



# »Smernice akademskega pisanja in uspešnega objavljanja znanstvenih člankov«

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# Overview

- The purpose of scientific publishing.
- Common mistakes in writing scientific articles.
- Useful tips for writing scientific articles.
- Evaluation of scientific articles (from perspective of a reviewer and an editor).
- Personal stories.
- Discussion.



# The purpose of scientific publishing

- Define the Problem
- Review the Literature
- Select a Research Design
- Formulate a Hypothesis
- Carry out the Research
- Interpret your Results
- Report the Research Findings





# The purpose of scientific publishing

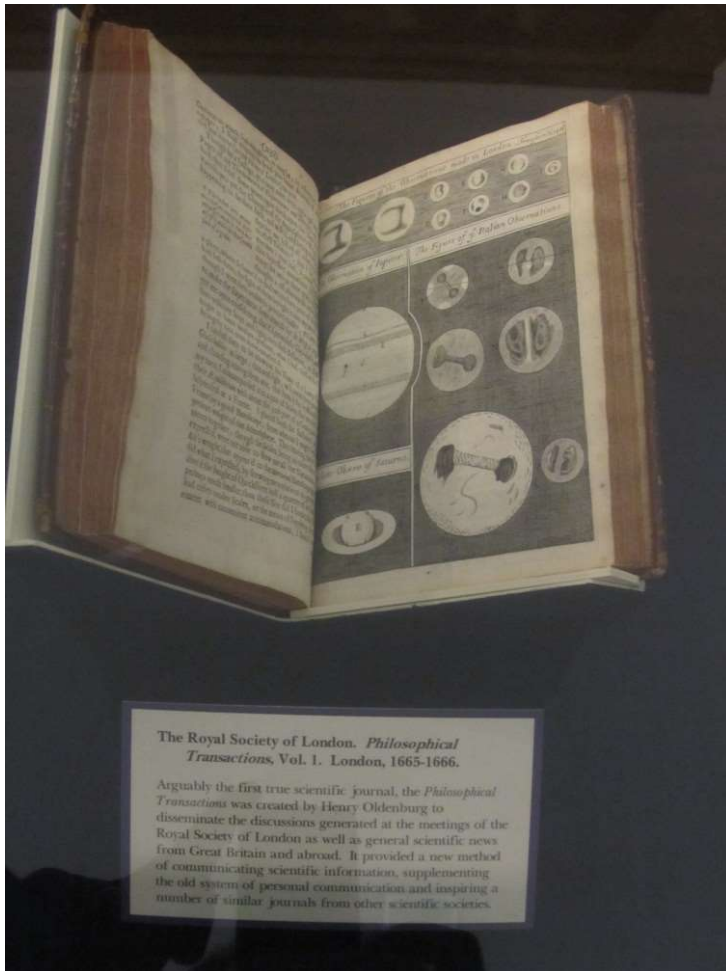
- Primary - knowledge dissemination.

Modern research is based on extensive scientific dialogue and the achievements of past scientific research work.

Isaac Newton: „If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants.“



# The purpose of scientific publishing



The Royal Society of London. *Philosophical Transactions*, Vol. 1, London, 1665-1666.

“Arguably the first true scientific journal, the *Philosophical Transactions* was created by Henry Oldenburg to disseminate the discussions generated at the meetings of the Royal Society of London as well as general scientific news from Great Britain and abroad. It provided a new method of communicating scientific information, supplementing the old system of personal communication and inspiring a number of similar journals from other scientific societies.”



# The purpose of scientific publishing

- Reliable, rapidly communicated, accessible, high-quality research is of utmost importance.
- Open access to scientific publications and research data enables:
  - more efficient use and upgrading of the results of previous research (better quality of research activity),
  - cooperation and avoiding duplication of research (greater efficiency),
  - fostering innovation (faster transition to the market, leading to more growth),
  - Integration of citizens and society (improved transparency of scientific research work).

# The purpose of scientific publishing

- Secondary - fulfill the conditions for obtaining a habilitation title or for Ph.D. defence.

## Article 61

**(Special Quantitative Conditions for the First Appointment to the Titles of Associate Professor and Senior Research Associate)**

- has produced at least 7 important works as first or corresponding author with the affiliation to UL, with the candidate as first or corresponding author,

- of which at least 4 are from the date of submission of the application for their first appointment to their current title;

- at least 3 of the 7 works must be articles published in journals indexed in SSCI or SCI with  $IF > 0$  or AHCI, or in journals that are comparable in terms of quality and international recognition with the above mentioned journals, provided that it is characteristic of the habilitation field that the SSCI and SCI journals with  $IF > 0$  or AHCI journals are not the sole reliable indicator of international impact,

# How to achieve this goal?

- Your own way. But, it is a long way.
  - learning from your own experience and above all from mistakes.
- Based on the experience of others – a little bit faster way.
  - The choice and role of the mentor is important;
  - Participation at workshops and lectures;
  - To know good research papers (plagiarism).
- „No Free Lunch”.





# Common structure of scientific articles

■ IMRaD – format refers to a paper that is structured by four main sections: Introduction-Method-Results&Discussion.

1. Title
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
4. Method description
5. Results
6. Conclusion



# Common structure of scientific articles

■ Order of reading a paper is not the same as of writing.

1. Method description
2. Results
3. Conclusion
4. Introduction
5. Abstract
6. Title

■ Can I change the structure of the paper?



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- The title of the article is inaccurate and/or too general (the reader's expectations are not met).

**„The main problem of the paper is the discrepancy between the expectations raised by its title and abstract and the actual contents.** First, it is claimed to introduce MIPNs as a new and more powerful variant of Petri nets. It is true that the hierarchical aspects of MIPNs are discussed in some detail. I'll come to that later.“



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- Abstract is too long or some parts are missing (e.g., short description of the problem, proposed solution, conclusions).
- A prevalent mistake that can lead to article rejection is not describing the motivation of our research in the introduction.



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

„Starting with the introduction, **it first suffers a proper motivation of the approach**, but starts with rather technical details and acronyms which **are not very interesting for the reader** at this early point of reading. Second, **the authors mention several advantages of their approach (e.g., no trace files etc.) but completely fail to describe whether recent approaches actually fail in this regard**. Do you improve something with your approach as compared to the state-of-the-art and, if so, what exactly? “



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

„Metaheuristics have been proposed to train the input layer of ANN many times before. The authors mentioned some metaheuristics for this purpose but failed to explain why a new metaheuristic is needed. **The related work section is shallow. It is not clear what is the problem with current approaches and how the proposed metaheuristics solved it. The motivation for this work is not clear.** “



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- In the introduction we start immediately with a mathematical\* definition of the problem or we are losing in unnecessary details. Readers/reviewers will quickly withdrawn from further reading.

## 1. Introduction

Betweenness problem (BP) is a well known combinatorial optimization problem. For a given finite set  $S$  of  $n$  objects  $S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  and a given set  $C$  of triples  $(x_i, x_j, x_k) \in S \times S \times S$ , betweenness problem is to determine the total ordering of the elements from  $S$ , such that triples from  $C$  satisfies the "betweennesses constraint", i.e. the element  $x_j$  is between the elements  $x_i$  and  $x_k$ . Problem presented in this paper deals with finding the total ordering that maximizes the number of satisfied constraints.

Because the set  $S$  is finite, each element of  $S$  can be indexed by  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $n = |S|$ . This 1-1 correspondence between the elements from  $S$  and

# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- We do not mention existing solutions at all (the context of our research will be unknown to the reader/reviewer) or we quote them superficially (without exact comparison between approaches).

