

# Instructions for Authors

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## SCOPE

**Open Computer Science** is a fully peer-reviewed, open access, electronic journal publishing works of wide significance, originality and relevance. The journal considers submissions of different types of articles, including research papers as well as review articles, which present the existing literature and achievements on the specific topic from new perspectives. We accept both theoretical and empirical contributions in all subfields of computer science. The journal is designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas between researchers from different countries.

Scope of the journal:

- Algorithms & Complexity Theory
- Operations Research
- Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence
- Trustworthy & Responsible AI
- Distributed & Parallel Computing Systems
- Bioinformatics & Computational Biology
- Computer Networks & Security
- Data Mining & Information Systems
- Human Computer Interaction
- Programming Languages
- Computing Systems & Software Engineering
- Evolutionary Computation & Fuzzy Systems
- Theoretical Computer Science

The journal provides the readers with free, instant and permanent access to all content worldwide; and the authors with extensive promotion of published articles, long-time preservation, no space constraints and immediate publication after article acceptance. The journal does not have submission charges, but it carries [article processing charges \(APCs\)](#).

## EDITORIAL POLICY

### Unpublished material

Submission of a manuscript implies that the work described is not copyrighted, published or submitted elsewhere, except in abstract form. The corresponding author should ensure that all authors approve the manuscript before its submission.

### Conflict of interest

When authors submit a manuscript, they are responsible for recognizing and disclosing financial and/or other conflicts of interest that might bias their work and/or could inappropriately influence his/her judgment. If no specified acknowledgement is given, the Editors assume that no conflict of interest exists.

### Copyright

All authors retain copyright, unless – due to their local circumstances – their work is not copyrighted. The use of each article will be governed by the [Creative-Commons Attribution license](#) (CC-BY). The corresponding author grants De Gruyter Poland the license to use of the article, by signing the [License to Publish](#). Scanned copy of license should be uploaded into the system together with a revised manuscript.



## Authorship

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be named in an Acknowledgement section. For more details the role of authors please see: <https://www.degruyter.com/publishing/for-authors/for-journal-authors/role-of-authors>

### Data distribution

We encourage authors to make the data available for the public. We offer a possibility to publish additional files together with the article as Supplementary Materials. Data and other materials can be also stored using one of the repositories such as Open Science Framework (OSF, <https://osf.io>), preferably selected from those indexed on FAIRsharing.org or re3data.org.

### Peer review process

The Editors reserve the right to decline the submitted manuscript without review, if the studies reported are not sufficiently novel or important to merit publication in the journal. Manuscripts deemed unsuitable (insufficient originality or of limited interest to the target audience) are returned to the author(s) without review. The Editor seeks advice from experts in the appropriate field. Research articles and communications are refereed by a minimum of two reviewers, review papers by at least three. The journal uses single-blind peer review model. Authors are requested to suggest persons competent to review their manuscript. However, please note that this will be treated only as a suggestion, and the final selection of reviewers is exclusively the Editor's decision. The final decision of acceptance is made by the main Editor of the journal.

### Data sharing policy

The journal requires authors to follow data sharing policy. Research data should be made widely available to the research community in order to demonstrate the robustness and validity of the research presented in the journal, to encourage replication of the results, and to provide the community with opportunities to learn. By publishing in the journal authors are required to provide a data availability statement (DAS) in their articles. Authors are encouraged to share their data but not required to. The decision to publish will not be affected by whether or not authors share their research data.

### Scientific misconduct

This journal publishes only original manuscripts that are not also published or going to be published elsewhere. Multiple submissions/publications, or redundant publications (re-packaging in different words of data already published by the same authors) will be rejected. If they are detected only after publication, the journal reserves the right to publish a Retraction Note. In each particular case Editors will follow [COPE's Core Practices](#) and implement the advice.

## ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

**Open Computer Science** encourages the submission of both substantial full-length bodies of work and shorter manuscripts that report novel findings. There are no specific length restrictions for the overall manuscript or individual sections; however, we urge the authors to present and discuss their findings in a concise and accessible manner. All submitted manuscripts must be written in English language. It is the Authors' responsibility to check the correctness of the language and style of their manuscript.

Manuscripts submitted under multiple authorship are reviewed on the assumption that all listed authors concur in the submission and are responsible for its content; they must have agreed to its publication and have given the corresponding author the authority to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to publication. The corresponding author is responsible for informing the coauthors of the manuscript status throughout the submission, review, and production process.

