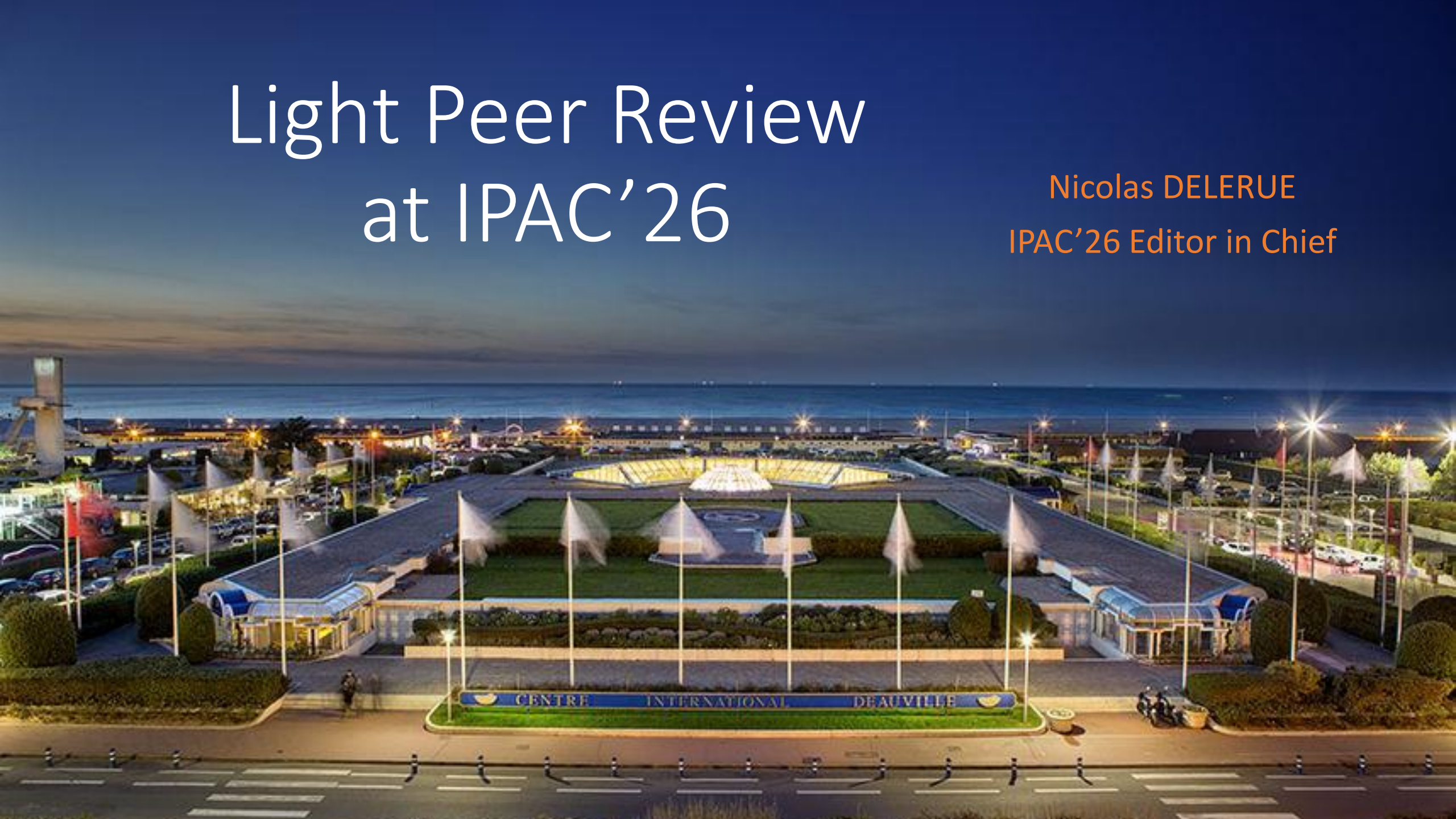
Light Peer Review at IPAC'26

Nicolas DELERUE

