Networks and Heterogeneous Media

NHM, 21(1): 234–242.
DOI: 10.3934/nhm.2026011
Received: 25 July 2025
Revised: 20 December 2025
Accepted: 31 December 2025
Published: 27 February 2026

https://www.aimspress.com/journal/NHM

Editorial

2025 Annual Report

Networks and Heterogeneous Media Editorial Office*

AIMS Press, Springfield, MO 65801-2604, USA

* **Correspondence:** Email: nhm@aimspress.org.

1. The Journal

Networks and Heterogeneous Media (NHM) was founded in 2006 and has been growing successfully almost for 20 years. Responding to the journal's needs, NHM began its transformation at the end of 2022, officially changing to an OA publishing model in 2023 for the first time. From December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2025, the journal received a total of **300 submissions**, and **65 were online**, with a **rejection rate of 73.3%**, which shows that, despite the change in publication, NHM has always maintained high standards and strict requirements. This would not have been possible without the support of our editor-in-chief and editorial board team. In the meantime, thanks to the whole EB for the work done, our editorial board has been enlarged this year with the inclusion of some outstanding young scholars. Next, journal development, manuscript processing, and future perspectives will be presented to share NHM's work and development this year.

Submission	Online	Reject/Withdraw
300	65	220/10

Data source from December 31, 2024–December 31, 2025.

2. Manuscript processing

Here you will find the processing time for each stage of the paper, the turnaround time for publication, and the national & regional statistics of the authors.

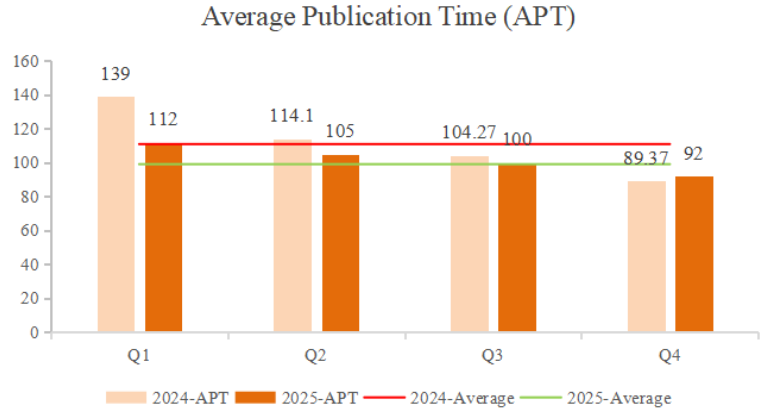
2.1 *Manuscript processing time*

The processing time of the manuscript comprises three measurement indicators: Average Publication Time (APT), Submission to Final Decision Time (TFD), and Acceptance to Publication Time (ATOP). Each indicator includes annual average time and quarterly time.

2.1.1 APT

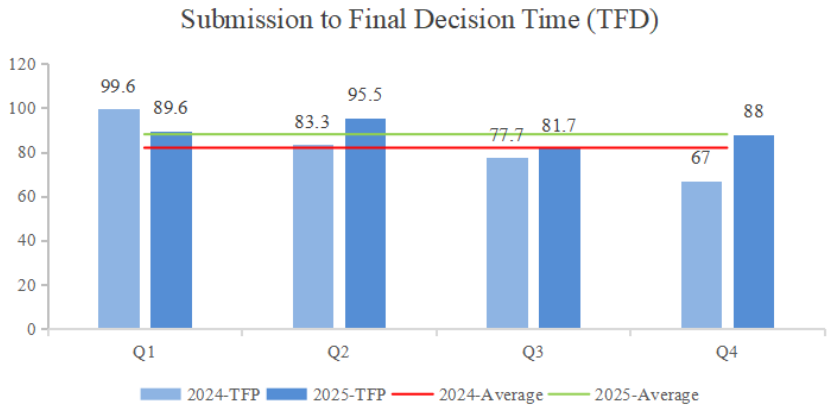
In the figure, the horizontal axis represents the quarter-year, the vertical axis represents the number of days, and the bar graph represents the average value of APT for each quarter (yellow: 2024, orange: 2025). The red line indicates the annual average APT for 2024, while the green line represents the same for 2025.