Cortelessa et.al. [19] have proposed a model based performance risk assessment technique to identify critical components. Gyimo' thy et al. [27] conducted an empirical study on the validation of Object-Oriented metrics for fault prediction. Their study described that, CBO metric seems to be the best in predicting the fault-proneness of classes. In their approach, they have applied statistical techniques such as logical, linear regression and machine learning approaches such as decision tree and neural network to predict the fault prone components.

Goseva-Popstojanova et al.[28,29] have applied UML and commercial modeling environment Rational Rose Real Time (RoseRT) to obtain UML model statistics. In their approach, for each component and connector in software architecture, a dynamic heuristic risk factor is obtained and severity is assessed based on hazard analysis. Then a Markov model is constructed to obtain scenarios risk factors. The risk factors of use case and the overall system are then estimated using the scenarios risk factors.

Ebert [23] has evaluated classification techniques such as Pareto classification, classification trees, factor-based discriminant analysis, fuzzy classification and neural networks to identify critical components based on code complexity metrics. Their study showed that, among the various prediction techniques, fuzzy classification technique provides the best result for critical component identification. Also, they insisted that, Pareto analysis (80:20 rules) showed good results for easy identification of the top 20 % of critical modules.





# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- The model/method/algorithm/experiment description is not sufficiently detailed, precise and does not allow the research to be repeated by other researchers.
- The model/method/algorithm/experiment description is interwoven with the results section.
- We do not specify limitations of the proposed approach and/or assumptions.



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- Assumptions are unrealistic.

**„The results heavily depend on the assumption that all these individual MIPNs act independently. The paper completely ignores this fundamental aspect, but I doubt that this assumption makes sense in real world applications.“**



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- The contribution to science are not clearly written.

„Concerning the proposed method itself, it is entirely **unclear to me, which parts of the approach are adopted** from existing Java slicing techniques, **which parts are actual contributions** of this paper and which new ideas are pursued here.

...

To summarize, I have **reject** this manuscript.“



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- The novelty is missing.

„The author has tried a lot to make this work more understandable by adding more examples.

Now I can say with even more confidence than after the first review that : **The author of this paper is clearly quite inexperienced, and the presented ideas are not new.**“



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

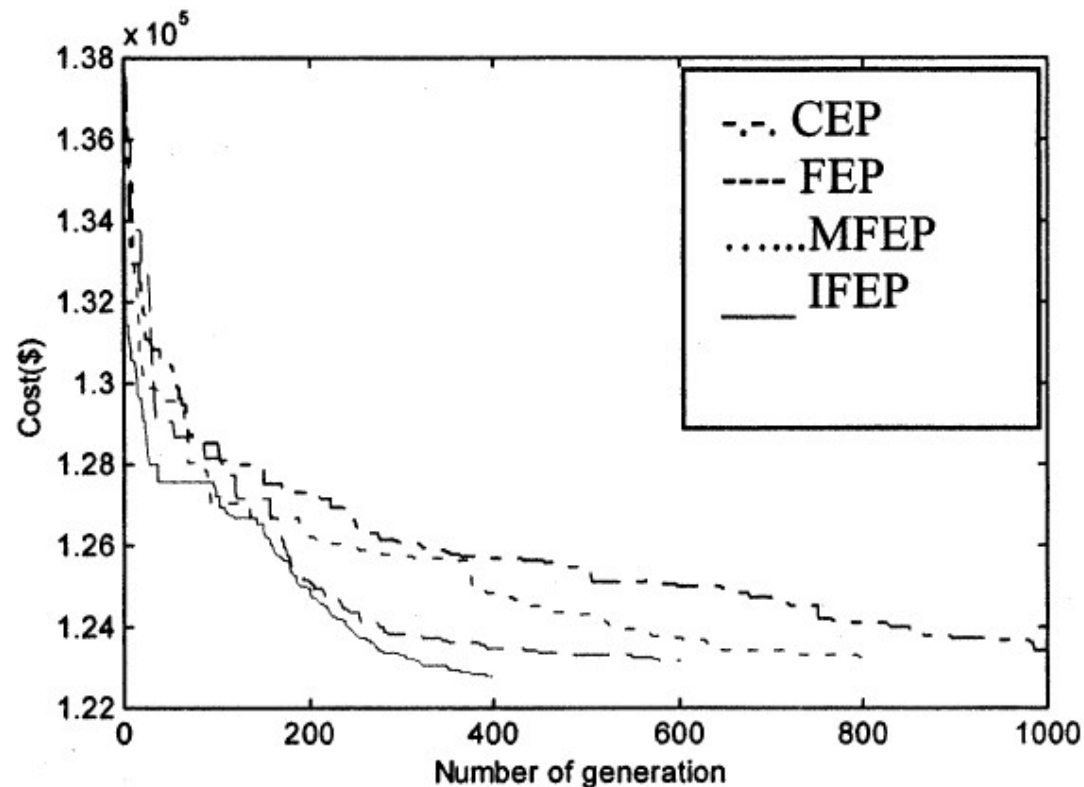
- The significance of the work is not shown.

„Experimental part is weak, and **non-state-of-the-art metaheuristics were used in the comparison**. The authors assume that any new metaheuristics are also state-of-the-art metaheuristics. Unfortunately, this is not so. Being better than some ordinary metaheuristics does not mean that approach is comparable to the state-of-the-art approaches. **The significance of this work is not shown.**“



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- The results are presented in tables/diagrams/figures that are not easily understandable. Or, the results are not sufficiently explained in the text.



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- The data we compare are not comparable.

Evolution method	Mean time (sec.)	Mean Cost (\$)	Maximum Cost (\$)	Minimum Cost (\$)
EP(IFEP)	1167.35	123,382.00	125,740.63	122,624.35
PSO	933.39	124,154.49	NA	123,930.45
PSO-SQP	733.97	122,245.25	NA	122,094.67

Table 2: Experimental data from [46]

From the results in Table 2 Victoire and Jeyakumar [46] concluded: “It is clear from Table 2 the mean cost value and simulation time obtained by the proposed method is comparatively less compared to all the other methods.” There was no discussion in [46] about any threats to the validity of such conclusions with respect to:

- different computers used (350MHz [44] vs. 500MHz [46]);
- different number of independent runs (50 [44] vs. 30 [46]); and
- different number of fitness evaluations (IFEP - 48,000 [44] vs. PSO-SQP - >> 10,000 [46] vs. PSO - 10,000 [46]).



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- We do not compare the results with the already known results from theory and practice.
- The results are diverging.

Table1 – Case Study Problems

S.No.	Case Study Applications	No. of Class Components
1.	Banking Management System	19
2.	E-Commerce	112
3.	Hospital Management System	20
4.	Hotel Management System	12
5.	Workflow Management System	35
6.	Ticket Management System	32
7.	Online Voting System	15
8.	Blood Bank Management System	12
9.	JWalk (Single package)	78
10.	Patient Monitoring System	38

Table 8 – Goodness of the proposed approach

Case Study	Actual No. of Class Components	Proposed Approach		Code Execution Based Analysis (After implementation)	
		Components without fault (CV<50)	Predicted Fault-Prone Components (CV>=50)	Components without fault	Faulty Components identified during code execution
Banking Management System (BMS)	19	15	4	16	3
Patient Monitoring System (PMS)	22	20	2	20	2
Blood Bank Management System (BBMS)	32	22	10	22	10
Workflow Management System (WMS)	43	39	4	39	4
E-Commerce Application (ECOM)	113	68	45	70	43





# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- We do not evaluate the results, interpret it or explain sufficiently.