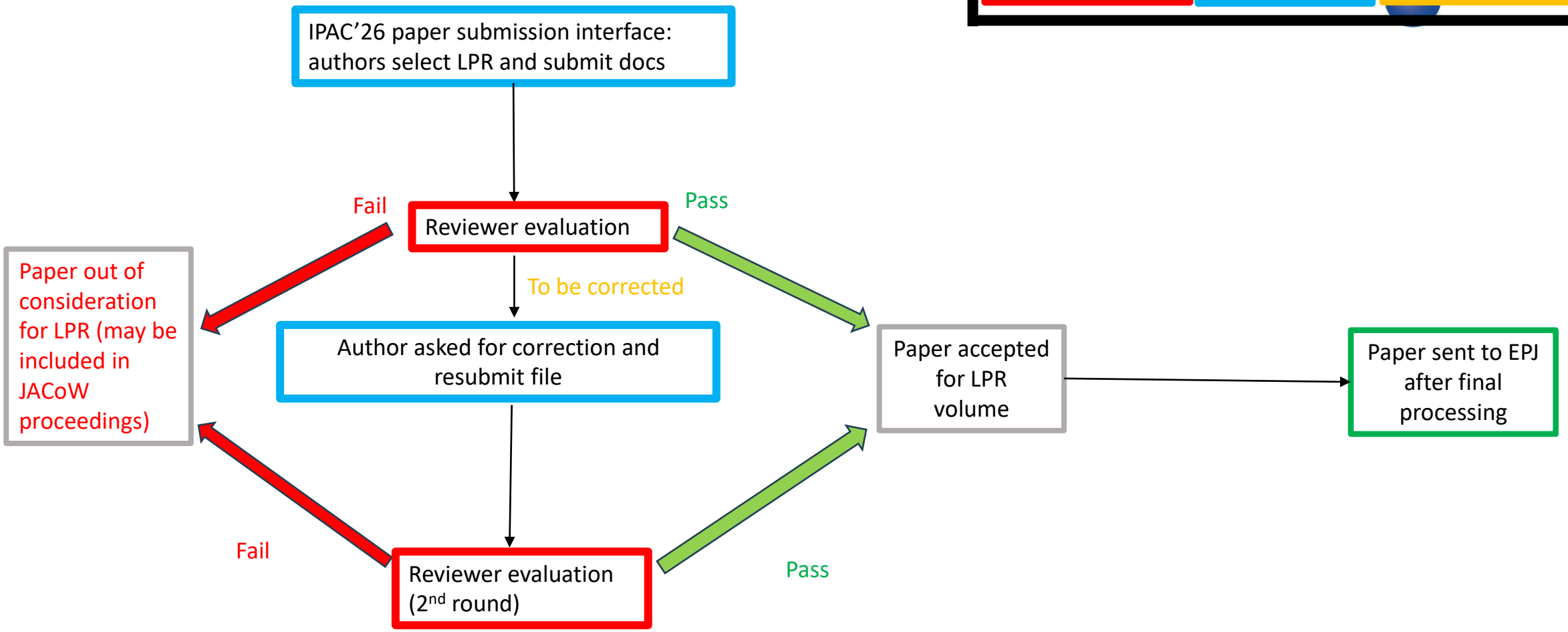
IPAC'26 Editor in Chief



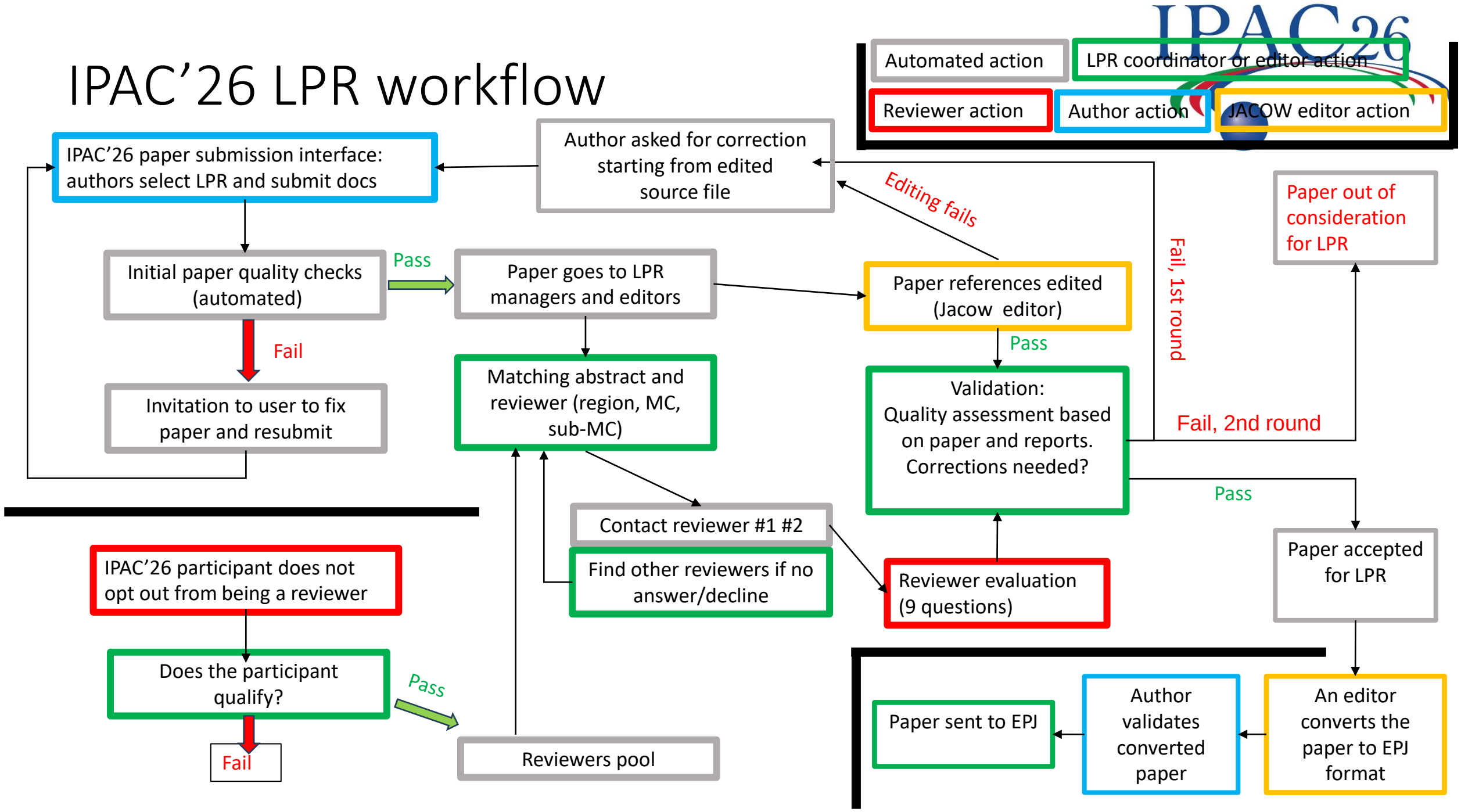
What is the LPR?

