Recommendations for Authors

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1. Main Advice

- The paper should be *understandable*.
- It should be very *clear* to all the readers:
  - what is the problem,
  - how you propose to solve it, and
  - how good are the results.
- For this, the paper should follow the following *pattern*:
  - What is the practical problem and why is it important?
  - How is this practical problems solved now?
  - What are the limitations of the current approaches?
  - What new method do you propose and how is your method better?
2. Main Advice (cont-d)

- Maybe you are not proposing a new method.
- If you are applying the known method to a new problem, this is also OK.
- After that, you may explain what are the remaining problems, what are your future plans, etc.
- This is good, but it is OK if this part is missing.
3. What is the Practical Problem and Why Is It Important?

- We are talking a *practical* problem.
- Predicting stock prices is a practical problem.
- Analyzing how different future events may affect the trade is a practical problem.
- However, statements like “to find a better copula” are *not* practical problems.
- These are mathematical tools for solving a practical problem, not the problem itself.
4. What is the Practical Problem (cont-d)

• This is a very general conference, with participants of different background.

• So, every term which is not universally known should be explained the first time it is used.

• If some term is too complex to fully explain:
  – provide a short explanation and
  – add a reference to a paper or a book where it is explained in detail.

• Do not assume that all the readers know, e.g., how exactly LASSO works, or what is a mixed copula.
5. What is the Practical Problem (cont-d)

- Some papers start with mentioning the government document explaining that this is important.
- This may be a good idea if you are applying for a government grant.
- However, for a paper in the international conference, this is not very convincing.
- There must be other motivations.
- It may be good to mention later that your government understands this as an important problem.
- However, the government support should not be the first phrase of the introduction.
6. How Is This Practical Problems Solved Now?

- The most important thing is to list the *latest* developments.
- Google if needed; use the title of your paper to google.
- If the latest reference in your paper is 8 years ago, this is a red flag to the referees.
- On the other hand, spending 6 out of 12 pages on this is also not good: no space for your own result.
- Just list the latest papers, no need to list all dozens of papers.
- You may also mention the first person who came up with this idea, and a few papers by renowned authors.
7. **What Are the Limitations of the Current Approaches?**

- This is usually easy, especially in econometrics:
  - we are trying to predict how the economic situation will change, but
  - our predictions are never perfect, they always have room for improvement.

- Pay special emphasis to those limitations of the existing methods that your method will overcome:
  - It is OK to list other limitations.
  - But then you have to mention how these additional limitations apply to your new method as well.

- For example:
  - if the existing methods have privacy problems,
  - you must explain how your method handles it.
8. What New Method Do You Propose?

- This is an econometric conference, your paper should have at least one formula.
- In all your formulas, every variable, every symbol must be explained.
- If you propose a new algorithm, every step in this algorithm has to be explained.
- The reader should be able to reproduce what you are doing and get the same result.
- You cannot just say “I did something, I will not tell you what, and I got good results”.
- If a part of your algorithm is a known method, you can cite it instead of describing it in detail.
9. What New Method Do You Propose (cont-d)

- If you using an existing software, no need to explain how it works.
- Indeed, sometimes, this is not even possible: many proprietary packages do not explain how they work.
- In this case, just explain what software you used and – very importantly – what parameters you used.
- For example, if you used a neural network package, and:
  - it requires that you set up number of layers and number of neurons,
  - explain which numbers you selected (and ideally why).
10. What New Method Do You Propose (cont-d)

- Some authors use the words Definition and Theorem.
- Then make sure that your definitions are mathematically precise.
- If they are not, do not use this mathematical-sounding format.
- Otherwise, it will be confusing to mathematically educated readers.
11. How Is Your Method Better?

- Explaining that your method is better is very important.
- If your method is not better, the paper cannot be published.
- What is the purpose of proposing a method which is worse than what is available now?
- You do not have to provide a general result that your method is always better.
- It is enough to show that it is better in some reasonable cases.
- If it is difficult to compare, at least:
  - explain why it is difficult to compare and
  - provide arguments why your method is better.
12. How Is Your Method Better (cont-d)

- For example:
  - if it is difficult to compare your method on realistic examples,
  - show on some toy simplified example why your method is better.

- In explaining how your method is better, pictures are helpful.

- However, just saying “Look, this picture is better” is not convincing to most readers.

- You should also have a numerical explanation in what sense your method is better.
13. How Is Your Method Better (cont-d)

- In general, every picture, every number should serve some purpose.
- There is no sense of wasting pages on printing intermediate results if these results do not serve any purpose.
14. How Is Your Method Better (cont-d)

- It is much easier to get better results if you test your method on local data.