## 4.3.2.2 Connected Component Graph

Figure 6 shows the cohesion and coupling measure of each component and also it shows its connected components which were extracted using the tool developed as part of this research work.

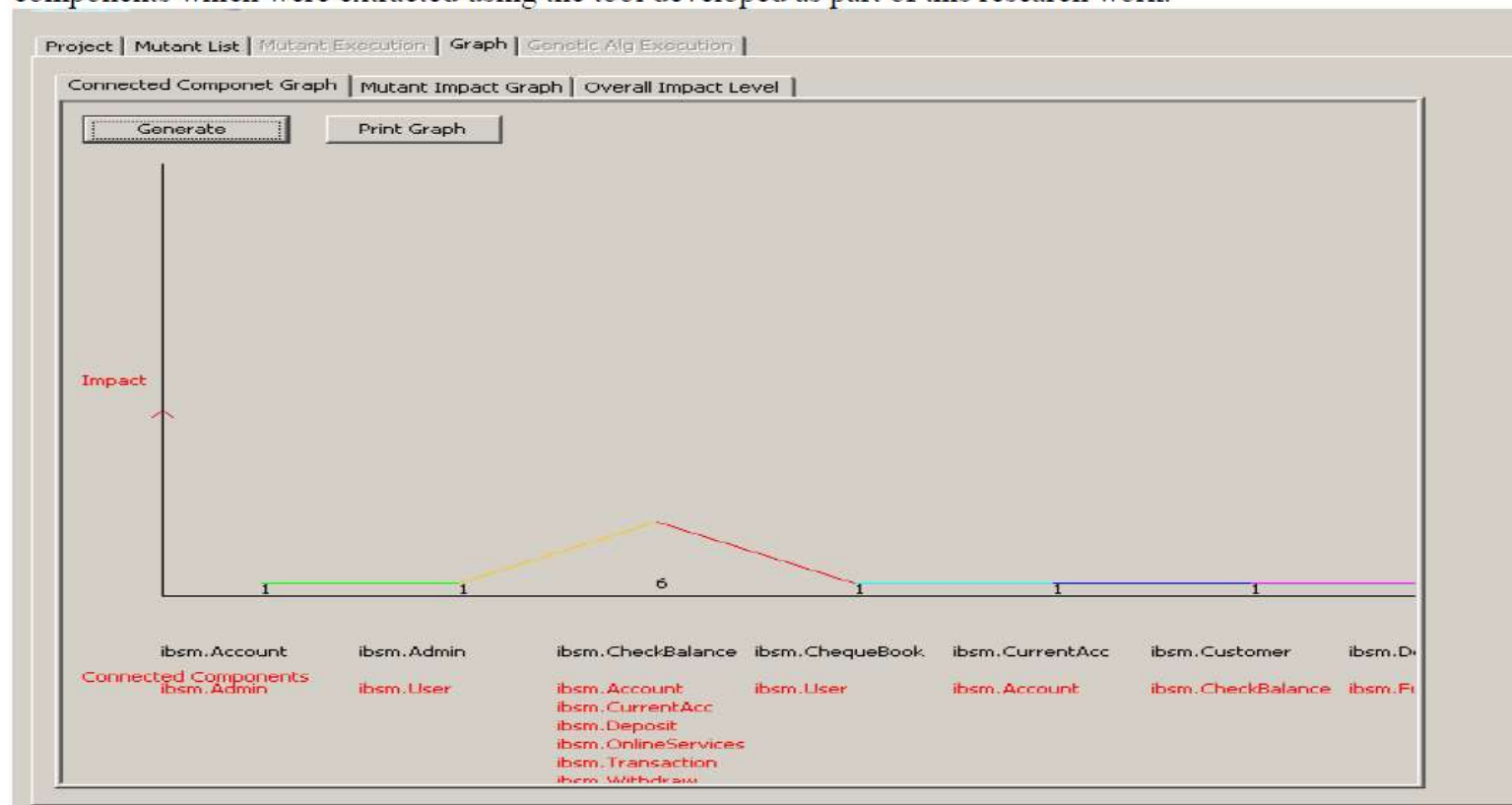


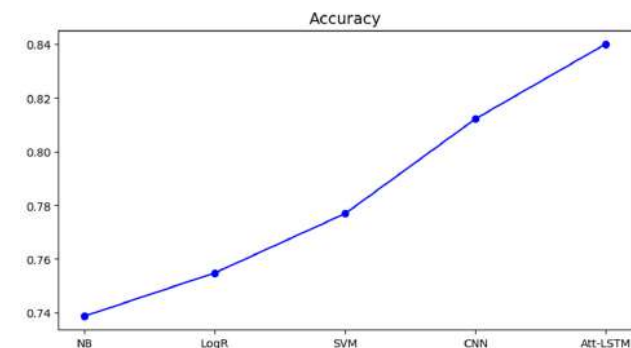
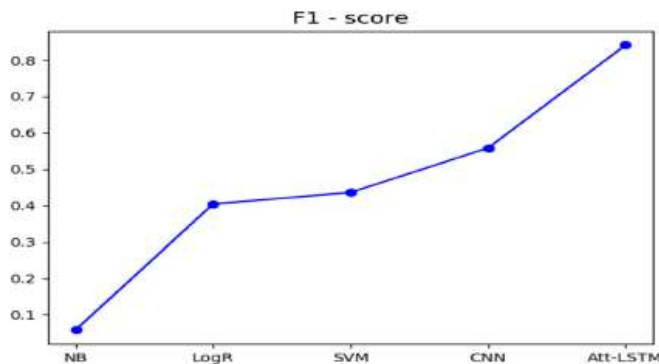
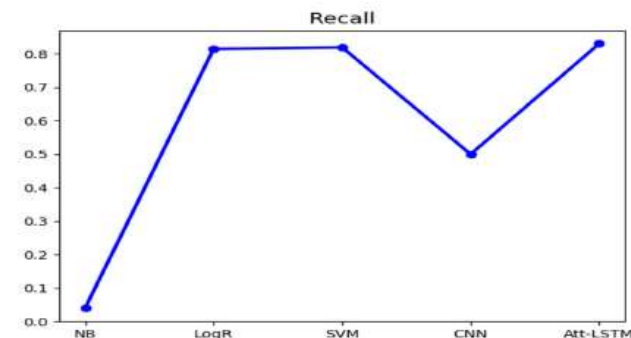
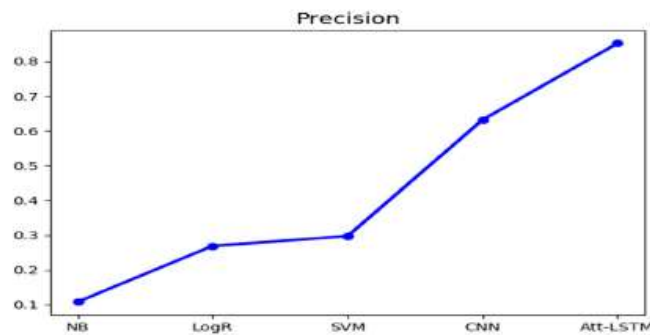
Figure 6- Graph for Connected Components



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- Do not duplicate results in tables and graphs.

Approaches	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Accuracy (%)
NB	0.1076	0.04	0.0583	73.8647
LogR	0.269	0.8143	0.4344	75.478
SVM	0.297	0.819	0.4359	77.6895
CNN	0.632	0.5	0.6343	81.22
Att-LSTM	0.8523	0.83	0.8395	84.01



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- The conclusions are not based on the presented results or derived conclusions are overgeneralized.

