

Editorial Policy for Statistica Sinica

August 1, 2017

Statistica Sinica aims to publish high quality papers in all areas of Statistics that are well-written and of definite interest and novelty, in terms of applications, methodology or theory, while minor improvements of existing methods or routine applications are discouraged. Interesting review papers of up-and-coming areas are encouraged.

All papers undergo an initial screening by the Co-editors (CE) and Screening Associate Editors (SAE) and only papers that are not screened out (about 40% of submissions) will be forwarded to Associate Editors (AE). Associate Editors are requested to do an additional quick pre-screening within two weeks of receiving a paper, and send out only promising papers to referees (about 60% of the submissions they receive).

Submissions should be rejected quickly if any of the following applies: Bad writing; little innovation; only minor improvements over existing methods; mainly a routine data analysis. A major goal is a speedy yet high quality review process that should be normally completed within 2-3 months for an initial review and within 2 months for a revision.

The journal will enforce page limitations. The main part of the submitted paper should not exceed 40 double-spaced pages using Statistica Sinica template, and there is no page-limit for the supplement. This is done through a template that all submitting authors are required to use when the paper is submitted. Upon receipt of a submission, the Editorial Office will check for compliance with the template requirement, and papers that do not comply will be immediately returned to the authors, asking them to resubmit a version that is in compliance. Additional materials will be published as an online supplement. Statistica Sinica encourages the inclusion of full descriptions of methods, theoretical results and data analysis in the main paper, while technical lemmas and proofs as well as details of simulations and tables will mostly be placed in the online Supplement.

It will often be sufficient to briefly summarize simulations in the main paper without too many details, which can be provided in the Supplement. Quality of writing is an important criterion for acceptance and poor quality of writing may be ground for rejection at any stage. The overall goal is to publish papers that are concise and interesting to read. While an illustrative data analysis is often very helpful to motivate a methodology, simulations are not always required and do not need to be comprehensive. The goal is to move papers faster to rejection or acceptance than has been customary.