As can be seen from the figure, the overall processing time of articles has gradually shortened since the four quarters of 2025, from 3.7 months in Q1 to 3 months in Q4. Overall, the article processing time is 99 days, although it is shorter than 2024, but it is still a long time. Further optimization is needed during the subsequent processing stage.



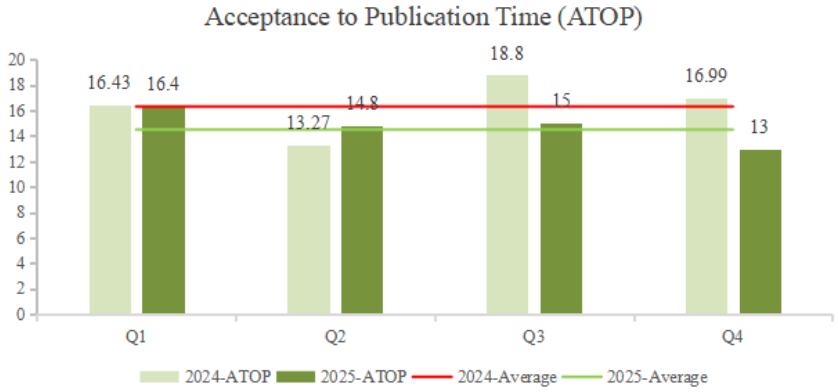
2.1.2 TFD

TFD is the time from receipt of the manuscript to the final decision, including the time for the editorial board to do a brief check and the reviewers to review the manuscript. The average TFD for 2025 is 88.7 days. The quarterly TFD for 2024 is shown in light blue, and 2025 in dark blue. It is worth noting that the editors also waited for reviewers for much longer than 14 days when the required review period was 14 days. In some special cases, the review time may be set at 30 days. And in some holiday months, such as Christmas, it even went to 45–60 days, which also causes our review cycle time to be extended. And the duration of the author's revision stage will also vary to some extent, for several reasons: The article requires major revisions and takes a considerable amount of time; the article still requires further revision and so on. In the coming year, we need to further reduce the processing time: Update the reviewers as soon as possible and invite them promptly; better quality of review reports, etc.



2.1.3 ATOP

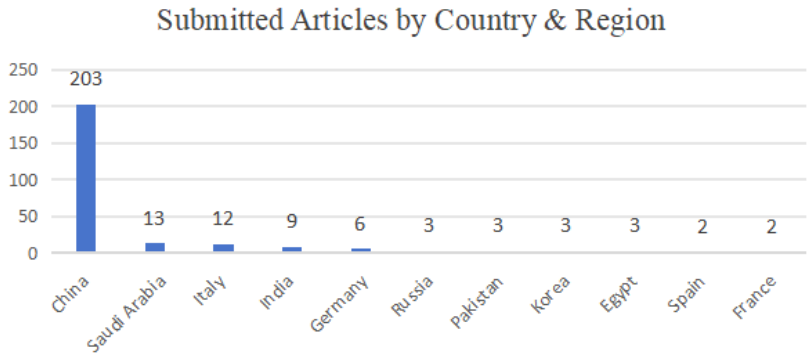
This section shows the average time from manuscript acceptance to publication, usually 10 days, which is influenced by the typesetting editor, the English editor, and the author's cooperation. The average ATOP for 2025 is 14.5 days, which is shorter than last year.

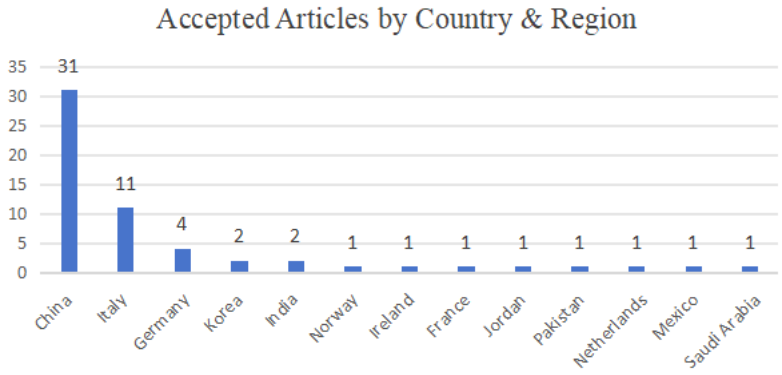


2.2 Distribution of countries

This section presents the geographic distribution of submitted manuscripts and published manuscripts. The distribution of author groups, serving as an indicator of a journal's future focus, constitutes a broad and influential category. This strong group has the potential to enhance the journal's citation impact, fostering its growth and prosperity.