“It is found that the proposed SFL-TLBO algorithm outperforms the results of genetic algorithm (GA), ant colony optimization (ACO), simulated annealing (SA), harmony search (HS), particle swarm optimization (PSO), sheep flock algorithm (SFA), artificial bee colony (ABC), biogeography-based optimization (BBO) and basic shuffled frog leaping (SFL) in optimization.”

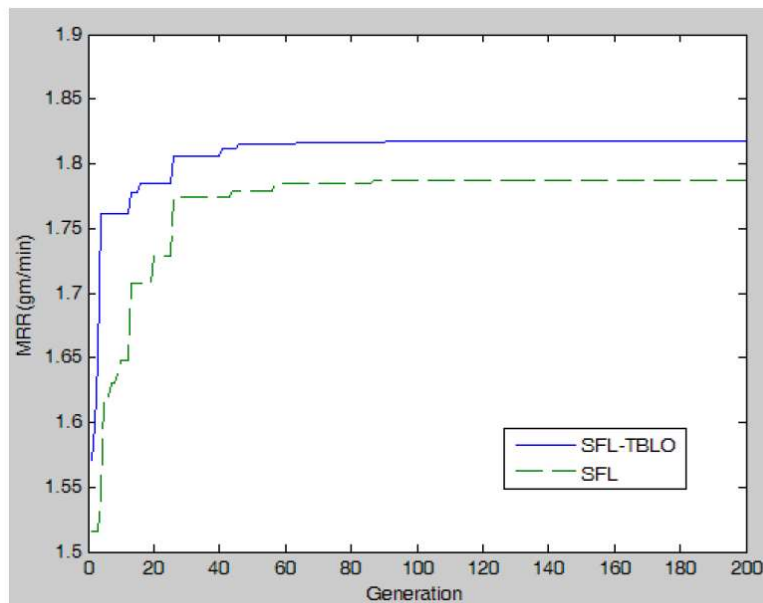
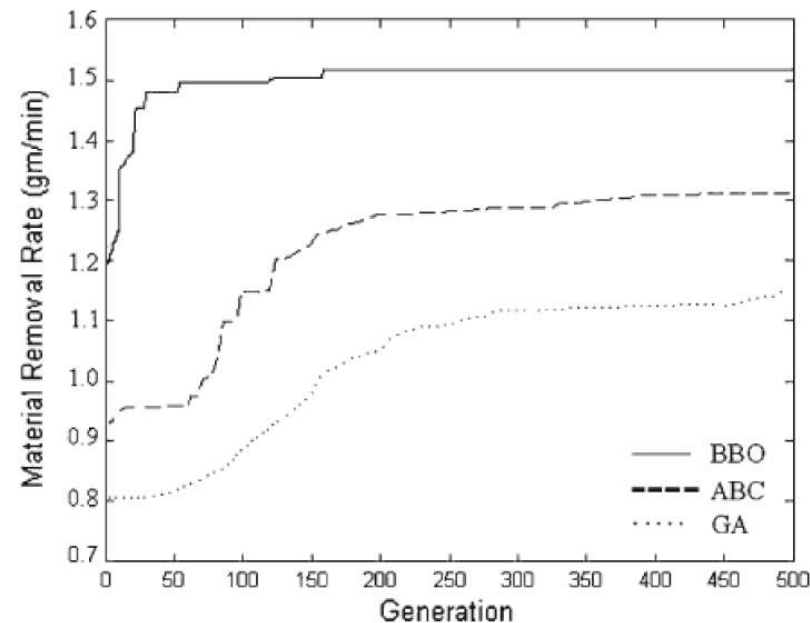


Figure 3. Convergence of *MRR* obtained by SFL-TLBO algorithm for ECM process





# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

- Description is not consistent and does not follow a theme.

„Concerning the whole main part, the **descriptions are often very chaotic** and the **text constantly jumps between different topics**, even within the same paragraph. In addition, **many explanations are redundant and repeated several times**. This makes the entire manuscript very hard to read and to comprehend.“



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

In the reviewer's opinion, the paper could have been more interesting and better organised. In general, **the overall contribution remains scientifically poor and technically questionable.** In more detail, the **paper's title is quite unclear and long, ...**

The **keyword list needs to be improved.** They cite some references, but it does not provide a sufficiently exhaustive overview and **critical discussion of the state of the art** of the related literature. ...



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

...

As further remark, **the end of Section 1 should have summarised the structure of the manuscript by briefly listing the contents of its sections.** ... the effectiveness of **the methodology proposed in Section 3 remains unclear** and questionable. The **authors should have helped the reader to understand the novelty** issues of the developed scheme. ...



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

...

Due to these flaws, the results considered in Section 4 **do not help the reader to understand the effectiveness and the efficacy of the proposed solutions.** The authors reported **many pictures and tables.** **However, more effective metrics and performance indices should be exploited** to assess the advantages of the developed techniques.

...



# Common mistakes in writing scientific articles

...

Finally, Section 5 **does not suggest effective open problems and future issues that could require further investigations.** On the other hand, the use of acronyms, technical terms and symbols should have been avoided also here, as it should remain a stand-alone part of the manuscript.



# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- Choose a suitable journal (~24,000 scientific journals).
- Computer Science (>500 journals with IF, check journal rank).

**Rezultati izbirnega iskanja**

Iskali ste: Leto=2016 IN Kategorija=computer science [Potek iskanja](#)

Število najdenih zapisov: 497 SPREMENI ISKALNO ZAHTEVO

[ zapisi: 1-10 ] [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) ... > >>

Št.	Naslov revije	Leto	ISSN	Faktor vpliva
1.	<a href="#">IEEE Communications Surveys and Tutorials</a>	2016	1553-877X	17.188
2.	<a href="#">IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON EVOLUTIONARY COMPUTATION</a>	2016	1089-778X	10.629
3.	<a href="#">Journal of Statistical Software</a>	2016	1548-7660	9.436
4.	<a href="#">IEEE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS</a>	2016	1536-1284	8.972
5.	<a href="#">IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PATTERN ANALYSIS AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE</a>	2016	0162-8828	8.329
6.	<a href="#">INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMPUTER VISION</a>	2016	0920-5691	8.222
7.	<a href="#">IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON FUZZY SYSTEMS</a>	2016	1063-6706	7.671
8.	<a href="#">IEEE Internet of Things Journal</a>	2016	2327-4662	7.596
9.	<a href="#">IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics</a>	2016	2168-2267	7.384
10.	<a href="#">MIS QUARTERLY</a>	2016	0276-7783	7.268

Zapisev na stran: 10 SPREMENI ISKALNO ZAHTEVO

[ zapisi: 1-10 ] [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) ... > >>



# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- Get acquainted with the journal (editorial board, articles, average review time, article submission process, review form).

