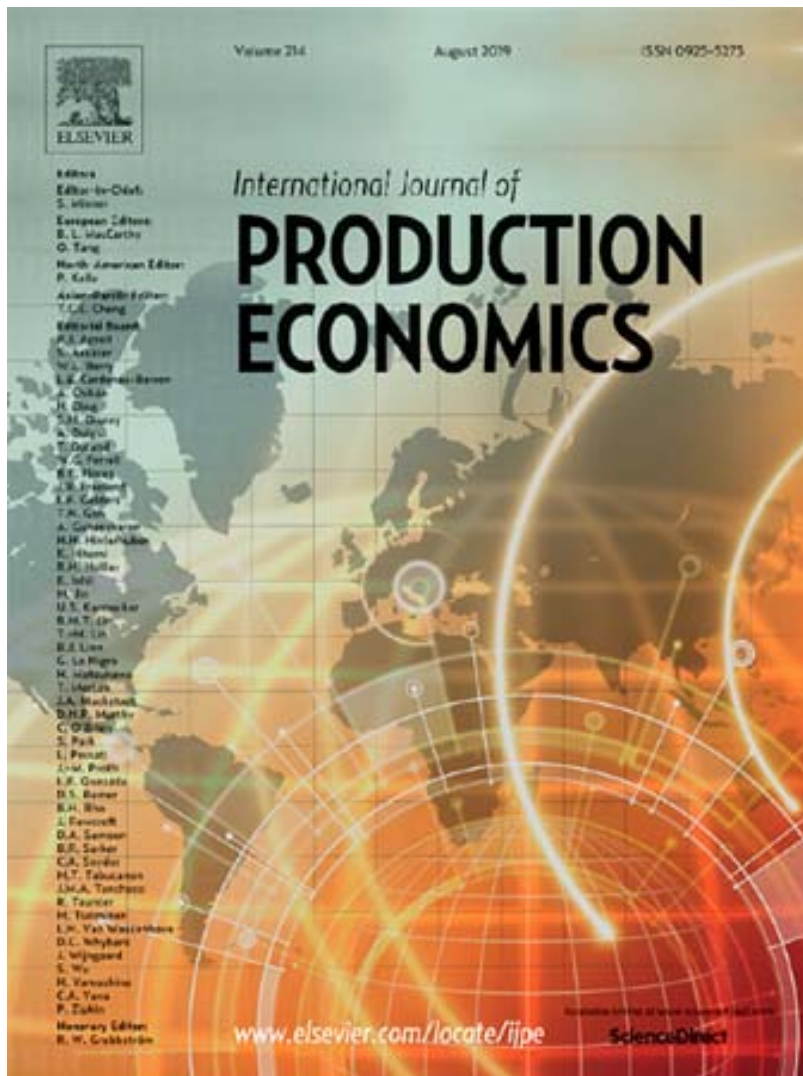


Meet the Editor Session

International Journal of Production Economics

Stefan Minner

Corvinus University, January 14, 2021



Some metrics

- Submissions 2020: > 2500
- Published articles 2018-2020: > 300 p.a.
- 2-year Impact factor: 5.134
 - # 4 in Operations Research and Management Science
 - # 6 in Industrial Engineering
 - # 9 in Manufacturing Engineering
- Cite Score: 10.5
- Google scholar ranking
 - Operations Research: #2

