

Editorial Policy for Statistica Sinica

August 1, 2020

Statistica Sinica seeks high-quality papers in all areas of Statistics and Data Sciences, which are of significant 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 emerging areas are encouraged.

Papers submitted to STATISTICA SINICA must have neither been published previously nor are currently under review by another journal or a conference proceeding. However, we consider submissions that have been previously published in conference proceedings. In such a situation, we expect the submission to go beyond the published work in much greater depth and to highlight the substantive differences. In addition, the submission of a revised version of a previously rejected manuscript by Statistica Sinica will be declined without review. However, if the authors feel that they have a strong scientific case for reconsideration, they may appeal the decision in writing. Manuscripts under appeal cannot be submitted elsewhere.

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) for further consideration. Associate Editors are requested to undergo an additional pre-screening within two weeks of receiving a paper and send out only promising papers to referees (about 60% of the submissions they receive).

Submitted manuscripts must be concise and complete, which should be carefully proofread and polished. All claims in the manuscript should be supported by numerical evidence or theoretical analyses; any reported numerical evidence must be reproducible. In some situations, software producing the evidence should be available for examination as well as pertinent datasets. In general, it should be made clear how the work advances the current state of knowledge; authors must acknowledge the contributions of their predecessors. Submissions may be returned unreviewed if they do not meet the criteria or the objective of the journal.

The journal aims to a speedy yet high-quality review process that is 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 the 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 complies. 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.