All submissions must be made electronically via [Editorial Manager](#), an online submission and peer review system available at <http://www.editorialmanager.com/opencs/>. First-time users must create an Author account in order to obtain a user ID and password required to enter the system. All manuscripts receive individual identification codes that should be used in any correspondence with regard to the publication process. If you experience difficulties with the manuscript submission website, please contact the [Managing Editor](#) of this journal.

### Publication Formats

**Open Computer Science** considers submissions of:

- Research Article – The default format for reporting research results. There is no length restriction.
- Survey Paper / Review – Used to submit literature reviews on a topic of interest. The article should contain a broad, balanced and fair perspective of the topic, identifying trends and/or gaps in the literature or providing a new synthesis of existing literature. Reviews should be scientifically sound and should describe the most relevant and recent contributions.
- Communication / Note – This format is intended for the presentation of brief observations that do not warrant full-length papers. An empirical report resulting from analysis of collected data to address one or more research questions and/or hypotheses.

### Electronic Formats Allowed

We accept submission of text, tables and figures as separate files or as a composite file. For your initial submission, we recommend you upload your entire manuscript, including tables and figures, as a single PDF file. If you are invited to submit a revised manuscript, please provide us with individual files: an editable text and publication-quality figures.

**Text files** can be submitted in the following formats:

- LATEX, AMS-TEX, AMS-LATEX. We do not accept papers in Plain TEX format. Authors are strongly advised to submit the final version of the paper using the journal's [LATEX template](#).
- MS Word – standard DOCUMENT (.DOC) – acceptable if the submission in LATEX is not possible.
- RICH TEXT FORMAT (.RTF) – acceptable only if the submission in LATEX or MS Word is not possible.
- PDF (not applicable for accepted manuscripts – PDF version may be used only for reviewing process).

**Tables** should be embedded in LATEX (strongly preferred) or submitted as MS Word or PDF (not applicable for accepted manuscripts – PDF version may be used only for reviewing process). Please note that a straight Excel file is not an acceptable format.

**Graphics files** can be submitted in any of the following graphic formats: EPS; BMP; JPG; TIFF; GIF or PDF. Please note that PowerPoint files are not accepted. There is also possibility of adding **animations and stereo images** to make a paper more attractive to the readers (see Supplemental Material section below).

Post-acceptance, text files of the revised manuscript and tables are required for use in the production.

Authors should clearly indicate the location(s) of tables and figures in the text if these elements are given separately or at the end of the manuscript. If this information is not provided to the Editorial Office, we will assume that they should be left at the end of the text.

### First-time Submission of Manuscripts

It is important that authors include a cover letter with their manuscript. Please explain why you consider your manuscript to be suitable for publication in **Open Computer Science**, why your paper will inspire the other members of your field, and how will it drive research forward. The cover letter should explicitly state that the manuscript (or one with substantially the same content, by any of the authors) has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration or in press by another journal. If related work has been submitted, then we may require a preprint to be made available. Reviewers will be asked to comment on the overlap between the related submissions.

Manuscripts that have been previously rejected, or withdrawn after being returned for modification, may be resubmitted if the major criticisms have been addressed. The cover letter must state that the manuscript is a resubmission, and the former manuscript number should be provided.

To ensure fair and objective decision-making, authors must declare any associations that pose a conflict of interest in connection with evaluated manuscripts (see Editorial Policy for details). Authors may suggest up to two referees not to use, and in such cases additional justification should be provided in the cover letter.

Authors are requested to recommend at least three reviewers who are not members of their institution(s) and have never been associated with them; please provide contact information for suggested reviewers. The Editors reserve the right to select expert reviewers at their discretion.

### Submission of Revised Articles

Resubmitted manuscripts should be accompanied by a letter outlining a point-by-point response to Editor's and reviewers' comments and detailing the changes made to the manuscript. A copy of the original manuscript should be included for comparison if the Editor requests one. If it is the first revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 30 days; if it is the second revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 14 days. Additional time for resubmission must be requested in advance. If the above mentioned deadlines are not met, the manuscript will be treated as a new submission. For resubmitted manuscripts, please provide us with an editable text and publication-quality figures: Tables also need to be included within an editable article file or be submitted separately as editable files. Supply any figures as separate high-resolution, print-ready digital versions. In addition to the editorial remarks, authors are asked to take care that they have prepared the revised version according to the Journal's style.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Research papers and review articles should follow a strict structure. Articles should be organized into the following sections:

- Title page with:
  - o Title
  - o Name(s) of Author(s), Affiliation(s), Personal e-mail address(es)
  - o Abstract
  - o Keywords
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgments (if applicable, these can be included in the cover letter to facilitate double-blind review if necessary)
- Data Availability Statement and other [Author statements](#)
- References
- Figure Legends and Table Captions
- Tables
- Figures
- Supplemental data (if applicable)

We draw particular attention to the importance of carefully preparing the title, keywords and abstract, as these elements are indicators of the manuscript content in bibliographic databases and search engines. The journal is published in English. Make sure that your manuscript is clearly and grammatically written. It is the Authors' responsibility to ensure the language of their manuscript is correct. This should be preferably done prior to submission and we recommend the verification of the language with a native speaker. The content should be understandable and should not cause any confusion to the readers, including the referees.

### General rules for writing:

- use simple and declarative sentences, avoid long sentences, in which the meaning may be lost by complicated construction;
- use correct and established nomenclature whenever possible;
- make your argumentation complete; use commonly understood terms; define all nonstandard symbols and abbreviations when you introduce them;
- explain all acronyms and abbreviations when they first appear in the text;
- use all units consistently throughout the article;
- conclusions must be justified by the study;
- make your argumentation complete and be self-critical as you review your drafts.

Please use active voice while writing your manuscript; e.g. “we measured snout-vent length” rather than “snout-vent length was measured”. We recommend that for clarity you use the past tense to narrate particular events in the past. Use the present tense for your own general conclusions, the conclusions of previous researchers, and generally accepted facts. Thus, most of the Abstract and Results should be in the past tense, and most of the Introduction and some of the Discussion should be in the present tense.

## Title

We suggest the title should be informative, specific to the project, yet concise (75 characters or fewer). Please bear in mind that a title that is comprehensible to a broad academic audience and readers outside your field will attract a wider readership. Avoid specialist abbreviations and non-standard acronyms. Titles should not be presented in title case (words should not be capitalized). Please also provide a brief "running title" of not more than 50 characters.

## Authors, Affiliations, Addresses

Provide the full first names, middle names (or initials – if used), and surnames for all authors. Affiliations should include:

- Department
- University or organization
- City
- Postal code
- State/province (if applicable)
- Country

One of the authors should be designated as the corresponding author to whom inquiries regarding the paper should be directed. It is the corresponding author's responsibility to ensure that the authors list and the summary of the author contributions to the study are accurate and complete. Place an asterisk after the name of the corresponding author and provide us with a valid e-mail address.

## Abstract

The abstract should not exceed 300 words. The abstract should give a summary of the content of the paper. Mention the techniques used without going into methodological detail and summarize briefly the most important items of the paper. Please do not include any citations or references to tables or figures, and avoid specialist abbreviations and symbols. Because the abstract will be published separately by abstracting services, it must be complete and understandable without reference to the text.

## Keywords

List keywords for the work presented (maximum of 5), separated by commas. We suggest that keywords do not replicate those used in the title. Authors should use keywords that are specific and emphasize what is essential in the presented study.

## Introduction

The introduction should put the focus of the manuscript into a broader context and should supply sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand and evaluate the results without referring to previous publications on the topic. As you compose the introduction, think of readers who are not experts in this field. Include a brief review of the key literature – use only those references required to provide the most salient background rather than an exhaustive review of the topic. Relevant controversies or disagreements in the field should be mentioned so that a non-expert reader can delve into these issues further.

### Experimental Procedures

This section should include sufficient technical information to enable the experiments to be reproduced. Protocols for new methods or significant modifications to existing methods should be included, while previously published or well-established protocols should only be referenced. Describe new methods completely and give sources of unusual chemicals, equipment, strains etc. Studies presented should comply with our recommendations for distribution of materials and data (see below). In theoretical papers comprising the computational analyses, technical details (methods, models applied or newly developed) should be provided to enable the readers to reproduce the calculations.

### Results

This section should provide statistical analyses of all of the experiments that are required to support the conclusions of the paper. Reserve extensive interpretation of the results for the Discussion section. Details of experiments that are peripheral to the main thrust of the article and that detract from the focus of the article should not be included. Present the results as concisely as possible in text, table(s), or figure(s) (see below). Avoid extensive use of graphs to present data that might be more concisely presented in the text or tables. Graphs illustrating methods commonly used need not be shown except in unusual circumstances. Limit photographs to those that are absolutely necessary to show the experimental findings. Number figures and tables in the order in which they are cited in the text, and be sure to cite all figures and tables. Styles and fonts should match those in the main body of the article. Large datasets, including raw data, should be submitted as supporting files. The section may be divided into subsections, each with a concise subheading.