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-production-economics>

Editors



Edwin Cheng
Hong-Kong



Peter Kelle
USA



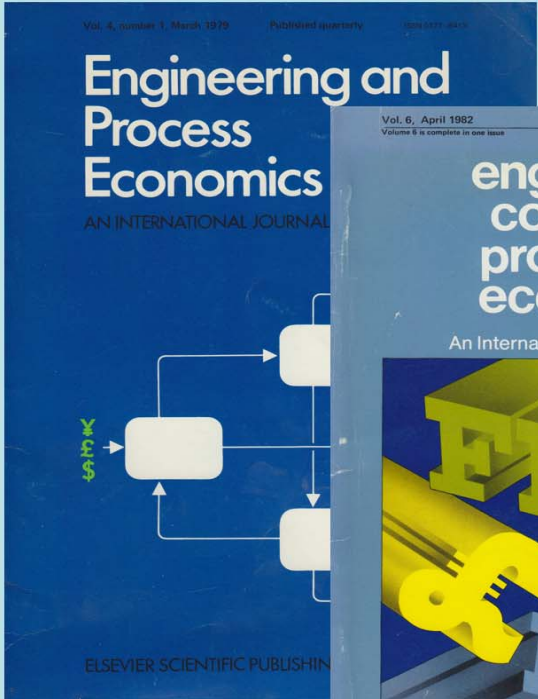
Bart MacCarthy
United Kingdom



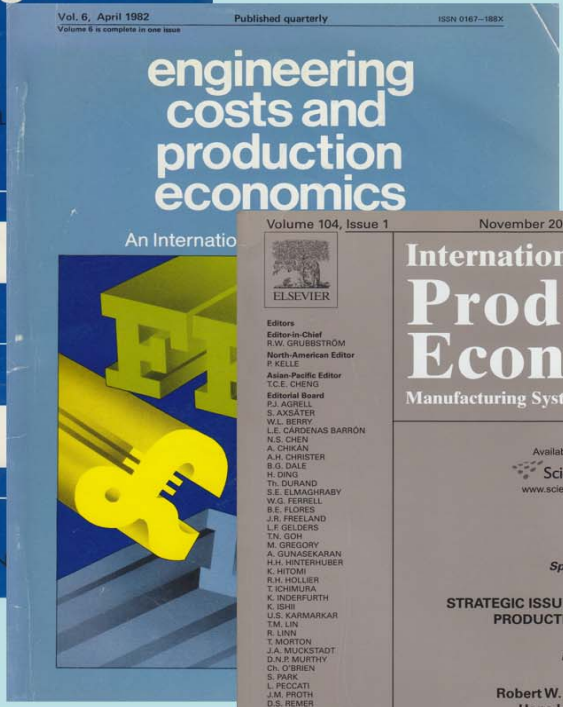
Stefan Minner
Germany



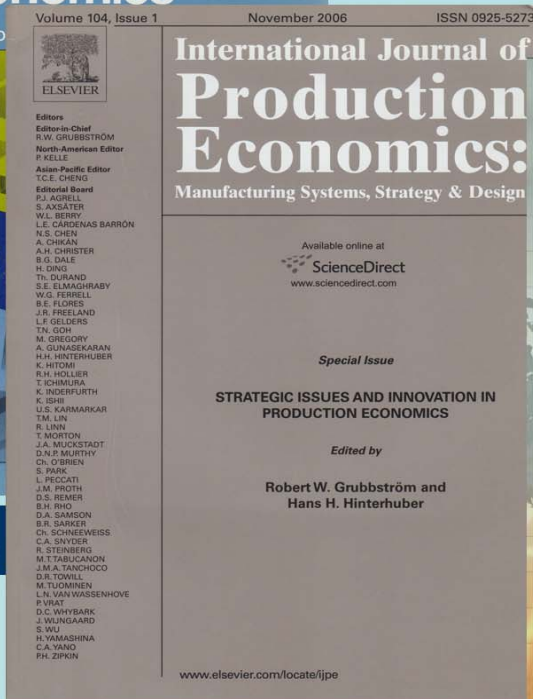
Ou Tang
Sweden



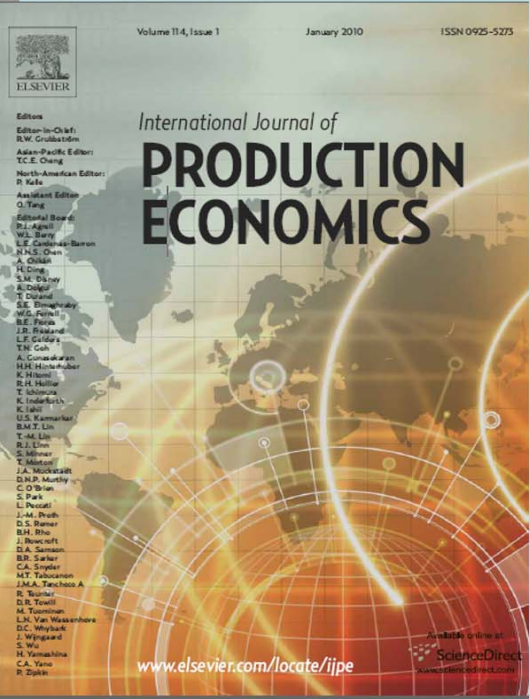
1978



1981-1988



1990-2008



2010-

Aims and Scope

The International Journal of Production Economics focuses on topics treating the **interface between engineering and management**. All aspects of the subject in relation to manufacturing and process industries, as well as production in general are covered. The journal is **interdisciplinary in nature**, considering whole cycles of activities, such as the product life cycle - research, design, development, test, launch, disposal - and the material flow cycle - supply, production, distribution.

