How to get your paper accepted

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Overview

1) Writing your paper
   - Writing style
   - Paper structure
   - References
   - Common mistakes
2) Submitting your paper
   - Where to submit
   - Acceptance rate
3) The review process
   - The reviewer
   - The TPC meeting

- The TPC meeting

Writing style

Why would someone be interested in your work?

It is YOUR task to make the reader interested!

Put yourself into the position of the reader

- Have a clear idea about your target audience
- What will your reader already know?

Explain your contribution in a few lines

- elevator pitch

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How to get the reader interested?

Include pictures of scarcely dressed Ph.D. students

Include many figures

Include some research questions

Reference the reviewer's work

Include many equations

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Include some research questions

- Triggers the reader to think first
- Forces the author to formulate the key contributions in a precise way
- Helps to explain the research approach and paper's structure
- Allows meaningful conclusions

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Example of research questions

The goal of this paper is to investigate how SNMP is used in practice. In particular, the following questions will be investigated:

Is SNMP primarily being used for monitoring, or is it also being used for configuration purposes?

Is management primarily based on standardized, or on vendor-specific MIB objects?

Is security an issue in network management? In other words, is SNMPv3 being used in practice?

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Paper structure

Abstract
- Contribution

1. Intro
   - context of your work / motivation for research in this area (broad)
   - what is the specific problem this paper focuses on
   - research questions (3 to 6)
   - approach / how will you answer these questions
   - paper organization

2. Contents

X-1. Contents

X. Conclusions

X+1 References

New ideas on ABC

I. Introduction

II. Related work

Research questions

contribution

approach

Context / motivation

structure

Specific problem

V. Conclusions

General conclusion

Answer research question 1

Answer research question 2

Answer research question 3

Further work

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References

- Be consistent!
  - Example: http://www.tvu.ac.uk/lrs/guides/harvard.html
  - Bibtex can be useful (Google Scholar)
- If possible, avoid referencing Internet-drafts
- Reference the sources, not derived work
  - RFC, and not a book by some author
  - RFC of latest standard, not a historic version
- Do not create obvious references
  - No need to reference http://www.ietf.org/

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Common mistakes

- Violation of IEEE Policy on Self Plagiarism:

  If authors have used their own previously published work(s) as a basis for a new submission, they are required to cite the previous work(s) and very briefly indicate how the new submission offers substantial novel contributions beyond those of the previously published work(s).

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Common mistakes

- Paper does not follow the author's guidelines
- Text contains errors:
  - Ask English native speaker
  - Use MS-Word: grammar & spelling check
- Figures are hardly readable:
  - Before submission, print paper on black & white paper
  - Take care with PDF: press versus screen quality
- Too much information is put into the paper
  - Less is more!
  - “I would have sent you less if I had had time” (Kurose)

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Where to submit

- Workshops and Summer Schools
  - E2EMON, BDIM, BcN, FeBID, MUCS, ACNM, MACE, EVGM (Co-located with IM / NOMS / Manweek)
  - AIMS Student workshop
  - EUNICE Summer School
- Conference
  - IM / NOMS
  - Manweek: DSOM, MMNS, IPOM
- Journal
  - IEEE Communications Magazine: Series on N&S Management
  - IEEE Transactions on N&S Management
  - JNSM
  - International Journal of Network management
  - IEEE Network, ToN, JSAC, ...

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Where to submit

- Emanics / Simpleweb RSS feed
  - http://www.simpleweb.org/cfp.rss
- TCCC mailing list
  - tccc@cs.columbia.edu
  - https://lists.cs.columbia.edu/mailman/listinfo/tccc
- CfP list Alex Slingerland
  - http://dutetvg.et.tudelft.nl/~alex/CFP/
- CfP list Tim Moors
  - http://www.ee.unsw.edu.au/~timm/netconf/

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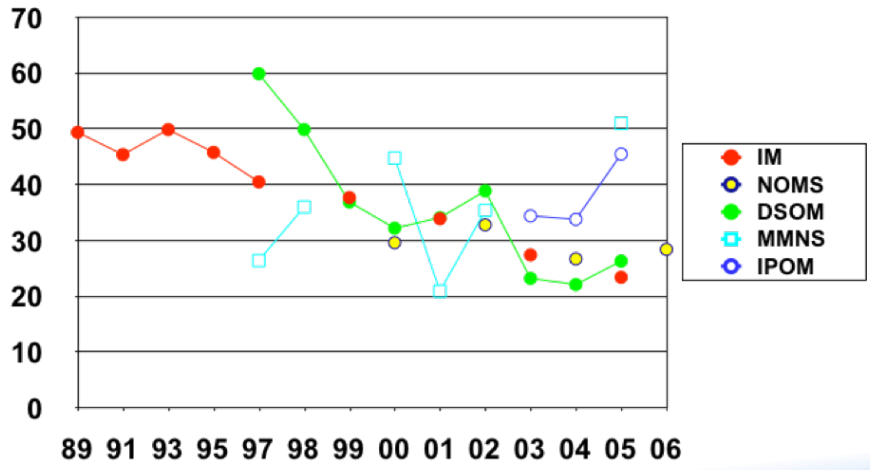
Acceptance rate conferences



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source: http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~almeroth/conf/stats/

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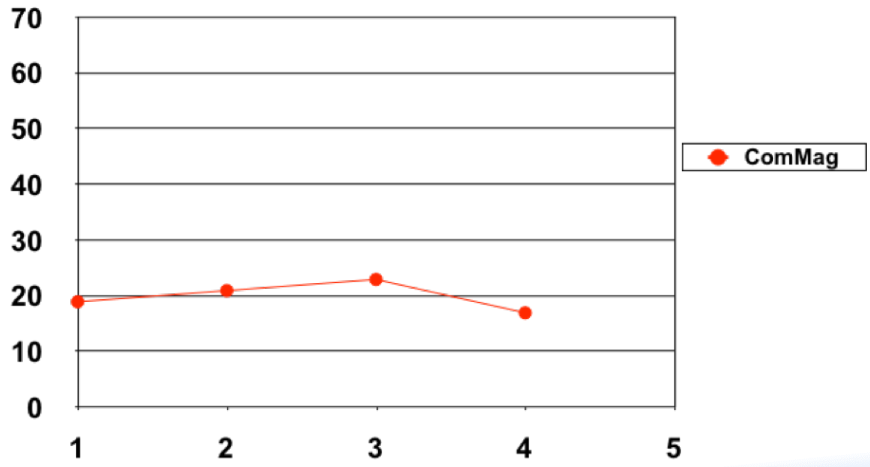
Acceptance rate journals



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The experienced reviewer

- Reads abstract, intro and conclusions
- Scans references
- Has an initial idea about acceptance, rejection
- Reads the remaining chapters to find evidence

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The TPC meeting

Papers are ranked by the TPC chairs

- JEMS has automatic facilities for this

Assume 200 papers have been submitted

- Top 10 is accepted without discussion
- Worst 90 are rejected without discussion
- 100 “grey” papers remain to be discussed
- 3 minutes per paper remains

The TPC meeting

How are papers discussed?

- TPC members from the same institute as the authors leave the room
- Discussion started by TPC member who reviewed the paper
- All TPC members can see all reviews
  - they scan reviews for consistency
  - they scan confidential comments to the TPC
  - they scan rebuttal

SUMMARY

- Put yourself in the position of the reader
- Realize reviewers have limited time
- Your introduction and conclusions are vital
- Clearly indicate the contribution of your paper
- Consider formulating research questions
- Be consistent / show you've invested time