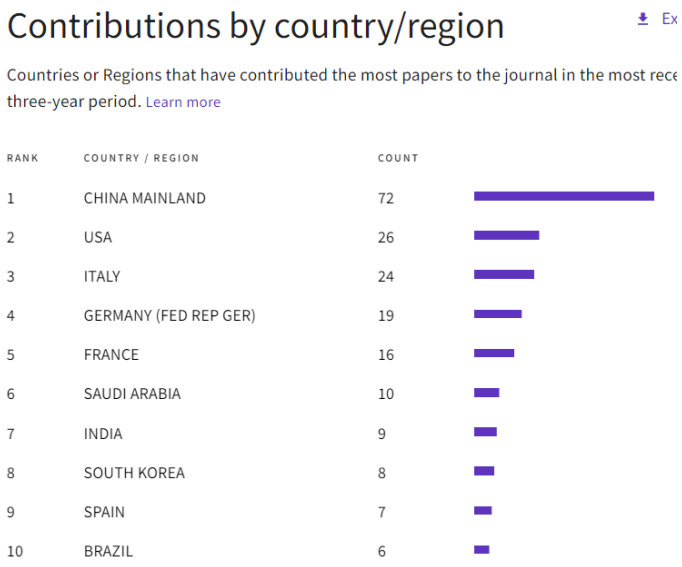
The following pictures provide the counts of Submitted manuscripts per region and country. The region and country are derived by the affiliation of the author. The top 10 countries list is computed using Submitted articles descending for 2025.





Submissions to NHM are mostly from countries in Asia, such as China, Saudi Arabia, Italy, India, etc.; final publications are mostly from countries in Asia and Europe, such as China, Italy, USA, Germany, etc.

The following list shows the countries or regions that have contributed the most papers to the journal in the most recent three-year period. Most of the articles were contributed by China, next came the United States, Italy, Germany and other European countries.



Contributions by country/region

Ex

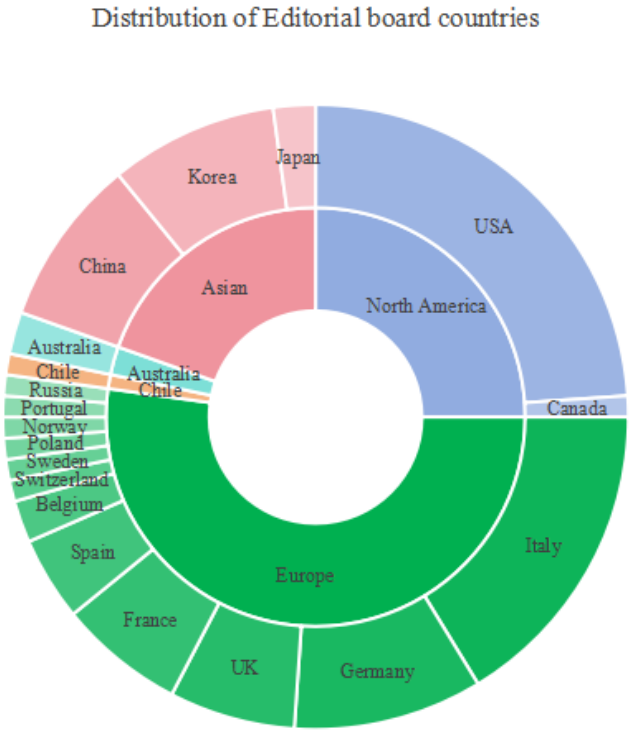
Countries or Regions that have contributed the most papers to the journal in the most rece three-year period. Learn more

RANK	COUNTRY / REGION	COUNT
1	CHINA MAINLAND	72
2	USA	26
3	ITALY	24
4	GERMANY (FED REP GER)	19
5	FRANCE	16
6	SAUDI ARABIA	10
7	INDIA	9
8	SOUTH KOREA	8
9	SPAIN	7
10	BRAZIL	6

3. Journal development

3.1 Editorial board countries and regions

Currently, NHM has 92 editorial board members from 19 countries on five continents, with the highest number of editorial board members from Europe, followed by North America and Asia.