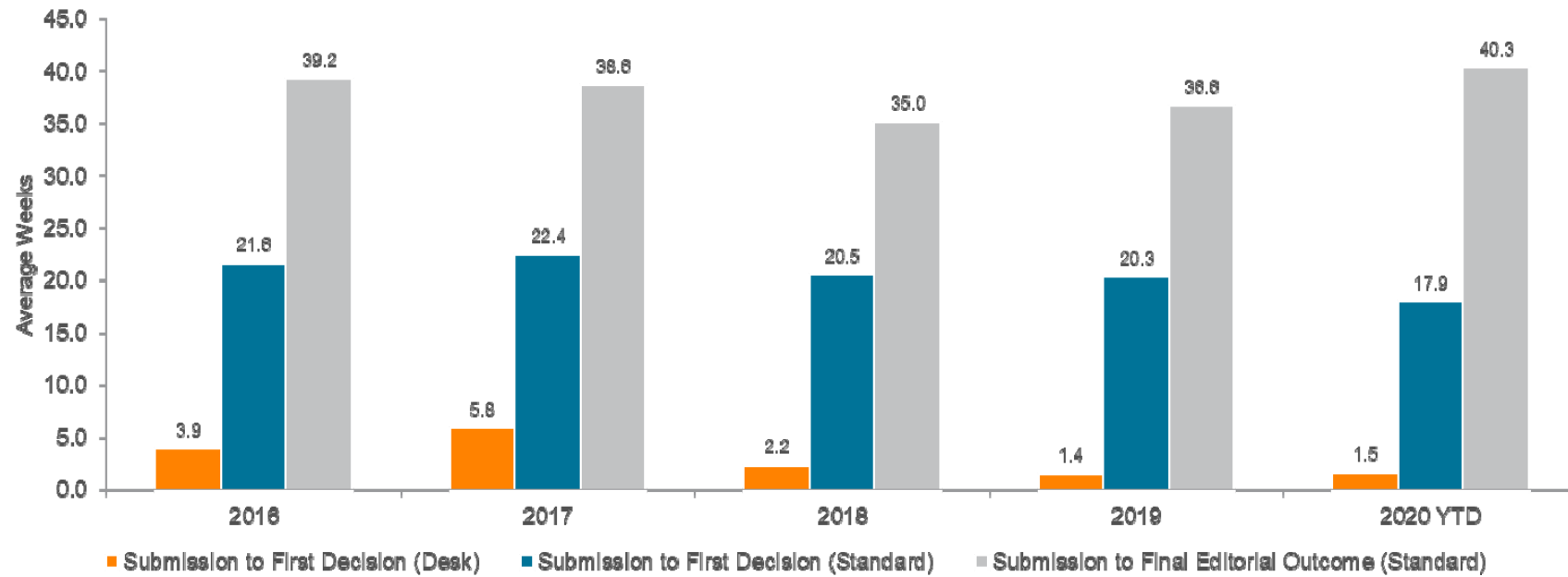
The ultimate objective of the journal is to disseminate knowledge **for improving industrial practice and to strengthen the theoretical base** necessary for supporting sound decision making. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and the presentation of **new developments in theory and application**, wherever **engineering and technology meet the managerial and economic environment** in which industry operates. In character, the journal combines the high standards of a traditional academic approach with the practical value of industrial applications.

Articles accepted need to be based on rigorous sound theory and contain an **essential novel scientific contribution**. Tracing **economic and financial consequences** in the analysis of the problem and solution reported, belongs to the central theme of the journal.

