

Preface

Let us play a game. Let us put all the scientific papers (and I can tell you: that is a lot!) of Professor Dr. Piet Bergveld in one gigantic box. And let us place this box on the desk of the referee, being me. As a referee, I will decide about publication of this lot in *Sensors and Actuators*. With a heavy sigh I start refereeing. After some time (...), I fetch the standard Referees' Checklist of S&A and start answering the questions. For a change, you can be the witness of this process:

1. Is the subject matter suitable for publication in *Sensors and Actuators*?

Piet Bergveld often calls *Sensors and Actuators* his favorite journal, simply made for him (in Dutch: *lijfblad*). Although not exclusively, he has published many of his papers in S&A. I guess that the papers in S&A and the projects of Piet show a comparable mix of specific goals, theoretical depth and experimental results, applicable for real-life problems; in a way Piet and S&A grew up together. For sure, the results of the projects of Piet Bergveld are suitable for publication in *Sensors and Actuators*.

2. Is it a new and original contribution?

Piet has never had many problems in getting his submitted project proposals granted, because they often were based on a really new, quite often exotic operational principle. Or he proposed to combine two existing sub-systems into one new system, ready to tackle a specific task. For that reason the papers originating from the results of these projects were mostly new and original and therefore were quite easily accepted.

3. Does it contain subject matter that might well be omitted?

No, just the other way around: the huge box of Bergveld's papers contains many papers of a specific class of subjects that is —alas— not covered by the papers in this *Festschrift*. I mean the papers related to his many physical sensor projects. The easy explanation for

this is that it would not fit in this *Sensors and Actuators B—Chemical Festschrift*. The true explanation is that due to circumstances, I could not find an author covering this part of Piet's professional efforts.

4. Is it clearly presented and well organized?

There is not one single paper with Piet's name on it as a (co-)author that has not been thoroughly reviewed by him and discussed with the first author, often a Ph.D.-student. A whole generation of researchers, including myself, learned to write logically structured papers, properly organized into cause and effect.

5. Please indicate your recommendation regarding publication:

The box of papers is acceptable without revision!

The papers of Piet Bergveld are a fine example of progress in scientific research: Piet shaped and sculptured many stones for the building of scientific research. The whole scientific community involved in this kind of research can show you where the stones of Piet are in this building and how their own stones rest on his foundation. On behalf of this community, including myself: Piet, thank you very much!

6. Please list any further comments below:

In my role as guest-editor I would like to wholeheartedly thank all the authors for contributing to this *Festschrift* dedicated to Piet Bergveld. These authors accepted my invitation and tolerated my comment on the first versions and did all the effort to revise and submit their papers, resulting in the fine *Festschrift* in your hands right now.

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