This year we have joined 21 new members of the Editorial Board, whose information is shown in the table below. We welcome them and hope to attract more outstanding scholars to join our team. Among them, this year one of the chief editors 'Paola Goatin' resigned. Subsequently, with the recommendation of Prof. Piccoli, two new chief editors 'Lorena Bociu and Cristina Pignotti' were invited to join the NHM editorial board.

Name	Country	Interest
Lorena Bociu	USA	PDE
Cristina Pignotti	Italy	Control Theory, PDE, Models and applications
Yujin Guo	China	Variational theory, nonlinear PDE,mathematical physics
Jicai Huang	China	ODE, geometric singular perturbation theory
Giovanni Russo	Italy	Fluid Dynamics Numerical Methods for Conservation
Clemente Cesarano	Italy	Mathematical Analysis, Numerical Analysis
Carlo Cattani	Italy	Mathematical Modelling, Numerical Analysis
Giovanni Stabile	Italy	PDE, computational mechanics problems
Margherita Solci	Italy	Calculation of Variations
Erik Scott Van Vleck	USA	Applied Mathematics, Numerical Methods for PDEs
Yannick Sire	USA	PDEs, dynamical systems

Mostafa Fazly	USA	Applied Mathematics, Differential Equations, Nonlinear Systems
Taekyun Kim	Korea	Mathematics, special functions
Sun-Yong Choi	Korea	Financial economics, Stochastic Volatility, Data Science
A. S. M. Sanwar Hosen	Korea	WSNs/IoT, Edge Computing, Blockchain
Juan E. Trinidad Segovia	Spain	Econophysics, Financial Markets
Juan J. Nieto	Spain	Mathematical Analysis, Differential Equations
Konstantinos Chrysafinos	Greece	PDE, Optimal Control, Navier-Stokes Equations
Yuli D. Chashechkin	Russia	Fluid Mechanics, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Numerical Simulation
Cristiana J. Silva	Portugal	Optimal control, epidemic mathematical models
Omar Lakkis	UK	Adaptive Methods, Nonlinear PDEs

3.2 Article metrics

Statistics of the most cited manuscripts of Web of Science in the last five years and the last two years, where the "*" after the title indicates that the manuscript is from a special issue manuscript.

3.2.1 Most Cited Articles, 2025 (Last Five Years: 2021-2023)

Title	Authors	Publication Year	Total Citations
Multiscale models of covid-19 with mutations and variants*	Bellomo, Nicola; Burini, Diletta; Outada, Nisrine	2022	53
Existence results and stability analysis for a nonlinear fractional boundary value problem on a circular ring with an attached edge A study of fractional calculus on metric graph	Mehandiratta, Vaibhav; Mehra, Mani; Leugering, Guenter	2021	17
An SIR-like kinetic model tracking individuals' viral load	Della Marca, R; Loy, N and Tosin, A	2022	13
Compactness property of the linearized Boltzmann operator for a diatomic single gas model	Brull, S; Shahine, M and Thieullen, P	2022	12
Simple is best: A single-CNN method for classifying remote sensing images	Song, HX and Zhou, Y	2023	12
SLeNN-ELM: A shifted Legendre neural network method for fractional delay differential equations based on extreme learning machine*	Ye, YL; Li, YJ; Fan, HT; Liu, XY; Zhang, HB	2023	11
Well-posedness theory for nonlinear scalar conservation laws on networks	Musch, M; Fjordholm, US; Risebro, NH	2022	9
Mean-field limit of collective dynamics with time-varying weights	Duteil, NP	2022	9

Influence of a slow moving vehicle on traffic: Well-posedness and approximation for a mildly nonlocal model	Sylla, A	2021	8
Learning the nonlinear flux function of a hidden scalar conservation law from data	Li, Q and Evje, S	2023	7
Homogenization of nonlinear nonlocal diffusion equation with periodic and stationary structure*	Chen, JL; Tang, YB	2023	7
Error estimate of L1-ADI scheme for two-dimensional multi-term time fractional diffusion equation	Li, KX; Chen, H and Xie, SS	2023	7

