
Writing extended abstracts for NLP Conferences



A Brief Tutorial



Vasundhara Gautam & Sabrina J. Mielke



Who are we?

Vasundhara

- Speech Recognition Engineer
@ Dialpad, BC, Canada
- 1 paper at PLOS One!
- Hardest part? ~~All of it?~~
Introduction

Sabrina

- 4th year PhD student @ JHU
- Papers at *CL confs & AAAI
- Hardest part? *Coming up with
good stories and motivations.*

*...WRITING A PAPER IS
HARD FOR ALL OF US!*

You want to write a paper on a topic.

...but what is that process? And how do you make it work?

Overview / Schedule

- **Part A: Life of a Paper**
(20min pres. + 10min QA)
- **Part B: Writing good extended abstracts**
(10min pres.)
- **Final activity: peer review**
(10min in groups + 5min together/conclusion)

Part A

Life of a Paper
(Demystifying the process)

What's in a CfP?

Formatting and templates

Surviving LaTeX with Overleaf

Submitting to Softconf/OpenReview

The *CL anonymity period

Approaching reviewer feedback

Promoting/"nourishing" your paper



Why do you want to write a paper?

There are many good reasons:
connecting to peers, attending conferences, teaching and learning something new (even if it's just for you!)... and, of course, advancing your career ;)

*FIGHT THAT
IMPOSTOR
SYNDROME!*



The ACL-IJCNLP 2021

Call for Papers

<https://2021.aclweb.org/calls/papers/>

Due to the continued issues of software, we decided to extend the ACL-IJCNLP deadline by 1 full day to February 2nd 11:59PM UTC-12 ("anywhere on Earth").

We have received a lot of questions about papers submitted to NAACL 2021 and IJCNLP 2021. If the plan is to attend your NAACL 2021 presentation at ACL-IJCNLP 2021, you may submit to ACL-IJCNLP 2021 as normal by Jan 13 and the full paper by Feb. 1, and withdraw your paper from NAACL 2021 by Feb. 1, 2021.

If your paper has been accepted by IJCNLP 2021, you cannot resubmit it to ACL-IJCNLP 2021 because IJCNLP 2021 will post the accepted paper for after Jan 1 at the start of the awards period for ACL-IJCNLP 2021. However, if you withdraw your submission from IJCNLP 2021 on or earlier Jan 1, 2021, you can resubmit to ACL-IJCNLP 2021, assuming you do not post the paper online after Jan 1, 2021. For more detail, see the paper submission FAQ at <https://2021.aclweb.org/submitting-submissions-faq/>.

The submission site is now available at <https://conferences.aclweb.org/2021/submit>. Please be aware of the abstract submission deadline on **January 20, 2021**, which is 1 week ahead of the full paper submission deadline on **February 1, 2021**. Here are the [abstract submission form](#) and the [full paper submission form](#) for your reference.

Final CFP: ACL-IJCNLP 2021, Bangkok, Thailand

The Joint Conference of the 9th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 17th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing The Ministry of Education, Bangkok, Thailand August 1-6, 2021 <https://2021.aclweb.org/>

The Joint Conference of the 9th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 17th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (ACL-IJCNLP 2021) is currently scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand, during August 1-6, 2021. We are reviewing the request, grant proposals, and will update the conference plans (e.g., moving to a virtual or hybrid format) as needed closer to the conference dates.

CALL FOR PAPERS - MAIN CONFERENCE

ACL-IJCNLP 2021 invites the submission of long and short papers on substantial original and unpublished research in all aspects of Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing. As in recent years, some of the presentations at the conference will be of papers accepted by the Transactions of the ACL (TACL) and Computational Linguistics (CL) journals.

Important Dates

Activity	Deadline
Abstract submission deadline	January 20, 2021
Final paper submission deadline (long & short papers)	February 1, 2021
Final paper submission deadline (long & short papers)	February 1, 2021
Final paper submission deadline (long & short papers)	February 1, 2021
Final paper submission deadline (long & short papers)	February 1, 2021
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Final paper submission deadline (long & short papers)	February 1, 2021
Final paper submission deadline (long & short papers)	February 1, 2021

Note: All deadlines are 11:59PM UTC-12 ("anywhere on Earth").

Manuscript abstract submission: The paper title, author names, contact details, and a brief abstract must be submitted electronically through the ACL-IJCNLP 2021 paper submission site by the abstract submission deadline. It will be possible to make minor edits to the title and abstract on the full paper submission deadline, but you cannot change authors and subject areas. Submissions with "abstract-only" abstracts will be reviewed without consideration. Notice that if you miss the abstract submission deadline, you cannot submit the full paper.