- Reason: not too many people analyzed it.

- If you are, e.g., predicting exchange rate between currencies:
  - it is practically hopeless to get better results for US dollar and Euro;
  - this is a hot research topic where companies are using deep learning to earn millions.

- However, you have a chance of getting a better result if you try to predict the exchange rate of a local currency.
15. References

- References should be up-to-date, google if needed.
- Every reference should provide a detailed description of how to find the corresponding paper.
- For example, for journal papers, this should include:
  - authors’ names,
  - paper title,
  - journal name,
  - year,
  - volume number, and
  - page numbers.
- Same for conferences; add *Proceedings of* . . .
16. References (cont-d)

- Avoid abbreviations, most people do not know what they stand for.

- Use full names for journals and conferences.

- You can add usual abbreviation in parentheses, e.g., Asian Journal of Economics and Banking (AJEB).

- Look at any published papers for a sample.

- References should be all in the same format:
  - you can use full first names of all the authors in all your references,
  - you can use only initials in all your references, both uses are OK, but
  - you cannot use full names in reference [1] and only initials in reference [2].
17. References (cont-d)

- Similarly:
  - you can have initials before the last name in all your references,
  - you can have the initials after the last name in all your references, but
  - you cannot have one way in reference [1] and another way in reference [2].

- If citing several papers, sort them in increasing order, [1,6], not [6,1].
18. English

- In the previous conferences:
  - some papers were submitted in such a bad English that
  - it was not clear what exactly is the problem and what exactly is being done.
- Published papers must be understandable.
- We are not talking about being fully grammatically correct:
  - Using a instead of the and plural instead of singular may be OK for the first submission,
  - provided that the resulting text is understandable,
  - but such things need to be corrected when submitting a final version.
19. Similarity Index

- It is important not to copy and paste big parts of the paper from your previous papers.
- Rephrase.
- When it is not possible to rephrase – e.g., when you cite definitions and theorems – mention explicitly where this comes from.
- Springer may run similarity check; as a result:
  - if more than 20% of the paper is identical to what was published before,
  - your paper will not appear in the Springer book
  - even if the results are good and the referees recommended acceptance.
20. Minor Things

• If a dash is surrounded by spaces, then it must be a long dash – not a short dash -

• Minus is a long dash.

• There should always be space after period (.), after a comma (,), after a colon (:), after a semicolon (;), after the closing parentheses ), ], or }.

• There should never be space before any of these symbols.

• There should always be space before the opening parentheses (, [, or {.

• When followed by a number, the words Section, Definition, Proposition, etc. must be capitalized.

• Example: in this section, but in Section 3.
21. Minor Things (cont-d)

- The word *sequel* means the next paper, not the remaining part of the paper.
- The verb *conclude* requires an explanation of what exactly you conclude.
- You cannot say *In the Conclusions section, we conclude.*
- You can say, e.g., *Conclusions are listed in Section 6.*
22. Minor Things (cont-d)

- In a table, if all numbers have two digits after the period and one has one, this is not good.

- Excel does that sometimes: if the values are 10.21 and 10.30, it shows 10.21 but 10.3.

- In such cases, you must add missing zeros by hand.

- The reason is that numbers are approximate:
  - the value 10.30 means anything between 10.295 and 10.305, while
  - the value 10.3 would mean something else: any number between 10.25 and 10.35.
23. General Advice

- Read your paper attentively in the pdf form before the submission.
- If you see that some references come out as [?], correct it.
- If you see that in the upper margins on following pages:
  - instead of the paper title,
  - there is a statement “The title is too long . . .”
  - correct it.
- If the table goes beyond the margins, reformat it, maybe make two tables.
- If you do not do it yourself, and the paper is accepted:
  - Springer may correct it, but
  - it will not be the way you wanted it to be.
24. General Advice (cont-d)

- Ask *someone else* to read your paper before submission.
- Ideally, ask a person who is not familiar with your research.
- Make sure that this person understands every phrase, every notation in your paper.
25. After Receiving a Referee Report Recommending Revision

- In addition to the revised paper:
  - provide a detailed explanation, point by point, of
  - how you took referees’ suggestions into account.
- It happened that the referee misunderstood what you were doing.
- This usually means that the paper was not clear enough to explain this.
- In this case, it is not enough to explain to the referee.
- You need to rewrite the corresponding part of your paper to make it clear what exactly you do.
26. Good Luck!

- We hope to see many excellent submissions:
  - for the next year’s conference, and
  - for other conferences and journals!