Note: "*" Stands for Contributions to the Special Issue.
Last Updated: December 2025
Source: Web of Science

3.2.2 Most Cited Articles, 2025 (Last Two Years: 2024-2025)

Title	Authors	Publication Year	Total Citations
Higher-order convergence analysis for interior and boundary layers in a semi-linear reaction-diffusion system networked by a k-star graph with non-smooth source terms*	Sarkar, D; Kumar, S; Das, P; Ramos, H	2024	44
Dynamic properties and numerical simulations of a fractional phytoplankton-zooplankton ecological model	Zhang, S; Zhang, HL; Wang, YL; Li, ZY	2025	17
On rotavirus infectious disease model using piecewise modified ABC fractional order derivative*	Eiman; Shah, KM; Sarwar, M; Abdeljawad, T	2024	10
Application of a hybrid pseudospectral method to a new two-dimensional multi-term mixed sub-diffusion and wave-diffusion equation of fractional order*	Shah, FA; Kamran; Santina, D; Mlaiki, N; Aljawi, S	2024	9
Estimation of NOx and O3 reduction by dissipating traffic waves*	Briani, M; Manzo, R; Piccoli, B; Rarità, L	2024	7
Traffic network analysis via multidimensional split variational inequality problem with multiple output sets	Alakoya, TO; Ghosh, B; Moutari, S; Pakrashi, V; Ramachandra, RB	2024	6
A continuum model for the tensegrity Maxwell chain*	Placidi, L; Motta, JD; Charandabi, RN; Fraternali, F	2024	5
Finite-in-time flocking of the thermodynamic Cucker-Smale model	Ahn, H; Noh, SE	2024	4

Note: "*" Stands for Contributions to the Special Issue.
Last Updated: December 2025
Source: Web of Science

3.3 Special issues

Only the number of submissions and rejections, publications for the special issue were counted

from December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

Special Issue Submissions	Rejection and withdrawal	Published
150	86/5	36

The data counts the submissions, rejections, and published manuscripts for special issues remain open in 2025.

Title	Submission	Under review	Accept
Local and Nonlocal PDEs Arising in Real Life Problems	10	0	9
Soliton Dynamics and Nonlinear Waves: Integrable Systems, Experimental Insights, and Beyond	5	4	3
Progress in Numerical Methods for Fractional Partial Differential Equations	10	4	4
Recent advances in theory and applications of complex networks	2	0	1
Numerical Stability Analysis in Deep Learning Linear Algebra Modules	5	0	0
Mathematical foundations and emergent dynamics of many agent systems	4	1	0
Advanced mathematical approaches in financial mathematics	12	1	2
Advances in AI-Driven Mathematical Modeling for Model Predictive Control in Engineering Systems	33	0	0
Recent Progress on Theory and Application of Differential Equations	8	4	1
Computational Advances in Special Functions and Orthogonal Polynomials: Theory, Algorithms, and Applications	4	3	0
Mathematical Modeling in Biological Networks & Medical Data Analysis	4	0	1
Recent progress on numerical methods of singularly perturbed problems	3	1	2
Design and implementation of digital twins in wireless sensor networks for smart cities	2	0	0
Advanced Machine Learning and Generative AI Applications in Financial Markets	0	0	0
Modeling and control of large-scale multi-agent systems	0	0	0

4. Summary and perspective

4.1. Summary

The successful publication of 65 excellent papers in 2025, the third year of the official conversion to an OA journal, would not have been possible without the support of the editorial board members, the editor-in-chief, and the contributions of authors and reviewers. The impact factor has risen from 1.20 last year to 1.30, and it has also been included in the DOAJ database this year, it is believed that the journal will get better and better in the coming days.

4.2. Perspective

At present, there are some problems that we need to improve in the next step:

1) the manuscript processing cycle is a little longer, we should try to shorten the processing time;
2) the editorial board needs to be further expanded;

3) the scope of the journal is too limited to PDE, it has to be expanded within a reasonable range;
4) strengthen the invitation of submissions, so that the journal can publish more high-quality articles;
5) and the promotion of the journal needs to be further improved.

Next year, everything will be better.