- Submissions of NLP for addressing social issues/problems such as health, education, and other areas covered by and tied to the [ACL Sustainable Development Goals](#). Please note that the paper should provide evidence of the methodology applied to a real-world setting. At the least, one should state the real-world setting that the research is meant to improve.
- Reflecting on the NLP community's current progress for solving real-world, socially impactful problems and how to make meaningful changes beyond that goal for the foreseeable future.
- Discoveries of how heavily aligned NLP research should be with real-world topics regarding social good.

You can find details [here](#)

program. Relevant topics for the conference in alphabetical order:

ACL

Applied

Arabic

Audio

Biometrics

Chinese

Coreference and Other areas

and Mining

Disambiguation

Document

Entity

Event

Extraction

Generation

German

Graph

Hebrew

Image

Information

Japanese

Machine

Learning

Lexical

Machine

Learning

Machine

Learning

Machine

implemented and unpublished work. Whenever in-cluded.

effect, you submitted pages of references final all page of content (up to 9 pages) so that

is determined by the program committee. The ed which we prefer: presentations will be based we will be no distinction in the proceedings.

published work. Please note that a short papers should have a title that was made in a lowed contribution. A negative result is:

ation, you submitted pages of references final all page of content (up to 9 pages) so that

determined by the program committee. While the proceedings, there will be no distinction in and a poster.

re long papers.

that the integrity of double-blind review and make reference to the acceptably period, which party January 1, 2021 (11:59PM UTC-12:00) up to: authors (July 1, 2021). Papers that are

is NLP can improve people's lives in various

if changes that NLP can cause on issues (e.g.,

positive and negative impacts of social go the letter

to social impact of AI research

practitioners from other fields to develop

ring the awards period, and we will not be able to make any changes to the program during

to meet all reproducibility criteria listed, we will be available [here](#).

to make double-blind reviewing more available to all authors. If you are unable to do so, please contact the program chair.

your work for the Computational Linguistics has a track for "short" (i.e., conference-length)

vision in a journal or another conference be submitted elsewhere during the ACL-IJCNLP awards conference and workshops can be dual-submitted to the ACL-IJCNLP

ificantly in a content or results with papers (including more than one paper for ACL-IJCNLP) significantly (25% with each other in

[ACL Code of Ethics](#)

of data, and potential applications of our artificial intelligence is becoming more for all authors read the code, and ensure may raise ethical issues, we ask that you which will be taken into account in the ethical grounds, where the authors are have inadequately addressed legitimate

2021 review form includes a section items by reviewers on ACLs will be further

is conference and the [notification](#) to apply to your work or you anticipate other ment in your paper that addresses those page (for short papers) for a broader look the ethical consideration

feasible data set or evaluation tasks that and acceptance recommendation.

to be reviewed by the ethics regularly addressed.

These supplementary materials are or disallowed them. If the product- of the contribution, or if they are of the work, they should be a part of supplementary material, need to be fully

[Culpeper, et al., 2021](#) and [Justin Pinkney](#)

limit and should not be included in any content of or to four full pages.

ATTENTION REQUIREMENT

if papers must be presented at the conference to appear in the proceedings. Authors of papers for presentation at ACL-IJCNLP 2021 must notify the program chair by the conference if they wish to withdraw the paper.

We author of each accepted paper must register for ACL-IJCNLP 2021 by the early deadline.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chair: Zong, Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Co-Chair: Hengyong Wang, Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Program Chair: Zong, Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences

A typical CfP: Part 1/5

<https://2021.aclweb.org/calls/papers/>

- Updates
- General conference information
- Important dates
- Long turnaround times: workshop < conf < journal (excl. TACL)

...but it doesn't stop there!

Due to the continued down of softconf, we decided to extend the ACL-IJCNLP deadline by 1 full day (i.e. February 2nd 11:59PM UTC-12 ("anywhere on Earth"))

We have received a lot of questions about papers submitted to NAACL 2021 and ICLR 2021:

- (1) If you plan to re-submit your NAACL 2021 submission to ACL-IJCNLP 2021, you must submit to ACL-IJCNLP 2021 an abstract by Jan 25 and the full paper by Feb 1, AND withdraw your paper from NAACL 2021 by Feb 1, 2021.
- (2) If your paper has been rejected by ICLR 2021, you cannot resubmit it to ACL-IJCNLP 2021 because ICLR 2021 will post the rejected paper list after Jan 1 (the start of the anonymity period for ACL-IJCNLP 2021). However, if you withdrew your submission from ICLR 2021 on or before Jan 1, 2021, you can resubmit it to ACL-IJCNLP 2021, assuming you do not post the paper online after Jan 1, 2021. For more detail, see the Paper Submission FAQ at <https://2021.aclweb.org/blog/paper-submission-faq/>

The submission site is now available at <https://www.softconf.com/acl2021/papers/>. Please be aware of the abstract submission deadline on **January 25, 2021**, which is a week ahead of the full paper submission deadline on **February 1, 2021**. Here are [the abstract submission form](#) and [the full paper submission form](#) for your reference.