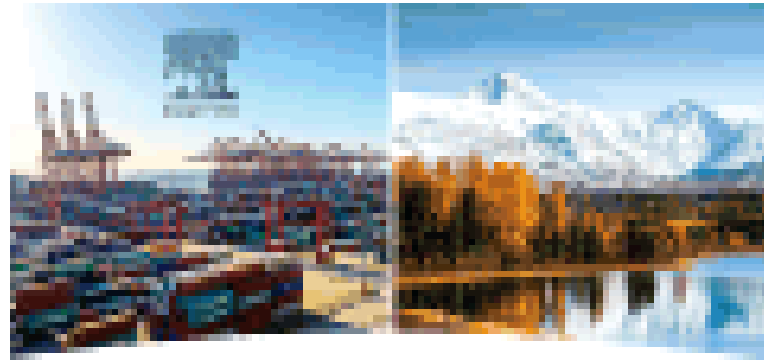
Open special issues

- Behavioral Studies in Sustainable Supply Chain Management
 - <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-production-economics/call-for-papers/behavioral-studies-in-sustainable-supply-chain-management>
- Digital Twin and Data-driven Optimization for Hyperconnected Physical Internet
 - <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-production-economics/call-for-papers/digital-twin-and-data-driven-optimization>
- Operations and Finance Interface in Supply Chains in the Era of Financial Technology”
 - <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-production-economics/call-for-papers/operations-and-finance-interface-in-supply-chains>
- Rethinking operations and supply chain management in light of the 3D Printing revolution
 - <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-production-economics/call-for-papers/rethinking-operations-and-supply-chain-management>
- Standards and Conformity Assessment in Global Supply Chains
 - <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-production-economics/call-for-papers/-standards-and-conformity-assessment-in-global-supply-chains>

Decision Times



New Journal- Fully Open Access



SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE ECONOMICS

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<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/sustainable-manufacturing-and-service-economics>