- Motivation for Light Peer Review (LPR) at IPAC: Increase the impact of Accelerator Science
  - White paper by Ralph Assmann (DESY), Giovanni Bisoffi (INFN Legnaro) Marie-Emmanuelle Couprie (Soleil) and Mike Seidel (PSI).
  - Follow-up committee with Todd Satogata as JACoW representative.
- First implementations of LPR at IPACs: 2017 by Ralph Assmann (DESY)
- LPR Workflow similar to that of journals with 3 modifications:
  - Reviews are “lighter” than in most journals.
  - Paper review occurs in a limited timescale (7 days max): the whole process **should** take place in the 6 weeks prior to IPAC.
  - Reviews are limited to 2 rounds
- Deadline for LPR submission is about 6 weeks before regular proceedings deadline.
- Accepted papers are published in a regular journal (and indexed by Clarivates)
- IPAC’23: 268 papers published
- IPAC’24: No LPR
- At IPAC’25 LPR was restricted PR to students: ~120 papers
- IPAC’26: 239 papers received, 222 accepted. Gianluca Geloni as LPR coordinator (SPC).
- The effect of LPR on PRAB impact factor is clearly visible

LPR simplified workflow



IPAC'26 LPR workflow

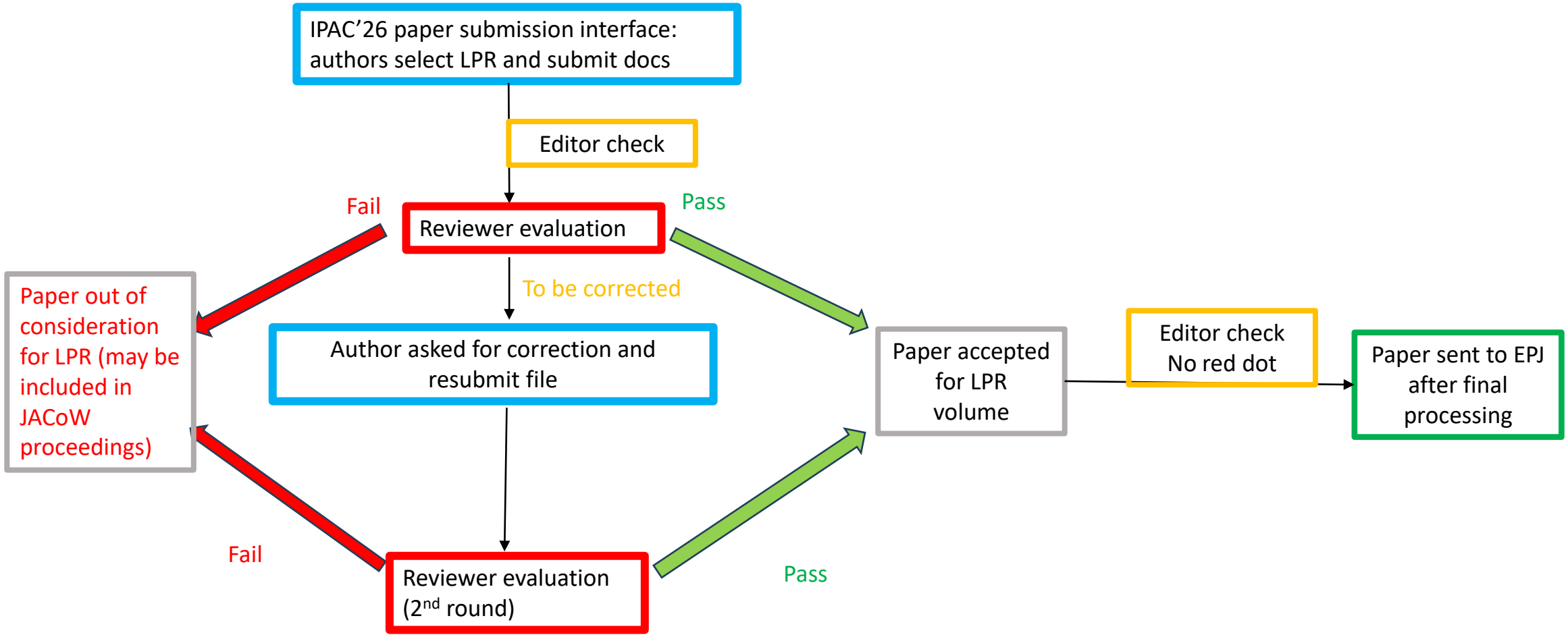


Integrating the LPR in the editing workflow

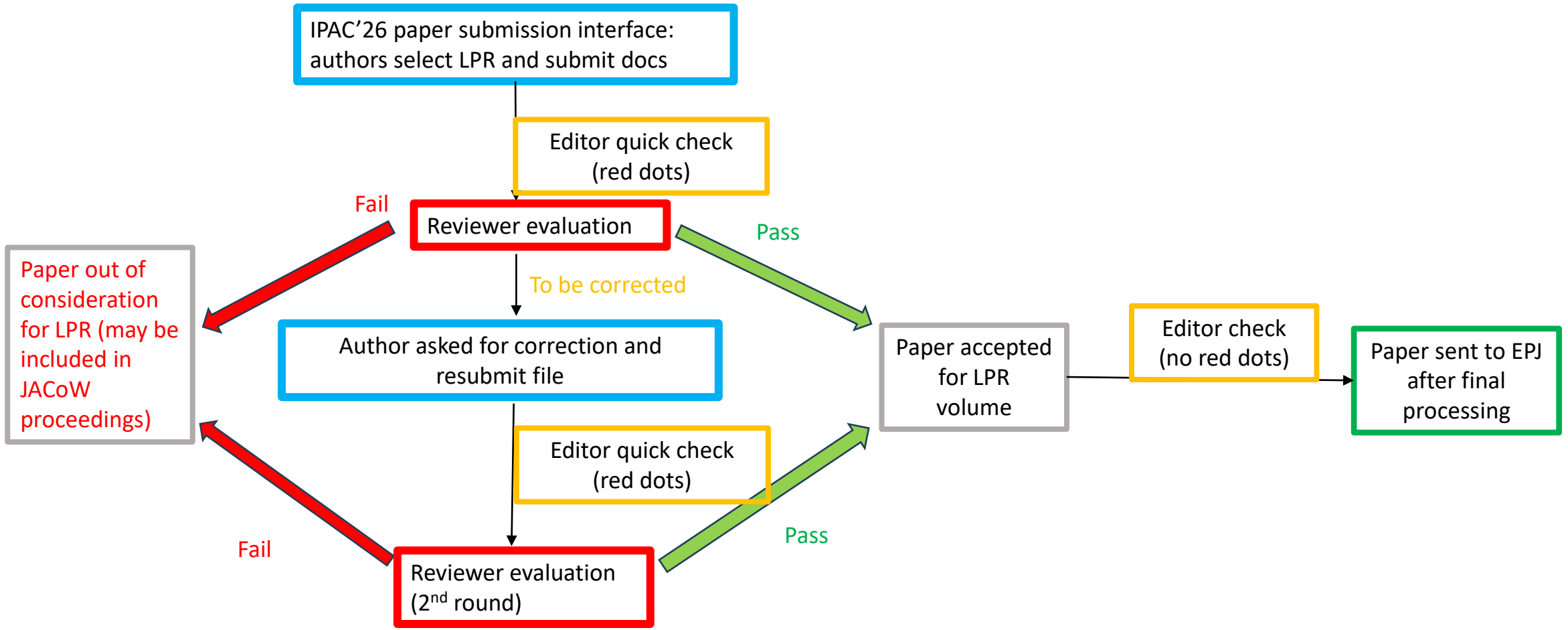
- In indico LPR and paper editing are two separate workflows (and this is confusing some authors).
  - LPR paper do not benefit from JACoW editing.
  - Proceedings do not benefit from improved scientific content from LPR.
- In 2023, LPR paper did not benefit from JACoW editing.
- For IPAC'26 attempt were made to unify the two.
  - Paper submitted to the LPR interface were copied to the editing interface.
  - Attempt was made to edit all LPR papers before first round.
  - All LPR papers we reprocessed by an editor after being accepted for LPR publication.
    - After LPR acceptance you can no longer red dot a paper => should check for red dots before second round of reviews (not done this year).

LPR simplified workflow IPAC'26 with editing

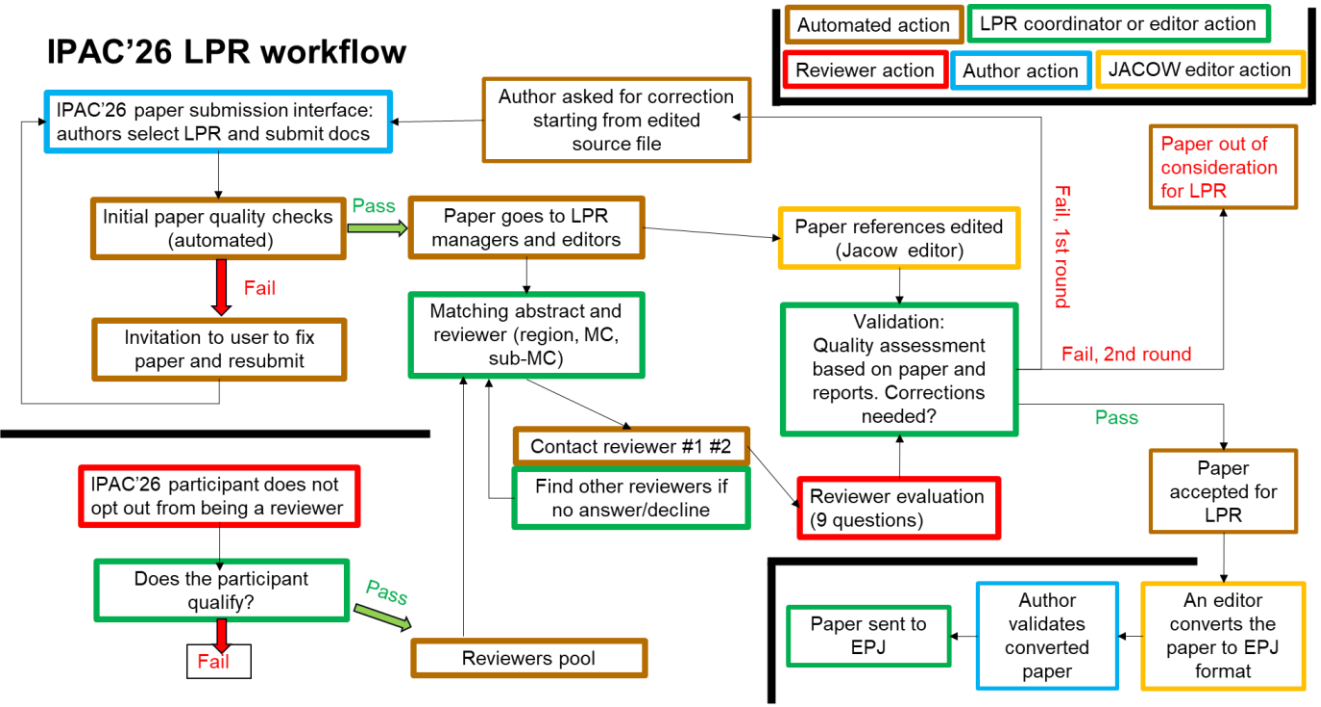




Proposed LPR simplified workflow with editing



IPAC'26 workflow – Timeline:



We kept IPAC'23 timeline with small modifications

- **Tuesday March 3rd (W-10)**: Paper submission opens
- **Wednesday April 1st (W-6)**: LPR Submission deadline (5 weeks before deadline for other papers; both deadlines being on Wednesdays 23:59) → **soft deadline (accepted papers till April 6th)**

However:

- Initial (new software!) debugging till end of March
- Issues with the hosting server (experienced slow-down/hanging, errors while loading web pages: because of these, it was not possible to involve MCs as planned
- Not straightforward to gather hundreds of reviewers (and many asking for more time)

Single paper timeline - Day D: Submission Day

Quality Check:	D+1	
Reviewer assigned:	D+2	
Reminder:		D+5
Review:		D+9
If needed, 2nd round:	D+12	
Workflow end	D+19	

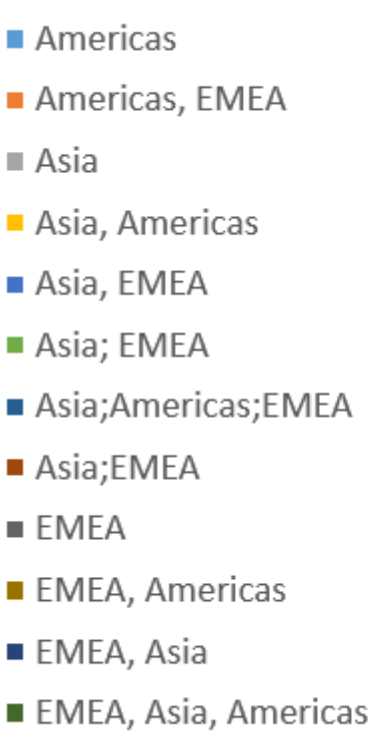
- **Wednesday April 29th (W-2) :**
  - Deadline for final judgement by MC coordinators / SPB
- **Wednesday May 6th (W-1) :**
  - Deadline for proceedings papers

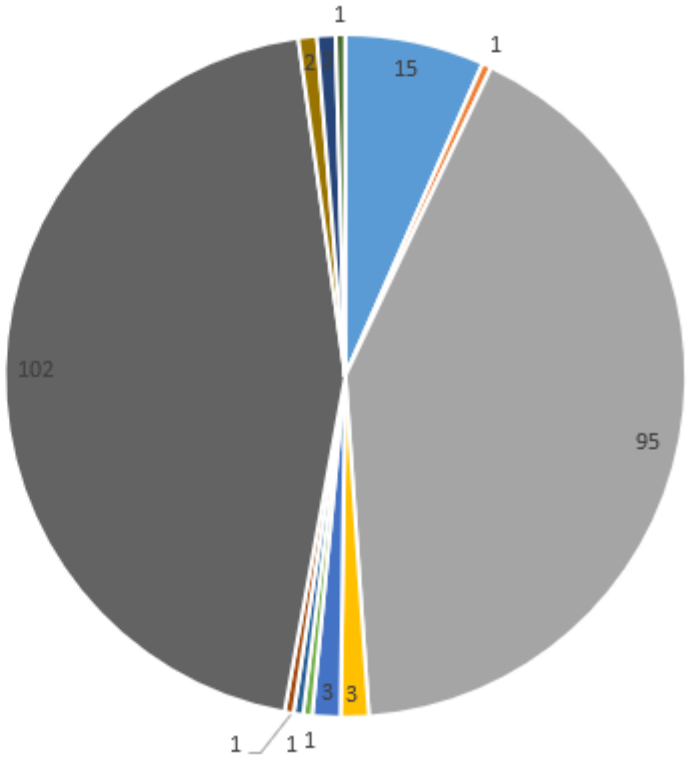
Slide by Gianluca Geloni (IPAC'26 LPR coordinator)

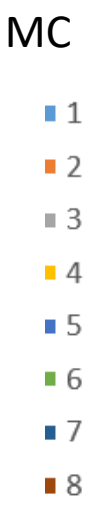
Statistics

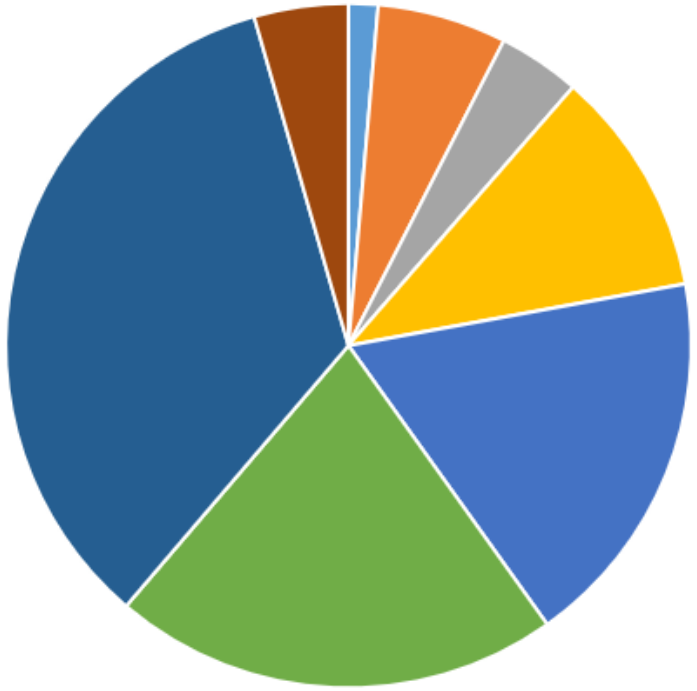
Slide by Gianluca Geloni
(IPAC'26 LPR coordinator)