Final CFP: ACL-IJCNLP 2021, Bangkok, Thailand

The Joint Conference of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing
The Berkeley Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
August 1-6, 2021
<https://2021.aclweb.org/>

The Joint Conference of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (ACL-IJCNLP 2021) is currently scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand, during August 1-6, 2021. We are monitoring the ongoing global pandemic and will update the conference plans (e.g., moving to a virtual or hybrid format) as needed closer to the conference dates.

CALL FOR PAPERS - MAIN CONFERENCE

ACL-IJCNLP 2021 invites the submission of long and short papers on substantial, original, and unpublished research in all aspects of Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing. As in recent years, some of the presentations at the conference will be of papers accepted by the Transactions of the ACL (TACL) and Computational Linguistics (CL) journals.

Important Dates

Anonymity period begins:	January 8, 2021
Abstract submission deadline (long & short papers):	January 25, 2021
Full paper submission deadline (long & short papers):	February 1, 2021
Author global profile and author form deadline:	February 5, 2021
Desk reject notification:	February 28, 2021
Author response period:	March 25-31, 2021
Notification of acceptance:	May 5, 2021
Camera-ready due:	June 1, 2021

Note: All deadlines are 11:59PM UTC-12:00 ("anywhere on Earth").

Mandatory abstract submission: The paper title, author names, contact details, and a brief abstract must be submitted electronically through the ACL-IJCNLP 2021 paper submission site by the abstract submission deadline. It will be possible to make minor edits to the title and abstract until the full paper submission deadline but you cannot change authors and subject areas. Submissions with "placeholder" abstracts will be removed without consideration. Notice that if you miss the abstract submission deadline, then you cannot submit the full paper.

A typical CfP: Part 2/5

<https://2021.aclweb.org/calls/papers/>

- What kind of work fits here?
 - *Conference tracks decide who will review your paper*
 - *Reviewer <- Area Chair (<- Senior Area Chair) <- Program Chair...
....all “Program Committee”!*
- Sometimes: special tracks or focuses

SUBMISSIONS

ACL-IJCNLP 2021 has the goal of a broad technical program. Relevant topics for the conference include, but are not limited to, the following areas (in alphabetical order):

- Computational Social Science and Cultural Analytics
- Dialogue and Interactive Systems
- Discourse and Pragmatics
- Ethics and NLP
- Information Extraction
- Information Retrieval and Text Mining
- Interpretability and Analysis of Models for NLP
- Language Grounding to Vision, Robotics and Beyond
- Linguistic theories, Cognitive Modeling and Psycholinguistics
- Machine Learning for NLP
- Machine Translation and Multilinguality
- NLP Applications
- Phonology, Morphology and Word Segmentation
- Question Answering
- Resources and Evaluation
- Semantics: Lexical
- Semantics: Sentence-level Semantics, Textual Inference and Other areas
- Sentiment Analysis, Stylistic Analysis, and Argument Mining
- Speech and Multimodality
- Summarization
- Syntax: Tagging, Chunking and Parsing
- Theme: NLP for Social Good

ACL-IJCNLP 2021 Theme Track: NLP for Social Good (NLP4SG)

Following the success of the ACL 2020 Theme track, we are happy to announce that ACL-IJCNLP 2021 will have a new theme, with the goal of stimulating discussion about the role of NLP in the society.

The application of Artificial Intelligence to provide positive social impact has been an important topic in recent years. However, to date, this has not been a topic highlighted at the ACL main conference. For ACL-IJCNLP 2021, we seek to reverse this by putting a spotlight on papers which discuss and reflect on the topic of NLP for Social Good as well as how NLP could potentially cause or be used for social harm. We invite researchers to submit position, opinion, modeling, and resource papers on the following topics:

- Defining “NLP for Social Good” and in which ways NLP can improve people’s lives in various dimensions
 - Known issues, unaddressed harms, and potential damages that NLP can cause on society (e.g. political polarization, privacy issues)
 - Discussions of how NLP research can make both positive and negative impacts and novel approaches to foster the former while mitigating the latter
 - Quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the social impact of NLP research
 - Ways in which NLP practitioners can partner with practitioners from other fields to develop socially impactful research and applications
 - Applications of NLP for addressing socially relevant problems such as health, education, and other areas covered by (and not limited to) the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). Please note that the paper should provide evidence of the methodology applied to a real-world setting. At the least, one should simulate the real-world setting that the system is meant to improve.
 - Reflecting on the NLP community’s current progress for solving real-world, socially impactful problems and how to make meaningful changes toward that goal over the foreseeable future
 - Discussions of how heavily aligned NLP research should be with real-world topics regarding social good.
- You can find details [here](#)**

A typical CfP: Part 3/5

<https://2021.aclweb.org/calls/papers/>

- What should papers look like?
 - Long, short, theme papers
 - Page limits
 - Appendices
- Rules/policies for paper writing
 - Anonymity period:
...keep the paper secret!
 - Double-blind review:
...keep your identity secret!