### Discussion

The Discussion should provide an interpretation of the results in relation to previously published work and to the experimental system used. It should not contain extensive repetition of the Results or reiteration of the Introduction. This section should spell out the major conclusions of the work along with some explanation or speculation on the significance of these conclusions. The discussion should be concise and tightly argued.

### Acknowledgements

This section should describe recognition of personal assistance: people who contributed to the work, but do not fit the criteria for authors should be listed along with their contributions. You must ensure that anyone named in the acknowledgments agrees to being so named.

### Funding Information

Information concerning research grant support should appear in a separate Funding Information section at the end of the paper, not in a footnote. Acknowledgements of the assistance of colleagues or similar notes of appreciation should also appear in the Acknowledgements section, not in footnotes.

### Author's Statements

This section should describe:

- any funding information (if applicable), including the role of the study sponsor(s), if any, in study design, collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, writing the paper and decision to submit it for publication;
- author contributions (mandatory);
- conflict of interest (mandatory);

- informed consent (if applicable);
- ethical approval (if applicable);
- data availability statement (if applicable). Please refer to [Author's Statement document](#).

## References

### The journal uses [IEEE Referencing style](#).

References should be listed and numbered in the order that they appear in the text. In the text, citations should be indicated by the reference number in brackets [1]. Multiple citations within a single set of brackets should be separated by commas [1, 2]. Where there are more than three sequential citations, they should be given as a range [1-4]. References in figure captions and tables should be listed after references in the text. For all references, list the first six authors; add "et al." if there are additional authors. Because all references will be linked electronically to the papers they cite, proper formatting of the references is crucial. A complete reference should give the reader enough information to find the relevant article. Please pay particular attention to spelling, capitalization and punctuation. References to patent applications and patents pending, computer software, databases, and websites should be referred to as such only in the body of the text. These should be kept to a minimum.

## Figures and Figure Legends

Authors may use photographs, schemes, diagrams, line graphs and bar charts to illustrate their findings. Figures included with online submissions should be suitable for onscreen viewing and desktop printing. High resolution images should be provided on request or on manuscript acceptance. The figures and their lettering should be clear and easy to read, e.g., no labels should be too large or too small. Photomicrographs should include a scaled bar and indicate the size. We remind authors that it is not acceptable scientific conduct to modify any separate element within an image (adjustments of the entire image in brightness, contrast and color balance are justified only if they do not misrepresent the original, observed data). Composite figures composed of grouped images such as insets from different fields or separate parts of gels must be explained in the figure legend and differentiated by use of dividing lines or other means to make composites unambiguous. Figures should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals and referred to in the text by number. Figure legends should follow the main text, each on a separate page. Each figure legend should have a concise title and should provide enough information so that the figure is understandable without frequent reference to the text. It should inform the reader of key aspects of the figure, but the figure should also be discussed in the text. The legend should be succinct, while still explaining all symbols and abbreviations. Avoid lengthy descriptions of methods.

## Tables and Table Captions

Tables must include enough information to warrant table format and should be used only where information cannot be presented in the text. Please do not use graphics software to create tables. Tables occupying more than one printed page should be avoided, if possible; larger tables can be published as an appendix. Tables should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals and referred to in the text by number. Each table should have an explanatory caption which should be as concise as possible. The headings should be sufficiently clear so that the meaning of the data is understandable without reference to the text. Any citations should be indicated using the same style as above.

## Symbols and Abbreviations

The use of special symbols, abbreviations, and acronyms is permitted so long as they are defined upon first mention in the article. Please keep abbreviations to a minimum. Non-standard abbreviations should not be used unless they appear at least three times in the text.

## Nomenclature

We strongly recommend the use of correct and established nomenclature wherever possible.

## Footnotes/Endnotes

We encourage authors to restrict the use of footnotes. If necessary, please make endnotes rather than footnotes.

A footnote/endnote may include:

- the designation of the corresponding author of the paper;
- the current address of an author (if different from that shown in the affiliation);
- traditional footnote content.