- Submission actually started on March 10th
- At April 6th: 227 papers submitted; Paper publisher's forms acquired for all



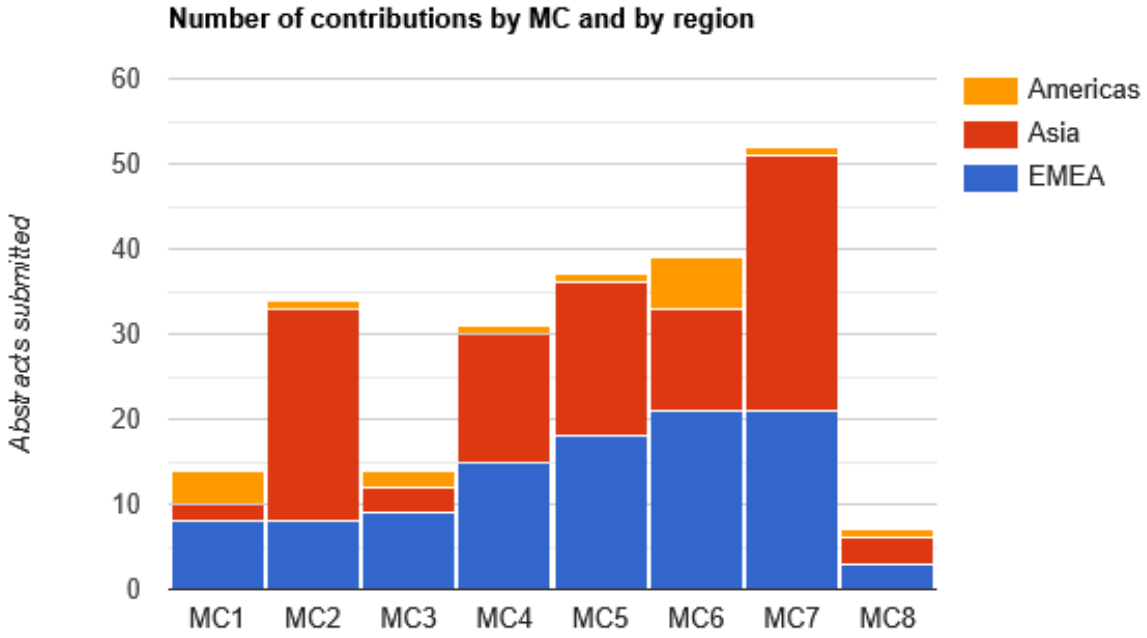


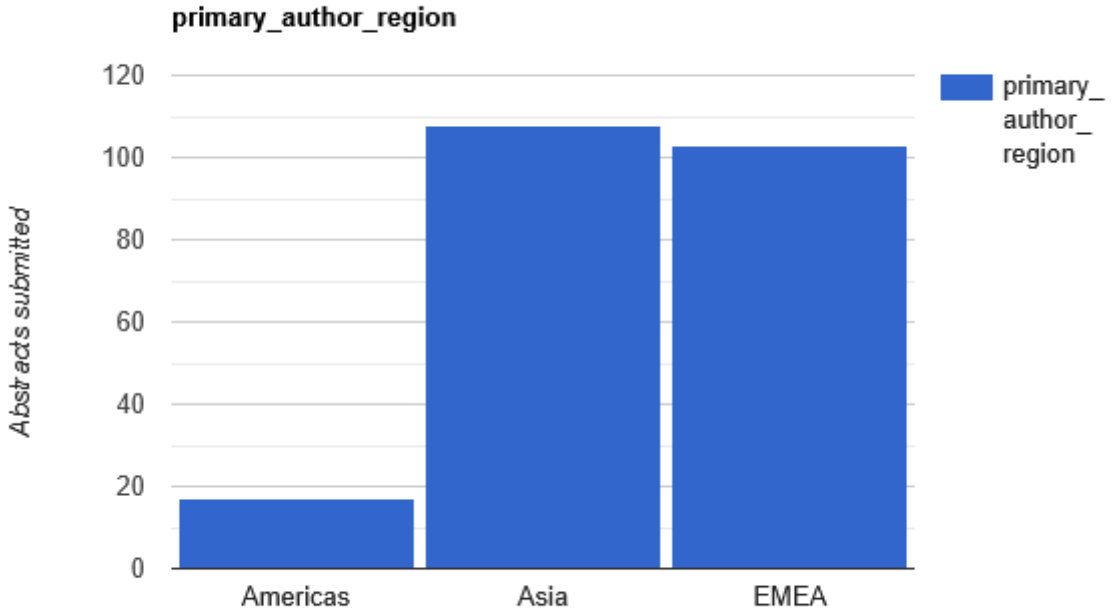




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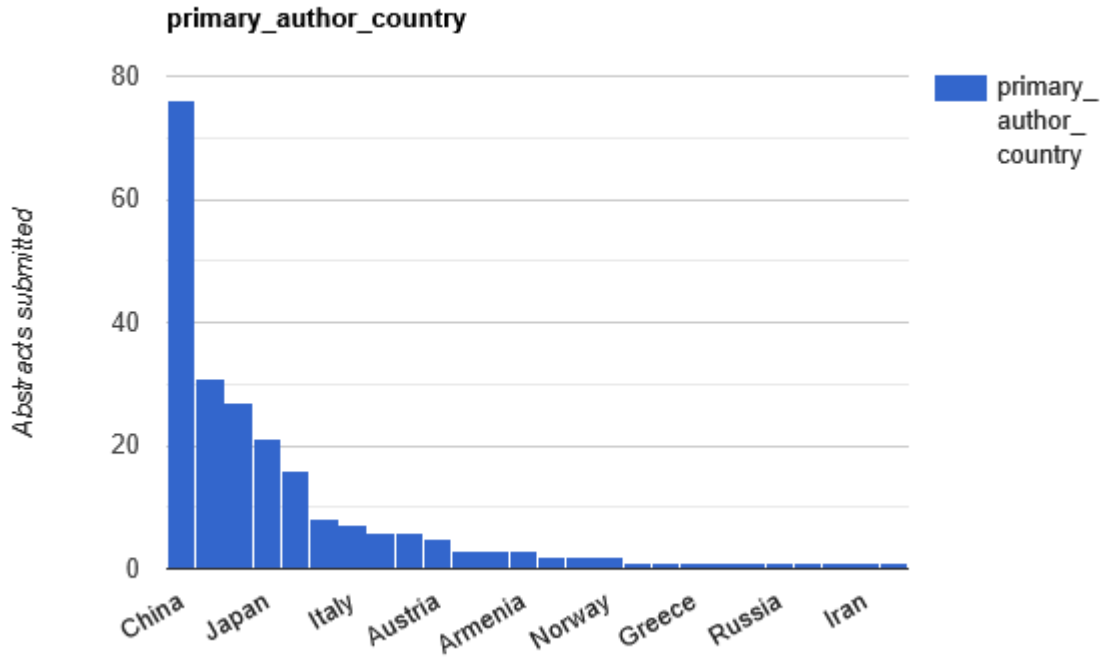
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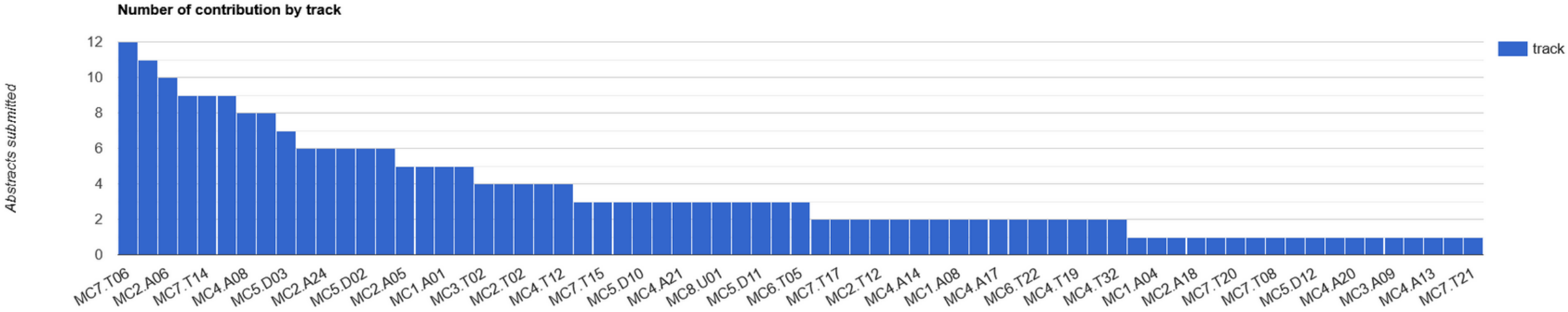


Thanks to Nicolas Delerue

Statistics



Slide by Gianluca Geloni (IPAC'26 LPR coordinator)



Thanks to Nicolas Delerue

Statistics

- On 10.05:
  - 224 sent to two reviewers, 3 still looking for an extra reviewer, 2 uncertain need a third reviewer
  - 196 reviewed by two reviewers

- About:
  - 400 emails composed by LPR coordinator
  - >1500 semi-automated invitations to reviewers
  - >1200 semi-automated reminders to reviewers

  …plus manual enforcing etc…

LPR reviews completed by the end of the summer.
Volume is being prepared…

Slide by Gianluca Geloni
(IPAC'26 LPR coordinator)

LPR journal choice

- We could not simply go with the historical choice of journal (IoP), French law required us to compare offers from different journals to select the best value for money.
  - Extra requirements added by OC chair on paper conversion or acceptance of JACoW as per the LPR white paper.
- About 10 journals surveyed.
- No publisher was ready to commit to have the volume indexed in major publications database.
- LPR historical publisher (IoP) raised its prices and did not offer the extra required.
- European Physics Journal was more economical and offered extra possibilities.
- So far EPJ has proven more flexible than IoP (but volume is not yet published).
- Experience show that we get better indexing if the LPR volume is published at the beginning of the year.

LPR in indico

- Basic LPR module was available before 2023 (first IPAC in indico).
- Suitable to process a few papers, not to process tens of papers.
  - Add on code written in python for IPAC’23
    - Several improvements required on the indico side identified
  - IPAC’25: Processing done using the basic indico tools.
  - Improved code integrated to JICT (PHP) written for IPAC’26
    - Code is limited by indico response time
    - Some action require 2-3 indico action
    - Many action require reloading page with all LPR papers

LPR interface

Recheck all papers' reviewer status.
Recheck all papers' reviewer status and the cache
Go to the list of participants