PAPER SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Long Papers

Long papers must describe substantial, original, completed and unpublished work. Wherever appropriate, concrete evaluation and analysis should be included.

Long papers may consist of up to eight (8) pages of content, plus unlimited pages of references. Final versions of long papers will be given one additional page of content (up to 9 pages) so that reviewers' comments can be taken into account.

Long papers will be presented orally or as posters as determined by the program committee. The decisions as to which papers will be presented orally and which as poster presentations will be based on the nature rather than the quality of the work. There will be no distinction in the proceedings between long papers presented orally and as posters.

Short Papers

Short paper submissions must describe original and unpublished work. Please note that a short paper is not a shortened long paper. Instead short papers should have a point that can be made in a few pages. Some kinds of short papers are: A small, focused contribution; A negative result; An opinion piece; An interesting application nugget.

Short papers may consist of up to four (4) pages of content, plus unlimited pages of references. Final versions of short papers will be given one additional page of content (up to 5 pages) so that reviewers' comments can be taken into account.

Short papers will be presented orally or as posters as determined by the program committee. While short papers will be distinguished from long papers in the proceedings, there will be no distinction in the proceedings between short papers presented orally and as posters.

Theme Papers

Submission requirements for theme papers are the same as long papers.

IMPORTANT: Anonymity Period

The following rules and guidelines are meant to protect the integrity of double-blind review and ensure that submissions are reviewed fairly. The rules make reference to the anonymity period, which runs from 1 month before the submission deadline (starting January 1, 2021 11:59PM UTC-12:00) up to the date when your paper is either accepted, rejected, or withdrawn (May 3, 2021). Papers that are withdrawn during this period will no longer be subject to these rules.

- You may not make a non-anonymized version of your paper available online to the general community (for example, via a preprint server) during the anonymity period. By a version of a paper we understand another paper having essentially the same scientific content but possibly differing in minor details (including title and structure) and/or in length.
- If you have posted a non-anonymized version of your paper online before the start of the anonymity period, you may submit an anonymized version to the conference. The submitted version must not refer to the non-anonymized version, and you must inform the program chair(s) that a non-anonymized version exists.
- You may not update the non-anonymized version during the anonymity period, and we ask you not to advertise it on social media or take other actions that would further compromise double-blind reviewing during the anonymity period.
- Note that, while you are not prohibited from making a non-anonymized version available online before the start of the anonymity period, this does make double-blind reviewing more difficult to maintain, and we therefore encourage you to wait until the end of the anonymity period if possible. Alternatively, you may consider submitting your work to the Computational Linguistics Journal, which does not require anonymization and has a track for "short" (i.e., conference-length) papers.

Instructions for Double-Blind Review

As the reviewing will be blind, papers must not include authors' names and affiliations. Furthermore, self-references that reveal the author's identity, e.g., "We previously showed (Smith, 1991)..." must be avoided. Instead, use citations such as "Smith previously showed (Smith, 1991)..." Papers that do not conform to these requirements will be rejected without review.

Papers should not refer, for further detail, to documents that are not available to the reviewers. For example, do not omit or restate important citation information to preserve anonymity; instead use third person or named reference to this work, as described above ("Smith showed" rather than "we showed").

Papers may be accompanied by a resource (software and/or data) described in the paper; but these resources should be anonymized as well.

Authorship

The author list for submissions should include all (and only) individuals who made substantial contributions to the work presented. Each author listed on a submission to ACL-IJCNLP 2021 will be notified of submissions, revisions and the final decision. No changes to the order or composition of authorship may be made to submissions to ACL-IJCNLP 2021 after the abstract submission deadline, which is January 25, 2021.

Citation and Comparison

You are expected to cite all refereed publications relevant to your submission, but you may be excused for not knowing about all unpublished work (especially work that has been recently posted and/or is not widely cited).

In cases where a preprint has been superseded by a refereed publication, the refereed publication should be cited in addition to or instead of the preprint version.

Papers submitted referred or not appearing less than 3 months before the submission deadline are considered contemporaneous to your submission, and you are therefore not obliged to make detailed comparisons that require additional experimentation and/or in-depth analysis.

For more information, see the [ACL Policies for Submission, Review, and Citation](#).

A typical CfP: Part 4/5

<https://2021.aclweb.org/calls/papers/>

- More policies...
 - Multiple submission
 - Ethics concerns
 - Reproducibility checklist

Multiple Submission Policy

ACL-IJCNLP 2021 will not consider any paper that is under review in a journal or another conference at the time of submission, and submitted papers must not be submitted elsewhere during the ACL-IJCNLP 2021 review period. This policy covers all refereed and archival conferences and workshops (e.g., IJCAI, SIGIR, NAACL). The only exception is that a paper can be dual-submitted to the ACL-IJCNLP 2021 main conference and an ACL-IJCNLP 2021 workshop.