The screenshot shows the Elsevier website interface for the journal 'Applied Soft Computing'. At the top, the Elsevier logo is on the left, followed by a search bar with the placeholder text 'Type here to search on Elsevier.com' and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar are links for 'Advanced search' and 'Follow us' with a dropdown arrow. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with five items: 'Journals & books', 'Online tools', 'Authors, editors & reviewers', 'About Elsevier', and 'Store'. The main content area features a large blue box for 'Applied Soft Computing'. On the left of this box is a thumbnail of the journal cover. To the right, the text reads: 'Applied Soft Computing', 'The Official Journal of the World Federation on Soft Computing (WFSC)', and the URL 'http://www.softcomputing.org'. Below this is a short description: 'Applied Soft Computing is an international journal promoting an integrated view of **soft computing** to solve real life problems. Soft computing is a collection of methodologies, which aim to exploit tolerance...'. There are two links: 'View full aims and scope' and 'Editor-in-Chief: R. Roy, Head of Department' with a link to 'View full editorial board'. To the right of the journal description is a vertical stack of five buttons: 'Guide for Authors', 'Submit Your Paper', 'Track Your Paper', 'Order Journal', and 'View Articles'. Below the journal description are three smaller sections: 'Impact Factor: 2.612' with a sub-section for '5-Year Impact Factor: 2.860'; 'Announcements' with a sub-section 'Getting Your Paper Noticed' featuring a 'Publishing Connect' logo and the text 'Check out the latest Training Webcasts' and 'At Elsevier, we are committed to supporting authors and reviewers. We'; and 'Executable Papers' with a sub-section 'Introducing Executable Papers' featuring an icon of two computer monitors and a red arrow.

# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- Pay attention to "unusual" data!



ISSN: 0957-4174

## Expert Systems with Applications

An International Journal

### Online Article Publication Time





# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- Let's show that we really know the topic.
  - Reviewer's comment: "The paper looks like very "primitive", written by somebody with no experience in writing papers and/or in presenting results to scientific community."
- The literature used should be contemporary and complete.
- The contribution and the significance of the work should be evident.
- The title of the article and the abstract are written at the end when the majority of the article is already written.



# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- Every part of the article is essential in its own way. Like the reader, after an uninteresting introduction, it stops with further reading, so the reviewer also creates the main opinion already in the introduction. If the opinion is negative, it rarely changes (the reverse is more often).



# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- Cite relevant articles. In any case, you do not want to receive a review in which the reviewer believes that you do not know the areas well enough from the literature used.
- The journal editor will most likely select a reviewer on the basis of his own knowledge of the field, the literature used, or with the help of search engines.



# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

Search for and Find Reviewers - Mozilla Firefox  
findreviewers.elsevier.com/index.cfm

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**Search result for: "domain-specific languages", published since 2009**

159 candidates (showing 1 - 10) Go to page 1 of 16  Next >

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<input type="button" value="+ Add"/> Kosar, Tomaž (h-index: 6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Univerza v Mariboru Fakultete za Elektrotehniko, racunalnistvo in Informatiko	Maribor	Slovenia

Windows taskbar: 12:47 AM 7/22/2014



# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- For each sentence in the article, consider whether the reader can misunderstand it and how to write it better.
- Give the article to your colleagues (including those who do not work in this area). Ask them for comments.
- Do not repeat the text literally again in the article.



# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- Do a proofreading of the article.

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# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

- Be aware of misleading information about the journals or predatory journals.

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# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

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# Useful tips for writing scientific articles

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WULFENIA Journal Vol. 19, Issue 1

7:16 13.10.2015



# Predatory journals

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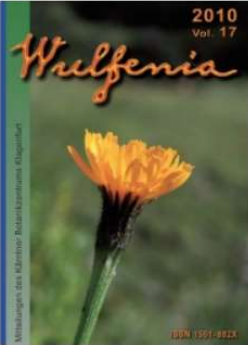
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**Wulfenia**  
**Mitteilungen des Kärntner Botanikzentrums Klagenfurt**

Wulfenia, a scientific journal of the Regional Museum of Carinthia (Austria), is an internationally recognized journal. It is published annually accepting original research studies on plant biology with focus on systematics, taxonomy, floristics, morphology, chorology, vegetation science and paleobotany. Papers must be of interest to a wide audience of plant scientists.

**Information for authors**

Wulfenia publishes original research studies written in English dealing with botany, giving preference to systematics, taxonomy, floristics, morphology, chorology and vegetation science. Manuscripts must be of general interest and not only addressed to a specialized readership. Contributions from all over the world are welcome. The journal is annual. Please send manuscripts to the editor until June 30th.

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# Predatory journals

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Baza podatkov: JCR - Faktor vpliva (1994 do 2016)

### Izbrani zapis

Uporabniški MARC << < zapis [8/8]

Leto	2016
Naslov revije	Wulfenia
ISSN	1561-882X
Faktor vpliva	1.219
Država izdaje	AUSTRIA
Kategorija SE	DE - plant sciences ; 123/212 ; četrtina: 3 ; x=2.054 ; IFmin: 0.775 ; IFmax: 1.325



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- A reviewer first checks whether the article is written according to the rules for writing articles:
  - appropriate title,
  - an adequate abstract (a brief description of the problem, the proposed solution and the conclusions),
  - appropriate introduction (problem description, motivation, related solutions, clearly visible contributions),
  - an appropriate description of the solution and the results,
  - appropriate conclusion (conclusions that are based on the presented results).



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- The reviewer will concentrate on your core contribution (model/method/algorithm/experiment) and the results and try to determine if there is any error (incorrect assumption/derivation, incorrect comparison, error in the algorithm, results that do not support the described procedure).
- However, other parts of the article should also be written in perfect manner:
  - good English,
  - interesting introduction,
  - strong conclusions.





# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- The reviewer then attempts to assess the contribution, originality and importance of this contribution (significance).
- On the basis of the collected information he writes a review and proposes acceptance (accept, minor/major revision) or article rejection.
- The reviewer's task is to explain why the article is not accepted in case of rejection, and in case of acceptance, to give instructions how to improve the article.



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

This paper should be rejected due to scientific dishonesty shown by its authors in this and many previous publications. ... I suggest to blacklist the authors (if such a thing exists).

A review of 14 journal publications about new algorithms for solving CMOPs that share at least two authors with this paper and are not older than 2 years shows a clear pattern. Each paper presents a new algorithm, let us call it ALG, for solving CMOPs. ALG is then compared to a number of other algorithms (usually between 8 and 11) using the PlatEMO platform. The results show that ALG outperforms all the algorithms in the comparison.



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

The algorithms that are most often included in the comparisons are MOEA/D-DAE, ToP, CMOEA-MS, DCNSGA-II, PPS, NSGA-II-ToR and TiGE-2, which are always among the worst performing ones. This, of course, makes ALG stand out. Other existing algorithms that perform well in a particular comparison are then rarely used in subsequent publications. Most importantly, the well-performing ALGs from the previous publications by the same group of authors are never (!) included in any of the comparisons. Why is that? Are the authors not trying to improve on the state of the art?



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

## ■ An example of bad review:

The screenshot shows a web interface for a journal review. On the left is a navigation menu with links for Home, Paper, Profile, and Info. The main content area has a header with three tabs: Article data, Review (which is selected and highlighted in orange), and Messages. Below the tabs, the text 'Review 1' is displayed. The review content is enclosed in a yellow box and reads: 'Reviewer's comments: This paper discusses the technological details behind IPoIB virtualization and presents a technique to test the performance of a virtualized environment. Overall, the paper proposes a good methodology for analysis of performance of diverse virtual environments and it can be useful for evaluation of other modes of InfiniBand virtualization and comparison of results. I suggest accept with minor revision. Minor corrections: Page 2, Column 1, Line 5: "Section 5" instead of "Sections 5" Page 8, Column 1, Line 5: "Due to the high performance overhead ..." instead of "Due the high performance overhead ..."