There are 239 papers

IDs	Title	author	MC	affiliation	Region(s)	Status	Reviewers	Edit paper	Round	Latest revision	Timeline	Overdue
paper THP4036 Abs: 12264 Contrib: 13380 #543	500 MeV normal conducting injector design for ISIS_II neutron and muon facility			Science and Technology Facilities Council	EMEA	LPR: to_be_corrected Editing: needs_submitter_changes Charline Lecourtillet	1. 2.	Edit paper	1	2026-04-02 09:06 Rev #1	2026-04-09 08:17 - Reason given by 885: decline_no_reply	
paper MOP7019 Abs: 12265 Contrib: 13608 #544	Optimized Low-Cost, High-Efficiency Cavity Design for 100–500 MeV Proton Linacs			Science and Technology Facilities Council	EMEA	LPR: to_be_corrected Editing: needs_submitter_changes Charline Lecourtillet	No re	Edit paper	1	2026-04-01 23:34 Rev #1	No comment	
paper MOP7022 Abs: 12449 Contrib: 13556 #728	Dielectric Characterization of Beam Line Absorber Samples for Next-Generation High Intensity Electron Beam SRF Accelerators			Accelerators & Cryogenic Systems; Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS/IN2P3, IJCLab	EMEA	LPR: submitted Editing: ready_for_review Zhichu Chen	1. 2. (21 days 3. 4. :1 (19 days ago) (Manual action)	Edit paper	2	2026-03-27 16:22 Rev #1	2026-04-18 09:13 - Reminder sent to 6189 3 reviews to_be_corrected to_be_corrected accept	Check reviews

- An interface gives the status of all papers synthetically with the information that matters to the LPR coordinator.
- For each paper potential reviewer matching all criteria (author in same C, different region, …) drawn among conference attendees are suggested.

Challenges to share the LPR burden

- The aim of the PHP/JICT interface was to allow sharing the burden of managing papers between several editors (all MC coordinators).
- This was limited by
  - The speed of the interface (limited by the speed of indico).
  - Some access rights to papers that were not working as expected.
- Improvements to be done have been identified, especially on the speed (more caching).
  - Time to load a page scales with the number of papers/attendees. Usually very fast on JFIC, much slower on an IPAC!
  - Part of the complexity comes the need to have up-to-date information without reloading too many indico pages.

Improvements needed for LPR: status (1/2)

This list is based on the list submitted after IPAC'23 with some updates.
Highlighted are the remaining top 3 priorities.

- **Extra upload field for ethical compliance document required by IoP (indico request #6) Priority #1**
  => Done
- **Limit the number of peer-review rounds (No way to prevent reviewers to mark papers "to be corrected" on second round.) (request to jacow #6600) Priority #2**
  => Partially implemented but then rolled back at our request because it did not take into account "re-uploads"
- Prevent the use of the comment field by reviewer (Several reviewers posted comments visible by authors and some comments disclosed their identity) (request to jacow #6599) Priority #3
  => We still had issue of reviewer posting comments instead of judging.
- Create an "observer" status that can access to all reviewers comments but not "judge" the paper (Some SPB members mistakenly validated (judged) papers without waiting for approval from the others. This created some confusion) => **Being worked on by indico. Priority #4**
- Have extra field on each paper to keep track on assigned reviewers who declined reviewing the paper
  => This has been done with a script in JICT/PHP
- Have extra field on each reviewer to keep track of their availability for reviewing papers
  => This has been done with a script in JICT/PHP. Must be improved.
- Summary paper listing the status of each paper => **Done in JICT/PHP**

Almost done (presented at JTM2026)

Done (presented at JTM2026)

Indico improvements needed for LPR: status (2/2)

- Allow to ask all participants to an event to be in the reviewer team
  => Done (but loading the “persons” page is very slow)
- In the review form, separate scientific comments from spelling comments (a long list of spelling mistakes does not require a review on the second round).
  => Done and worked well.
- Queries to the JACoW database for publication history of referees
  => Not yet implemented. With sufficient rights, it would be easy to extract this from indico.
- Keep a record of papers even when withdrawn (Withdrawn papers completely disappear from Indico which create difficulties when we receive comments from reviewers on a paper that has disappeared).
  => Done by EiC: withdrawal was recorded in the timeline of the abstract associated to the contribution (contributions have no timeline).
- Require LPR to go through the CAT scan? Have a record of that validation.
  => done indirectly as the papers we copied from LPR to regular proceedings.
- Have a form for reviewer to accept/reject to review a paper => done in JICT/PHP
- Temporary reviewer status until acceptation
  => Done differently (reviewer status granted only after accepting)
- Transfer papers from LPR to JACoW proceedings. => Done with a JICT/PHP script.

Done (presented at ITM2026)

Limiting confusion between LPR and JACoW editing for the authors

- Suggested improvement for future IPACs.
- Have a single submission interface displayed to the author:
  - LPR interface until 6 weeks before the LPR deadline
  - JACoW editing interface after the LPR deadline
  - In the contribution interface have a question “Would you like this contribution to be considered for LPR/for regular proceedings/for both/ I do not intend to submit”.
  - A script moves the files from the LPR interface to the editing interface.

Adressing the boards questions

- **What is in place and how it interfaces with Indico?**
  - Indico has a basic peer-review module.
  - Additional features have been built in PHP using the JICT framework on top of indico.
  - All critical information remains in indico but can be reprocessed in a different form on the JICT server.
- **What to be done [on the software]?**
  - Improve interface speed (clever caching, cron,…)
  - Limit the number of peer-review rounds
  - Prevent the use of comment fields by reviewers.
  - “Observer status” for reviewers.
- **Who wants to do it and how?**
  - JACoW needs to clarify its position on LPR.
  - I am happy to continue maintain the interface but I am no longer IPAC SPC member.
  - This year’s LPR coordinator was informally hosted at the editorial office
    => useful to have him in close contact with the JACoW team and to have Author reception receive LPR queries.

Outlook

- LPR has been run successfully at IPAC’26.
- Strong demand for LPR from European and Asian authors.
- New web interface available and working.
- Some improvements needed to help share the burden between several LPR editors.
- LPR volume will be submitted to publisher shortly (within 1-2 weeks).
- Publication due in early 2027.

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IPAC'26

Centre International de Deauville

Sunday 17th – Friday 22nd May, 2026