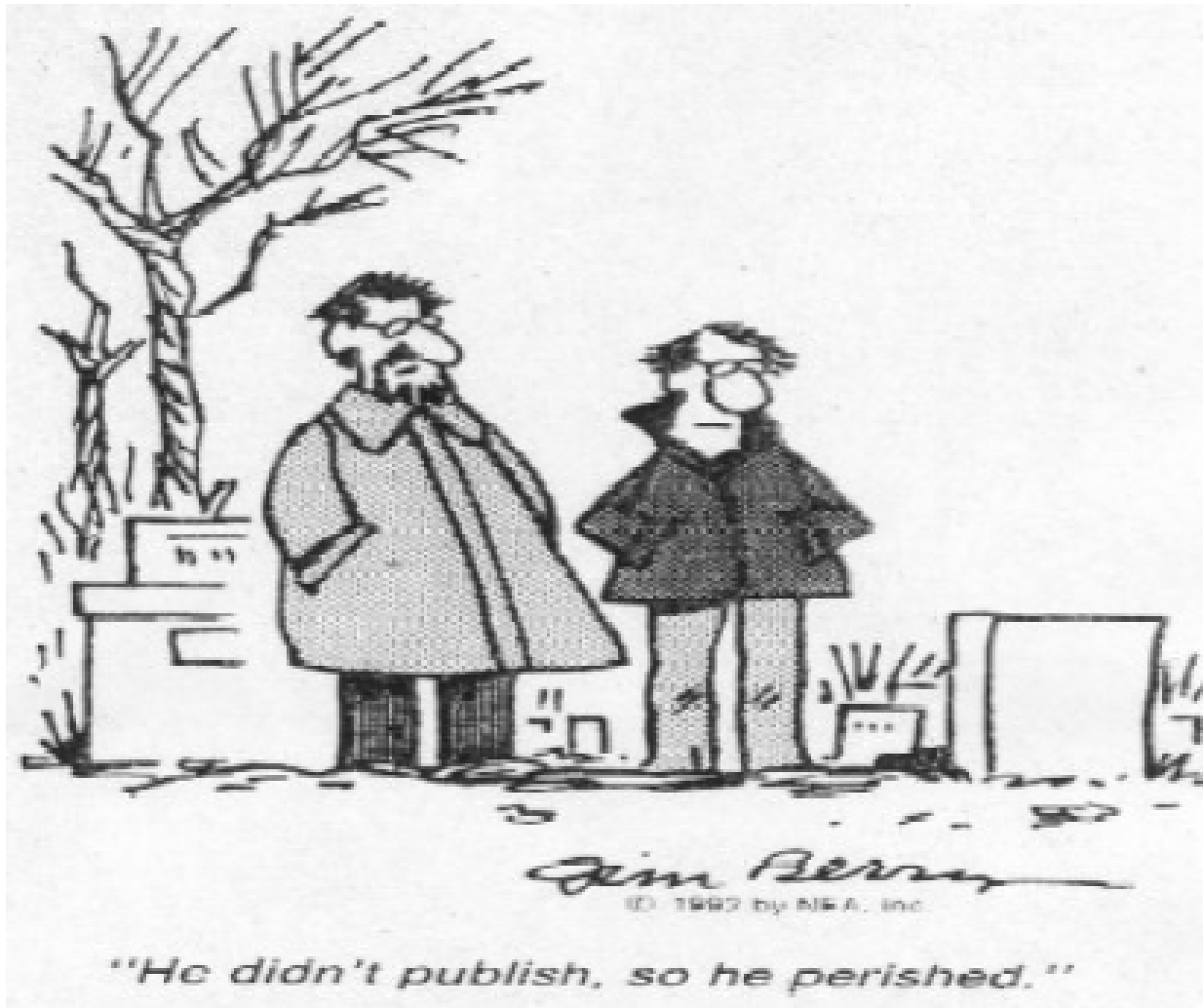
Aims and Scope

SMSE is an open access only journal that publishes innovative research results to advance the theory and application of manufacturing and service operations including after-sales management, telecommunication, energy, health-care and logistics and transportation. A particular focus is on the design, evaluation and control of sustainable technologies, management strategies and practices, and new business models when considering innovations in operations and supply chain management. The journal welcomes any research methodology including but not limited to analytical, computational, empirical, and experimental approaches and all manuscript types including reviews, case studies and practice-based research results, conceptual, and algorithmic contributions as long as they contain a new and significant advancement or application of the state-of-the-art in sustainable operations management.

Publication of Production Economics Research in Peer-reviewed Journals: An Author's, Editor's, and Referee's Perspective

Stefan Minner

January 14, 2021



www.molnut.uni-kiel.de/Bilder/publischor.jpg

Publish or perish ...

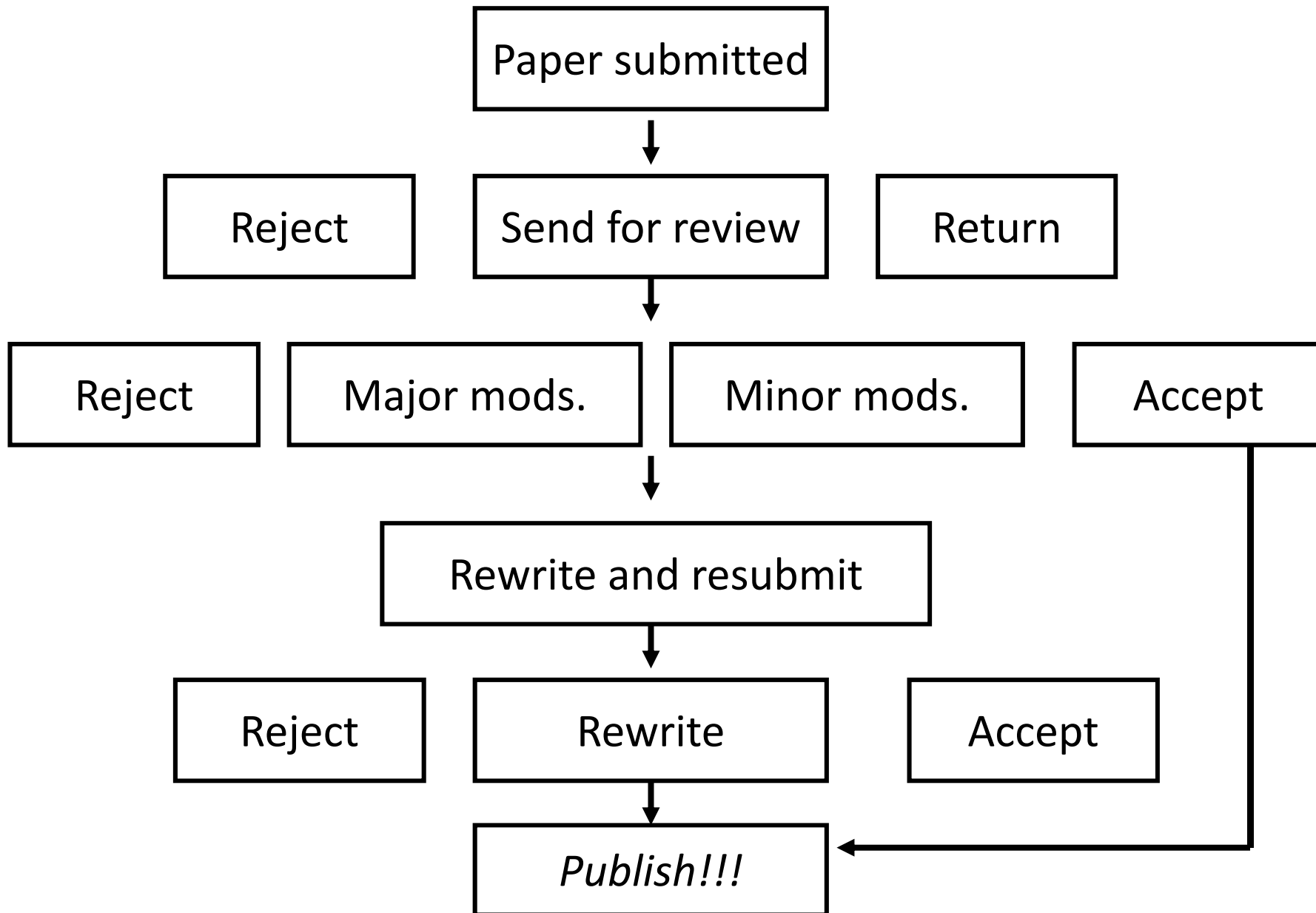
- ... some hints to enlarge your shelf-life!
- The process of peer review
- The actors in the game
 - Anticipate their criteria, views, feelings as much as possible