In addition, we will not consider any paper that overlaps significantly in content or results with papers that will be (or have been) published elsewhere. Authors submitting more than one paper to ACL-IJCNLP 2021 must ensure that submissions do not overlap significantly (>25%) with each other in content or results.

Ethics Policy

Authors are required to honour the ethical code set out in the [ACL Code of Ethics](#).

The consideration of the ethical impact of our research, use of data, and potential applications of our work has always been an important consideration, and as artificial intelligence is becoming more mainstream, these issues are increasingly pertinent. We ask that all authors read the code, and ensure that their work is conformant to this code. Where a paper may raise ethical issues, we ask that you include in the paper an explicit discussion of these issues, which will be taken into account in the review process. We reserve the right to reject papers on ethical grounds, where the authors are judged to have operated counter to the code of ethics, or have inadequately addressed legitimate ethical concerns with their work. Indeed, the ACL-IJCNLP 2021 review form includes a section addressing these issues and papers flagged for ethical concerns by reviewers or ACs will be further reviewed by the Ethic Advisory Committee (EAC).

Read the [FAQ for ethical discussion standards](#) adopted by the conference and the [questions in the ethics section of the review form](#). If any of these questions apply to your work or you anticipate other ethical concerns, please make sure to include an ethical statement in your paper that addresses those questions. Authors will be allowed extra space after the 8th page (4th for short papers) for a broader **impact statement** or other discussion of ethics. Note that though the ethical consideration paragraph is not mandatory, authors of papers working with sensitive data or on sensitive tasks that do not sufficiently discuss these issues may receive a conditional acceptance recommendation. Camera-ready versions of papers designated as conditional accept will be re-reviewed by the ethics committee to determine whether the concerns have been adequately addressed.

Reproducibility Criteria

Similar to NAACL 2021, we will provide a [reproducibility checklist](#) that authors will be asked to answer during paper submission. The checklist is intended as a reminder to help authors improve reproducibility of their papers. The papers are not required to meet all reproducibility criteria listed. The author instruction on reproducibility criteria and checklist will be available [here](#). The reproducibility checklist is based on previous versions in [Dodge et al. 2019](#) and [Joelle Pineau's reproducibility checklist](#).

A typical CfP: Part 5/5

<https://2021.aclweb.org/calls/papers/>

- Formatting rules and templates!
 - Always use the template!
- Supplemental material
 - Allowed?
 - What types?
- Various other and contact info

*bonus idea: volunteering!
(usually pays for conference, too!)*

Paper Submission and Templates

Submission is electronic, using the Softconf START conference management system. The submission site is available at <https://www.softconf.com/acl2021/papers/>. All long, short and theme papers must follow the [ACL Author Guidelines](#). Here are the [Abstract Submission Form](#) and the [Full Paper Submission Form](#) for your reference.

Paper submissions must use the official ACL-IJCNLP 2021 style templates, which are available as an [Overleaf template](#) and also downloaded directly ([Latex and Word](#)). Please follow the paper formatting guidelines general to *ACL conferences available [here](#). The templates themselves contain only specific notes (e.g., LaTeX notes in the .tex file).

Please do not modify these style files, or use templates designed for other conferences. Submissions that do not conform to the required styles, including paper size, margin width, and font size restrictions, will be rejected without review. Submissions which include appendices in the main papers will be rejected without review.

Here is the current version of the [Review Form](#). We may make minor changes later.

Optional Supplementary Materials: Appendices, Software and Data

Each ACL-IJCNLP 2021 submission can be accompanied by a single PDF appendix, one .tgz or .zip archive containing software, and one .tgz or .zip archive containing data. ACL-IJCNLP 2021 encourages the submission of these supplementary materials to improve the reproducibility of results, and to enable authors to provide additional information that does not fit in the paper. For example, preprocessing decisions, model parameters, feature templates, lengthy proofs or derivations, pseudocode, sample system inputs/outputs, and other details that are necessary for the exact replication of the work described in the paper can be put into the appendix. However, the paper submissions need to remain fully self-contained, as these supplementary materials are completely optional, and reviewers are not even asked to review or download them. If the pseudocode or derivations or model specifications are an important part of the contribution, or if they are important for the reviewers to assess the technical correctness of the work, they should be a part of the main paper, and not appear in the appendix. Supplementary materials need to be fully anonymized to preserve the double-blind reviewing policy.

Note: The supplementary material does not count towards page limit and should not be included in paper, but must be submitted separately using the appropriate field on the submission website. Appendix may consist of up to four (4) pages.

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENT

All accepted papers must be presented at the conference to appear in the proceedings. Authors of papers accepted for presentation at ACL-IJCNLP 2021 must notify the program chairs by the camera-ready deadline if they wish to withdraw the paper.