Information concerning research grant support should appear in a separate Acknowledgements section at the end of the paper, not in a footnote. Acknowledgements of the assistance of colleagues or similar notes of appreciation should also appear in the Acknowledgements section, not in footnotes.

## Formatting and Typesetting

All pages must be numbered consecutively. Please type your text consistently, e.g. take care to distinguish between '1' (one), 'I' (capital I) and 'l' (lower-case L) and '0' (zero) and 'O' (capital O), etc. Manuscript pages should have line numbers. The font size should be no smaller than 12 points. Do not create symbols as graphics or use special fonts that are external to your word processing program; use the "insert symbol" function. Indicate paragraph lead-ins in bold type and italicize any words that should appear in italics. All Latin names should be italicized, including species names and common structures such as: *et al.*; *in vivo*; *in vitro*; *ex vivo*; *in silico*; etc.; *de novo*; *a priori*; *ab initio*; *vice versa*; *in situ*; *ad hoc*; *sensu stricto*; *i.e.*; *ca. /circa*; *n.b. /nota bene*. Decimal multiples or submultiples of units are indicated by the use of prefixes. There should be a single space between most units and the corresponding number; the only exceptions are: 1%, 1‰, 1°C, 1°, 1', 1".

## Supplemental Material

We encourage authors to submit essential supplementary files that additionally support the authors' conclusions with their manuscripts (the principal conclusions should be fully supported without referral to the supplemental material). Supplemental material will always remain associated with its article and is not subject to any modifications after publication. The decision to publish the material with the article if it is accepted will be made by the Editor. Supporting files of no more than 10 MB in size may be submitted in a variety of formats, but should be publication-ready, as the files will be published exactly as supplied. Material must be restricted to large or complex data sets or results that cannot be readily displayed because of space or technical limitations. Material that has been published previously is not acceptable for posting as supplemental material.

Supporting files should fall into one of the following categories:

- Dataset
- Additional Figure or Table
- Text
- Protocol
- Multimedia – Audio/Video/Animations (AVI, MPEG, WAV, Quicktime, animated GIF or Flash)

If the software requires for uses to view/use the supplemental material is not embedded in the file, you are urged to use shareware or generally available/easily accessible programs. To prevent any misunderstanding, we request that authors submit a text file (*instruction.txt*) containing a brief instruction on how to use the files supplied.

## OUTLINE OF THE PRODUCTION PROCESS

Once an article has been accepted for publication, the manuscript files are transferred into our production system to be formatted. At this stage, it is assumed that the language of the manuscript has been checked for correctness and style. If not, the Authors are asked to verify the language before sending the final source files (we recommend verification by a native speaker). Technical editors reserve the privilege of editing manuscripts to conform with the stylistic conventions of the journal. Once the article has been typeset, PDF proofs are generated so that authors can approve all editing and layout.

## Electronic Proofs



Proofreading should be carried out once a final draft has been produced. Since the proofreading stage is the last opportunity to correct the article to be published, the authors are requested to make every effort to check for errors in their proofs before the paper is posted online. Please note that only essential changes can be made at this stage and extensive corrections, additions, or deletions will not be allowed. Limit changes to correction of spelling errors, incorrect data, grammatical errors, and updated information for references to articles that have been submitted or are in press. If URLs have been provided in the article, recheck the sites to ensure that the addresses are still accurate and the material that you expect the reader to find is indeed there. Important new information that has become available between acceptance of the manuscript and receipt of the proofs may be inserted into the proof with the permission of the editor.

Additionally, authors may be asked to address remarks and queries from the technical editors. Queries are written only to request necessary information or clarification of an unclear passage or to draw attention to edits that may have altered the sense. Please note that technical editors do not query at every instance where a change has been made. It is the author's responsibility to read the entire text, tables, and figure legends, not just items queried. Major alterations made will always be submitted to the authors for approval.

Manuscripts submitted under multiple authorship are published on the assumption that the final version of the manuscript has been seen and approved by all authors. The Corresponding author will receive e-mail notification when a downloadable PDF file is available and should return comments on the proofs within a maximum of 3 days of receipt. Comments should be e-mailed to the Editorial Office. Please note that they should not be faxed, nor mailed or sent by a courier service to the Editorial Office.

#### Immediate Publication

Manuscripts ready for publication are promptly posted online. The manuscripts are considered to be ready for publication when the final proofreading has been performed by authors, and all concerns have been resolved. Authors should notice that no changes can be made to the articles after online publication.