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- 1. Are the title, abstract, and keywords appropriate?
- 2. Does the introduction state the objectives of the submission in terms that encourage the reader to read on?
- 3. How relevant is this submission to the readers of this journal? The target audience of the journal are practitioners and researchers from industry and academia with a vested interest in high quality modeling practices and research. Indicate the extent that the paper will be relevant to this target audience.



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- 4. How does this submission advance the field of software and system modeling research and practice? Comment on any novel contributions or significant insights gained. The journal aims to publish papers that deepen understanding of modeling practices and techniques or contribute significant new ideas that revolutionize or incrementally advance the field.



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- 5. Is the submission technically sound? For example, comment on (1) adherence to standards if standard notations/techniques/methods are used, (2) soundness of mathematical expressions, and (3) soundness of conclusions drawn from objective premises.
- 6. Does the submission contain sufficient and appropriate references? Indicate important missing references, if any. Also indicate if references are excessive.





# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- 7. Comment on the organization of the submission. Is it focused? Is the length appropriate for the topic?
- 8. Please comment on the readability of this submission. Please comment on the degree of effort required to read and understand this paper.



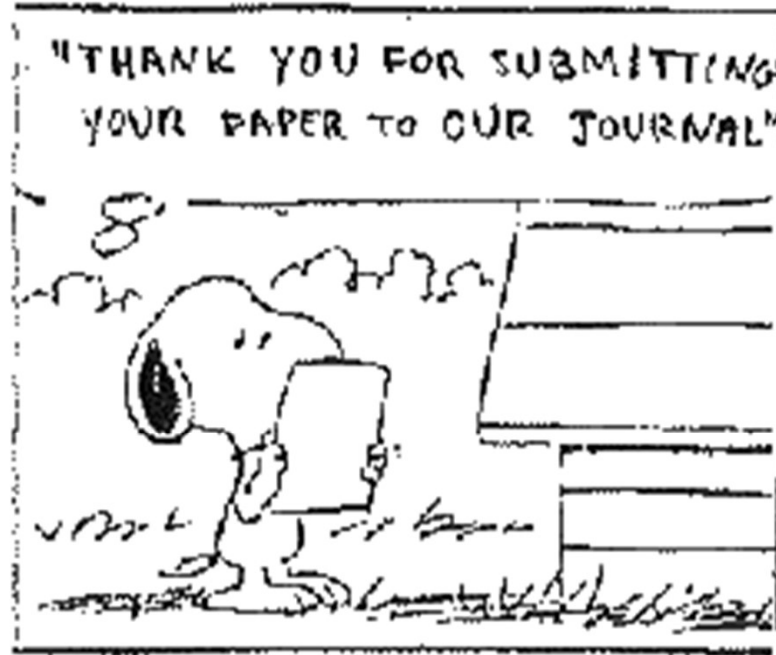
# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- The review is only a recommendation that the journal editor takes into account or not.
- Normally 3-5 reviews per article. A better journal usually also means more reviews.
- Several reviewers mean that it is also harder to satisfy all reviewers.
- Views of reviewers can be very different, also diametrically opposite.
- Greater weight has a more detailed review (usually negative).



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- The editor monitors what kind of reviews he receives from the given reviewer (always reject/accept)
- Do not let negative reviews to stop your research. Carefully study and improve your approach or correct the presentation.
- Winston Churchill: „Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”





# Reviewer/Editor prospective

## ■ Revision log

### 1. Introduction

**Reviewer C** ▶ *That said, the authors could take advantage of the opportunity to rephrase or rewrite parts of the paper - I found that a substantial part of the submission is directly taken from the SLE 2014 paper (e.g., the abstract, much of the introduction, etc). Instead of copying-and-pasting such text, the authors should consider whether more precise, clear and new explanations would be beneficial.* ◀ **Reviewer C** ▶ *- much of Section 1 is directly copied from the SLE paper - rephrasing/rewriting this is necessary.* ◀

**Response** ▶ *The abstract plus several parts of the introduction were improved/rewritten* ◀

**Reviewer C** ▶ *- debuggers certainly give access to the running system but they also give access to the \*side effects\* of running the system* ◀

**Response** ▶ *Updated the introduction to address this issue* ◀

**Reviewer B** ▶ *Too many uses of "etc" to end a sentence. Either end with the last item, or enumerate more ideas (etc. assumes that the readers know all of the other options, which may not be the case in the paper).* ◀

**Response** ▶ *Currently there are just three "etc" left in the entire paper.* ◀

**Reviewer C** ▶ *- the paper needs to cite greater evidence that the "abstraction gap" between debugging requirements and debugger facilities in general leads to inefficiencies/errors. I don't believe it always does, but probably it does in many cases.* ◀

**Response** ▶ *emphasized existing literature, such as back-in-time debugging, that points out the limitations of traditional debuggers* ◀

~~Debugging is a prerequisite for maintaining and evolving software systems. Despite its importance it is a complex and time-consuming activity.~~ → Debugging is an integral activity of the software development process, consisting in localizing, understanding, and fixing software bugs, with the goal of making software systems behave as expected. Nevertheless, despite its importance, debugging is a laborious, costly and time-consuming activity. Together with testing, debugging can take a significant part of the effort required to ensure the correct functioning of a software system [1]. Using inadequate infrastructures for performing these activities can further increase this effort [2].

# Reviewer/Editor prospective

## ■ An example of bad revision log:

5) [a] Paragraph 3: "mathematically assess" - perhaps, would it be a more proper and detailed term here, "computationally assess"? [b] In this perspective, there is also hard to deny that the program is not in part, as well, "executed"/semantically classified, because some fragments of patterns (or, their phylogenetics" on the e.g. instruction codes or "/proc" subsystem), are well taken into the analyzer with semantics from byte-grouped code. (Reviewer 1, note 3).

6) Page 15, the authors acknowledge that right now they have shown that a correlation exists between source code, binary code, and runtime data (as selected and collected for this experiment). [a] Since those are different forms of the same code, that is to be expected. [b] So how can all this information be interpreted and used? How does it link back to the estimations mentioned in the title? Should a database of similar programs be developed? [c] Can an estimate be produced for software that varies a lot from existing code? (Reviewer 2, note 2. 24)

7) No comparison is done with conventional techniques - static source code analysis, as well as with other classical data mining techniques. (Reviewer 3, note 2)

# Reviewer/Editor prospective

## ■ An example of good revision log:

6.

In fig 4, line 12 is not clear. What is LogOper? What is LoAnd? How does this relate to a value being rendered (in the context of "Wait for value")

We have improved the description of Figure 4 according to the recommendation. We added additional statements to better explain LogOper, LoAnd and other constructs from Figure 4. Also, we improved the code in Figure 4 to be clearer.

\*\*\*\*\* ORIGINAL TEXT \*\*\*\*\*

The automatically generated code in the Execute() function for the execution block "Wait for value" loops through logical expressions that constitute a condition. If the result of the condition is true, the function returns "es\_Finished", otherwise it returns "es\_Continued".

\*\*\*\*\* CHANGED \*\*\*\*\*

The automatically generated code in the Execute() function for the execution block "Wait for value" loops through logical expressions (lines 7-16, variable Conditions). The result of the first logical expression is assigned to the entire condition result (lines 10-11, variable CondResult). All other logical expressions are first compared with the logical operators loAnd and loOr and then combined with previous logical expressions (lines 12-15) for the condition result. If the result of the condition is true, the function returns "es\_Finished", otherwise it returns "es\_Continued".

\*\*\*\*\*



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

What happens to rejected articles? The below data is for Elsevier.