At least one author of each accepted paper must register for ACL-IJCNLP 2021 by the early registration deadline.

CONTACT INFORMATION

General chair:
Chengqing Zong, Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Program co-chairs:
Fei Xia, University of Washington
Wenjie Li, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Roberto Navigli, Sapienza University of Rome

Email: acl2021programchairs@googlegroups.com

Paper submissions must use the official ACL-IJCNLP 2021 style templates, which are available as an [Overleaf template](#) and also downloaded directly ([Latex and Word](#)). Please follow the paper formatting guidelines general to *ACL conferences available [here](#). The templates themselves contain only specific notes (e.g., LaTeX notes in the .tex file).

```
1 %  
2 % File ac12020.tex  
3 %  
4 %%% Based on the style files for ACL 2020, which were  
5 %%% Based on the style files for ACL 2018, NAACL  
6 %%% Based on the style files for ACL-2015, with some  
7 %%% taken from the NAACL-2016 style  
8 %%% Based on the style files for ACL-2014, which were,  
9 %%% based on ACL-2013, ACL-2012, ACL-2011, ACL-2010,  
10 %%% ACL-IJCNLP-2009,  
11 %%% EACL-2009, IJCNLP-2008...  
12 %%% Based on the style files for EACL 2006 by  
13 %%%e.agirre@ehu.es or Sergi.Balazs@ub.es  
14 %%% and that of ACL 08 by Joakim Nivre and Noah Smith  
15 \documentclass[11pt,a4paper]{article}  
16 \usepackage[hyperrref]{acl2020npatch}  
17 \usepackage{times}  
18 \usepackage{latexsym}  
19 \renewcommand{\urlfont}{\ttdefault}  
20 %\renewcommand{\ttdefault}{lucida} %  
21 %  
22 % This is not strictly necessary,  
23 % but it will improve the appearance  
24 % and will typically be used by authors  
25 \usepackage{microtype}  
26 %  
27 %  
28 \aclfinalcopy % Uncomment  
29 % submission  
30 %\def\aclpaperid{***} % Enter the  
31 \acknowledgments{***}
```

Always use the provided templates---they are available on **Overleaf** for easy editing!

...writing time!

More on this in Part B of this tutorial!

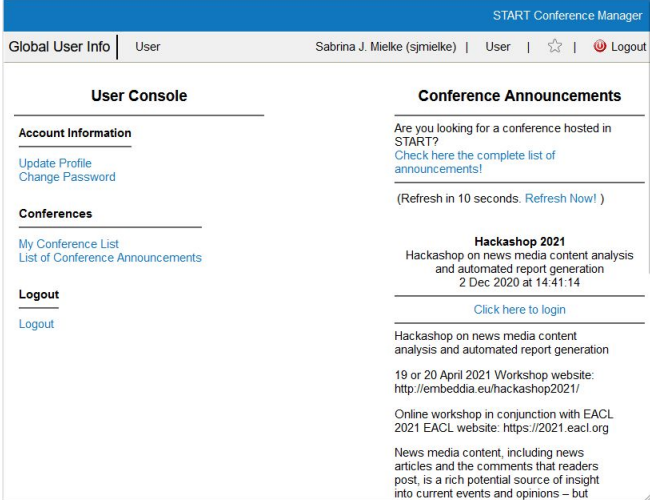
Let's say we have written the paper and want to submit it...



Submitting papers: Softconf

*CL conferences (ACL, NAACL, EMNLP, EACL,...) and most of their workshops use Softconf.

- Unstable
- Unreliable
- Ugly
- Complicated
- Smells funny
- Weird global and per-conference distinction



The screenshot shows the 'START Conference Manager' user console. The top navigation bar includes 'Global User Info', 'User', and the user's name 'Sabrina J. Mielke (sjmielke)'. Below the navigation bar, the 'User Console' is divided into two main sections: 'Account Information' and 'Conferences'. The 'Account Information' section contains links for 'Update Profile' and 'Change Password'. The 'Conferences' section contains links for 'My Conference List' and 'List of Conference Announcements'. There is also a 'Logout' section with a 'Logout' link. On the right side, the 'Conference Announcements' section displays a message: 'Are you looking for a conference hosted in START? Check here the complete list of announcements!' followed by a refresh button. Below this, there is an announcement for 'Hackashop 2021' on news media content analysis, dated 2 Dec 2020 at 14:41:14. The announcement includes a link to login and a URL for the workshop website: 'http://embeddia.eu/hackashop2021/'. The announcement also mentions an online workshop in conjunction with EACL 2021 and provides a URL for the EACL website: 'https://2021.eacl.org'. The announcement concludes with a sentence: 'News media content, including news articles and the comments that readers post, is a rich potential source of insight into current events and opinions – but'.

Submitting papers: Microsoft CMT3

ICML, NeurIPS, AACL, and others use Microsoft's CMT3.

