the CADE community is in favor of a change towards LIPIcs. . .
  - ▶ . . . but the sentiment is not unanimous
  - ▶ . . . but maybe not without IJCAR and its other constituent conferences
- ▶ We need more information
  - ▶ What do IJCAR, TABLEAUX, FROCCOS want?
  - ▶ Would LIPIcs accept all these?
- ▶ Suggestion: Bring the discussion to the IJCAR level
  - ▶ Are the constituent conferences willing to move to LIPIcs?
  - ▶ Is LIPIcs willing to take the other constituent conferences together with CADE?