- 30% is never published;
- 20% is eventually published with Elsevier (74000 articles);
- 50% is published in a non-Elsevier journal;
- 20% of articles rejected and submitted elsewhere were later published outside Elsevier in journals  $\geq$  IF;





# Reviewer/Editor prospective

- Pay attention to the editor's letter. Example:

„The reviewers have commented on your above paper. They indicated that **it is not acceptable for publication** in its present form. However, if you feel that you can suitably address the reviewers' comments (included below), *I invite you to revise and resubmit* your manuscript. Please carefully address the issues raised in the comments.”



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

## ■ Jay Liebowitz. Life as a Journal Editor. Expert Systems with Applications 41 (2014) 1552

- Do not plagiarize or self-plagiarize.
- Do not submit multiple papers to the journal (especially in a row, one after the other).
- Do not ask to change the affiliations of the authors or add/delete authors after the paper is accepted (especially for tenure and promotion reasons).
- It is to your advantage to read recent papers from the journal where you are submitting your paper, so you are well informed on what has already been published in that journal.
- Do not send in “old” papers.



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

A New Algorithm for Semantic XML Compression Using  
Multilevel Fuzzy Clustering Algorithm

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ORIGINALITY REPORT

---

61%

SIMILARITY INDEX

---

PRIMARY SOURCES

---

- 1** Sakr, S.. "XML compression techniques: A survey and comparison", *Journal of Computer and System Sciences*, 200908  
CrossCheck 688 words — 9%
  - 2** [www.mrpear.net](http://www.mrpear.net)  
Internet 319 words — 4%
  - 3** Hruska, Pavel, Jan Martinovic, Jiri Dvorsky, and Vaclav Snasel. "XML compression improvements based on the clustering of elements", 2010 International Conference on Computer Information Systems and Industrial Management Applications (CISIM), 2010.  
CrossCheck 244 words — 3%
-



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

**19**  
**Abstract**—Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a self-describing extensible language that is widely used in the Web; its self-describing nature makes it notorious for verbose resulting in large file sizes. This innate verbosity remains one of its main weaknesses, especially when large XML documents are concerned. This problem can be solved with the aid of XML-specialized compression algorithms. This paper focuses on improvement of semantic compression of XML documents based on clustering and rearranging of XML elements within documents. Such transformed XML documents can be efficiently compressed. The proposed semantic-based lossless XML compression system employs **20** level fuzzy clustering as an effective method of clustering feature vectors encoding XML nodes on the different structure levels. Furthermore, wavelet transform that has energy compaction property is utilized to increase compression ratio. The results of a preliminary empirical evaluation reveal the effectiveness of our approach.

**Keywords**: Semantic XML compression; Fuzzy clustering; wavelet transform; tree compression.

## **29** I. INTRODUCTION

XML is touted as the driving-force for representing and exchanging data on the Web. Indeed, the semi-structured and self-describing physiognomy of XML makes it feasible to model a broad variety of data as XML documents in order to fulfill the promises of the next generation Web. XML is often referred to as self-describing data because it is designed in a way that the schema is repeated for each record in the document. On one hand, this self-describing feature provides XML with immense flexibility but on the other hand, it also introduces the main problem of verbosity of XML documents which results in huge document sizes. This huge size lead to the fact that the amount of information that has to be transmitted, processed, stored, and queried is often larger than that of other data formats [1].

Two challenges in handling XML are the complexity of its search (XML search involves path and content searches on labeled tree structures and its size [2]). Repeated tags as well as XML white spaces used as XML formatting and textual representation of all data increases data storage needs and the final XML document is usually much larger in comparison to native binary formats designed for specific purposes. In order to reduce space demands of XML document, some kind of compression should be used. The goal of compression is to reduce

the size of the XML document without losing the structural and hierarchical information of the XML parse tree.

A very large number of XML compressors have been proposed in the literature of recent years. These XML compressors can be classified with respect to two main characteristics. The first classification is based on their awareness of the structure of the XML documents. According to this classification, compressors are divided into two main groups [1][3]: (i) General text compressors; they treat XML documents as usual plain text documents and thus apply the traditional text compression techniques. (ii) XML conscious: is designed to take the advantage of the awareness of the XML document structure in order to achieve better compression ratios over the general text compressors. This group of compressors can be further classified according to their dependence on the availability of the schema information of the XML documents into: (i) Schema dependent compressors where both of the encoder and decoder must have access to the document schema information to achieve the compression process and (ii) Schema independent compressors where the availability of the schema information is not required to achieve the encoding and decoding processes. Although schema dependent compressors may be, theoretically, able to achieve slightly higher compression ratios, they are not preferable or commonly used in practice because there is no guarantee that the schema information of the XML documents is always available.

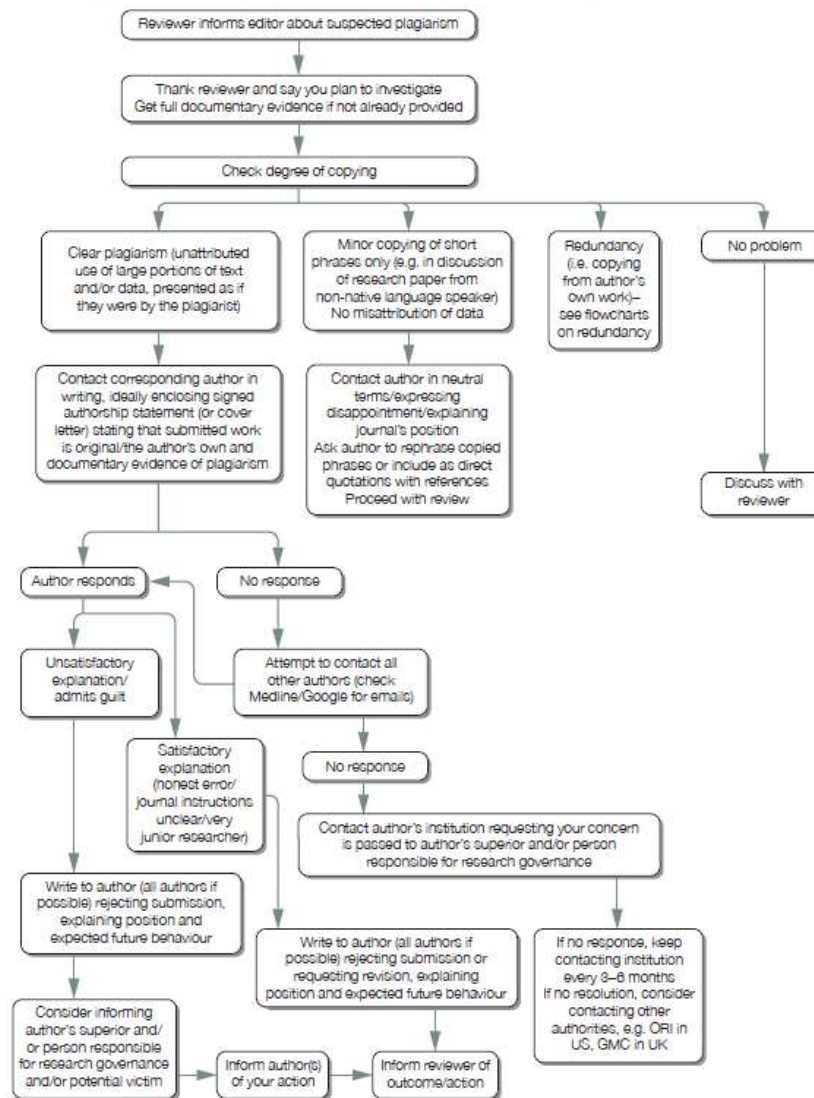
The second classification of XML compressors is based on their ability of supporting queries that can be classified with respect to two main characteristics [1][4]: (i) Non-queriable (archival) XML compressors, which does not allow any queries to be processed over the compressed format. The main focus of this group is to achieve the highest compression ratio. By default, general purpose text compressors belong to the non-queriable group of compressors. (ii) Queriable XML compressors: allow queries to be processed over their compressed formats. The compression ratio of this group is usually worse than that of the archival XML compressors. However, the main focus of this group is to avoid full document decompression during query execution. This group of compressor can be further classified according to their way of encoding the structural and data parts of the XML documents into: (i) Homomorphic compressors where the original structure of the XML document is retained and the compressed format can be accessed and parsed in the same way of the original format (ii) non-homomorphic compressors (non-structure recovery) where the encoding process of the XML