- A bit more complex, but still very usable
- Closed like softconf

The screenshot shows the 'Create New Submission' page on the Microsoft CMT3 website. The page has a blue header with navigation links: 'Submissions', 'Help Center', 'Select Your Fields', 'Author', 'MACEMT-2021', and 'Sabrina Melke'. Below the header, there is a section titled 'Create New Submission' with a brief description of the journal's scope. The form is divided into several sections: 'Track: April', 'TITLE AND ABSTRACT' (with fields for Title and Abstract), 'AUTHORS' (with a table for author information), 'SUBJECT AREAS' (with checkboxes for various fields), and 'FILES' (with a file upload area and a 'Submit' button). The footer contains copyright information and a Twitter icon.

Submissions Help Center Select Your Fields Author MACEMT-2021 Sabrina Melke

Create New Submission

MACE Technical Journal(MTJ) is an open access peer-reviewed journal intends to report latest work on methodology and applications of Control System and Theory in many areas associated with Industrial I/O but not limited to which include Computational Intelligence, Automatic Control Robotics, Internet-of-Things and Embedded System, Industrial Control and Automation, Process Control, Sensor & Instrumentation.
It is aimed that this journal will provide an international platform for publications of latest work describing theoretical and practical aspects of the area listed above.
There will be NO processing charges for publication in MTJ.

Track: April

TITLE AND ABSTRACT

* Title

* Abstract

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Managing with your collaborators

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Email + Add

Enter email to add new author

SUBJECT AREAS

Automatic Control Process Control
 Computational Intelligence Robotics
 Industrial Control & Automation Sensor and Instrumentation
 IoT & Embedded System

FILES

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Submitting papers: OpenReview

ICLR and related workshops use OpenReview.

- Easier
- (Usually) open to all for comment, (sometimes) public reviews
- ...use their anonymous preprint server to get paper read despite the anonymity period!

The screenshot shows the OpenReview.net submission interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'OpenReview.NET', a search bar, and user information 'Activity Tasks Sabrina J Mirke'. Below this is the page title 'OpenReview.net OpenReview Anonymous Preprint Server' with location 'Amherst, MA', status 'Ongoing', and a link to 'https://openreview.net'. A section titled 'Important Information about Anonymity:' explains that real names and email addresses must be provided in the submission form, but an anonymous record will be visible to the public. It also states that the PDF should not contain author names. Below this are instructions for revising, withdrawing, and contacting support. The main form area is titled 'Add: OpenReview Anonymous Preprint Submission' and contains several required fields: 'Title' (with a 'Title of paper' label), 'Abstract' (with an 'Abstract of paper:' label), and 'Pdf' (with a 'Upload a PDF file that ends with .pdf' label and a 'Browse' button). There is also a 'Signatures' field with a 'Log out' button. At the bottom of the form are 'Submit' and 'Cancel' buttons. Below the form is a 'Papers Submitted' section with a search bar and a list of recent submissions, including one titled 'What Ingredients Make for an Effective Crowdsourcing Protocol for Difficult NLU Data Collection Tasks?' and another 'Reliability Testing for Natural Language Processing Systems: An Adversarial Perspective'.

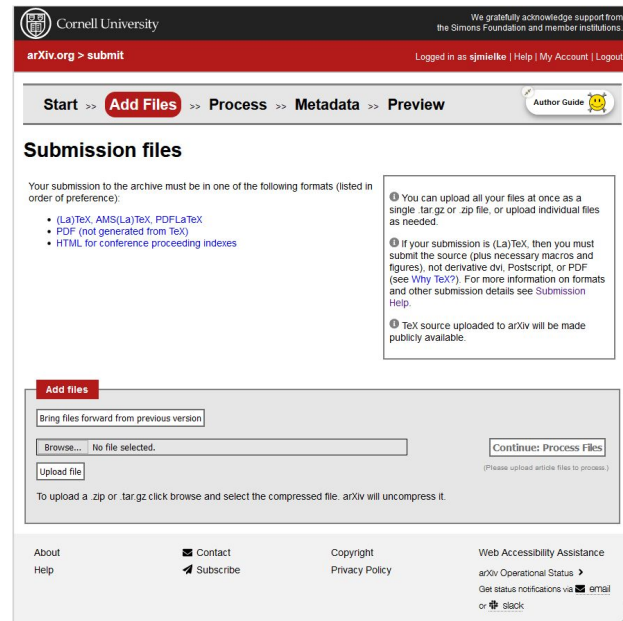
Preprint servers: arXiv

Non-anonymous server for:

- “**pre-prints**” (papers and drafts *before* publication for feedback)
- “**post-prints**” (to allow open access and get more visibility)

Not a conference, not peer-reviewed!

But still requires authorization through referral for submission---so probably not relevant just yet :)



The anonymity period: what's okay?