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

## What to do if you suspect plagiarism

### (a) Suspected plagiarism in a submitted manuscript



**Note**  
The instructions to authors should include a definition of plagiarism and state the journal's policy on it

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# Reviewer/Editor prospective

Od Applied Soft Computing <em@editorialmanager.com> ★

↶ Odgovori ↷ Posreduj 📁 Arhiviraj 🔄 Neželeno 🗑️ Izbriši 🗨️ Ve

Zadeva **Please verify your contribution to Inferring Absolutely Non-Circular Attribute Grammars with a Memetic Algorithm**

28.10.2020

Odgovori za Applied Soft Computing <asoc@softcomputing.org> ★

Za Mene <marjan.mernik@um.si> ★

\*This is an automated message.\*

Journal: Applied Soft Computing Journal  
Title: Inferring Absolutely Non-Circular Attribute Grammars with a Memetic Algorithm  
Corresponding Author: Mr. Željko Kovačević  
Co-Authors: Miha Ravber, PhD; Matej Črepinšek, PhD; Marjan Mernik, PhD  
Manuscript Number: ASOC-D-20-02540R1

Dear Mernik,

Mr. Željko Kovačević submitted this manuscript via Elsevier's online submission system, Editorial Manager, and you have been listed as a Co-Author of this submission.

Elsevier asks Co-Authors to confirm their consent to be listed as Co-Author and track the papers status. In order to confirm your connection to this submission, please click here to confirm your co-authorship: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/asoc/1.asp?i=969052&l=F4LOGX7S>

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# Reviewer/Editor prospective

## ■ Jay Liebowitz. Life as a Journal Editor. Expert Systems with Applications 41 (2014) 1552

- Do not use the format of another journal, suggesting that you are submitting a paper that was previously rejected from that journal or that you are submitting the paper simultaneously to two journals.
- Do not submit papers concurrently to multiple journals (this is considered unethical publishing practice, along the same degree as plagiarism).
- Be sure that your paper is well-written and devoid of spelling/grammatical errors (if English is not your native language, you will need to have a fluent English-speaking editor check your paper BEFORE you submit it).
- Do not have us go through the review process, only to get an email later indicating that the paper has been accepted elsewhere.



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

Dear Editors,

We've identified similarities in manuscripts recently submitted to your journals. You can find more information about this submission by using the **Evaluate Manuscript** feature in Editorial Manager.

**Journal Name: Journal of Computer Languages**

**Manuscript ID:** COLA-D-23-00061

**Submission date:** 14 June 2023

**Manuscript title:** Automatic Dialogue Generation for Arabic Chatbot

**Abstract:**

Dialogue generation systems have gained recognition as a crucial area in the study of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and as a new direction in the study of artificial intelligence and machine learning in recent years. This paper uses the sequence-to-sequence (Seq2Seq) framework to build an Arabic dialogue generation system. A dataset of 12k conversations is translated from English to Arabic for this implementation. The proposed Dialogue generation is examined, and the Bilingual Evaluation Understudy (BLEU) score is used to determine its effectiveness. With a BLEU score of 0.5988, experiments showed that the suggested Arabic dialogue generation successfully elicited favorable responses.

---

**Journal Name: Heliyon**

**Manuscript ID:** HELIYON-D-23-23740

**Submission date:** 5 June 2023

**Manuscript title:** Arabic Chatbot Using Sequence to Sequence





# Reviewer/Editor prospective

## ■ Jay Liebowitz. Life as a Journal Editor. Expert Systems with Applications 41 (2014) 1552

- Please be sure that the paper/research falls within the aims and scope of the journal (e.g., if the journal deals with intelligent systems research and applications, then the paper must entail intelligent system techniques).
- Do not say the incorrect journal name in the cover letter.
- Do not re-submit a paper to another Regional Editor of the journal if it was already rejected by one of the Editors of the journal.
- Do not waste the time of the Editor in professional vendettas between colleagues where there is no basis for argument.
- Please clearly articulate what is the significant contribution of your research versus what has already been published.



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

Dr. M. Mernik  
Editor-in-Chief,  
Computer Speech and Language  
University of Sheffield,  
Sheffield, England, united Kingdom

29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

Subject: SUBMISSION OF A RESEARCH PAPER FOR EVALUATION

Dear Dr. M. Mernik,

I am writing to submit our manuscript entitled, “Indian Sign Language Character Recognition System using SURF with Bag of Visual Words and Convolutional Neural Networks” for consideration as a Full length Article in Journal of Computer Languages. The paper present a method that targets the recognition of Indian sign language alphabets and digits in a live video stream and designed a user interface for interaction. The linguistic studies on Indian Sign Language were started in 1978 in India. But as there was no standard form of ISL, its use was limited only to short term courses. Moreover, the gestures used in most of the deaf schools were very different from each other and nearly 5 % of the total deaf people used to attend these schools. It was in 2003 when ISL got standardized and grabbed the attention of many researchers. There is not much work done yet in this field. But, recently more researchers have started exploring it. In this proposed work, an effort has been placed to recognize the signs and alphabets of the Indian sign language. We confirm that our manuscript has not been previously published and is not currently under consideration in any other journal. Additionally, all of the authors have approved the contents of this paper and have agreed to the Computer Speech and Language’s submission policies. Each named author has substantially contributed to conducting the underlying research and drafting this manuscript. Additionally, to the best of our knowledge, the named authors have no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

[May 20, 2022]

Dear sir:

I am pleased to submit an original research article entitled [ “Developing an Intelligent Personal Assistant Based on Natural Language Processing” by Abd-elmegeid Amin, Hassan Shaban and Mohamed MASHhour] for consideration for publication in [mathematics]. this manuscript builds on our prior study to determine the evolution of this unique enzyme.

We believe that this manuscript is appropriate for publication by [mathematics]

This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Prof. Abdelmegeid A. Ali

Dr. Hassan Shaban Hassan

Eng. Mohamed Mashhour

*Prof. Abdelmegeid Ali*

*Dr. Hassan shaban*

*Eng. Mohamed Mashhour*



# Reviewer/Editor prospective

**Hello editor**

**We want the article "A Similarity-based Inference Engine for Early Software Defects Prediction Using Fuzzy Logic System" to be retracted for personal reasons.**

**Best Regards.**

**Hello editorial team**

**I want to continue reviewing my paper. I will be happy if you send me reviewers recommendations.**

**Best regards.**

# Personal stories

- IET Software 2009 (after the second round of positive reviews, the guest editor decided to reject the article).
- SoSym 2012 (conflict of interests with a reviewer).
- IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Algorithms (after a negative review, the authors correct the errors and re-send the contribution to the same journal, the contribution is then accepted).



# Discussion