Not okay ✘:

- Posting a non-anonymous draft publicly (e.g., on arXiv)
- Posting about it on social media
- Linking the paper on your website

Okay ✔:

- Sending friends and collaborators drafts/papers
(remember draft mode / \usepackage{draftwatermark}!)
- Presenting in closed venues (invited / department talks)
- Mentioning your work in informal chats

Ambiguous:

- Listing a paper as "under submission" on your CV (probably best not to do it publicly, but okay on job materials)

Reviews are in!

We got good scores/accepted!

- Next: *camera-ready*, the version of your paper that is ready for publication!
- Incorporate reviewer feedback, answer any questions, and add your names!

We got bad scores/rejected...

- That always sucks, especially early in your career. Happens to us all!
- Often your work wasn't bad per se:
 - Papers might need more experiments or clearer "story"
 - Some reviewers miss crucial details: **make sure the truth is inescapable!**
- Next: rewrite and resubmit!
 - Important: if anything is "not clear," improve clarity (you are biased)!

Author response/rebuttal: sometimes just re-explaining something with different terminology helps---don't pick a fight! You can also notify Area Chairs.

...conference time!

Make slides (*oral*) or a poster to present! Yay!

Tip: talk to other people as much as possible about their experience of the process---you will learn a lot that is not on the poster or in the paper!

Important: “nourish” your paper!

Papers are communication: promoting them is important!

- Put in on your website/arXiv!
- Blog/tweet about it!
- E-mail peers: friends and (select) authors of related work
- Find enthusiastic senior people who know you to signal-boost (lab/department)!
- Publish open-source code!

Papers are communication: know your audience!

Part B

How to write
a good extended abstract

The lightning talk analogy

Brevity is hard and brutal

Skeleton of a good abstract

Reverse-engineering the reader

General writing advice

Examples



What if you only had 5 slides? 5 tweets? 1 elevator ride?

A good extended abstract quickly tells a story
– just like a five-minute talk!

The extended abstract is *short*.

In the same way that a 5 minute talk is a “harder” format than a 15 minute talk, an extend abstract is “harder” than a full paper because you have to tell a compelling story fast.

You CANNOT share everything you want.

Common failure mode: too much background work---like if you have a big intro paragraph and a big related work paragraph before getting into what you're doing... good luck...

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Tell a compelling story fast.

You **CANNOT** share everything you want.

Skeleton of an extended abstract

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contextualize the problem• No abstract, generally
Related work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only directly relevant background• Explain the novelty
Methods / models / data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replication is not the goal
Experimental results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One central number / insight / takeaway
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinforce takeaway• Link back to problem

Most people do not read a paper: they skim it.

Knowing what a reader does (Figure 1--Introduction--Results table--Conclusion) helps you design your paper to make sure they get the most important information that way!



Consequence: common rules

Get to the point ASAP. Don't write a diary, focus on final result.

No plot twists---tell the reader about the murderer from the start!

Highlight *main* results: not everything will fit, but you should have something (qualitative results are results!)

Don't go too deep into technical details (in an extended abstract)!
Pick your notation and abbreviations deliberately (only what helps)!

Pay attention to the "flow": jumping back and forth and re-explaining things constantly wastes space and attention.

Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite.

Your 1st draft will be long---way too long---some things will work, some won't!

2nd... pass: rewrite it from memory/from scratch---don't copy-paste yet!

(You will remember the things that worked and fill in better replacements for the things that didn't :))

nth pass: cut things down.

Other more practical tips

- Use LaTeX
 - Overleaf and check out git
 - Most people know barely enough to get by! Don't go too deep!
 - `\usepackage{booktabs,todonotes}`
- Don't use pixel images, prefer PDFs!
 - Good: PDF export from Excel or Powerpoint
 - Better: learn to use plotting tools like Matplotlib or Altair
 - Best: use Inkscape or Adobe Illustrator
- Distinguish in-text and parenthetical citations... and all the other small things the ACL template tells you to do!
Also summarized at <https://acl-org.github.io/ACLPUb/formatting.html> !

Further resources

- Resource page on extended abstracts for Black in AI:
<https://rabeshi.github.io/blackhelp/>
- Reverse outlining:
<https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/process/reverseoutlines/>
- Nice tables:
<https://people.inf.ethz.ch/markusp/teaching/guides/guide-tables.pdf>
- Opinionated ACL defaults and finer-grained template:
<https://twitter.com/complingy/status/1365332225605124099>
- Other resources on academic writing:
 - <https://www.cs.jhu.edu/~jason/advice/>
 - <http://users.umiacs.umd.edu/~jbg/static/style.html>

“Review” an extended abstract!

We won't do formal peer review---instead try to relate what you've learned today to the abstracts!

What did the authors do well?

How could they have improved?

What do you want to learn about next?

...and do you have feedback for us about this tutorial?
We'd like to see what worked and what didn't yet!

Feedback and Thanks

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