Key challenge: Publishing

- Career enhancement; improve CV; to get promoted
- Sharing; communicating; disseminating
- Joining the research community
- Vanity; self-esteem or self-fulfilment
- Your responsibility for which you are accountable; *i.e.* your job
- Financial reward
- A polemic; challenging a published viewpoint or orthodoxy
- Getting you to a conference in nice places

Jerry Wellington (2003) *Getting Published*, London: RoutledgeFalmer.

The academic journal paper process...



Author's perspective

- How to write a paper?
- Where should I submit my work?
 - Outlets
 - Selection criteria
- „The content/results allocation problem“
 - In how many pieces can/should I cut my work?
 - Quality vs. quantity

Selection criteria

- Qualitative
 - Aims and scope of the journal
 - Where did related work appear
 - Note: waves of popularity, change of aims and scope, incremental work etc.
 - Special issues
- Quantitative
 - ISI-Impact factor
 - Number of current year citations of articles that appeared in this journal in the previous two (five) years/number of published articles in previous two (five) years
 - Other journal rankings (professional associations, universities)
 - Review times, reputation of editorial board members
 - PhD-requirements
 - The supervisor knows everything (?)
 - # publications in ISI journals
 - # publications in A/B/C journals

Concerns during the process

- Before submission: style guidelines, proof reading, copy editing required(?), comments from friends, colleagues, experts
 - Do not expect the editor/referees being your copy editor!!
- After submission: how long does it take?
 - Cycle times: some journals provide statistical data
 - When is it appropriate to send an inquiry to the editor?
 - Referee deadlines: 4-8 weeks
 - What goes wrong on the other side
 - Non-responsive referees, different opinions of referees (3rd required?)
 - 4-6 month(?)
- When the reports arrive
 - Referee reports can be quite rude, so don't kill yourself after a first reading
 - Unfortunately, some referee act as if they were co-authors and want you to have the paper written as they would do: compromise!
 - Acknowledge helpful reviewers

Other thoughts

- Strategy with new (open access) journals?
 - Generally, too risky for junior researchers
 - An opportunity if they develop (are managed!) well
- The submission cascade
 - Where to start (and where to stop!)
- In case of doubt
 - Misbehavior of referees
 - Purposely slowing down review process
 - Stealing ideas from refereed manuscripts
 - Misbehavior of (guest) editors

Editor's perspective

- Does the manuscript comply with style and aims and scope of the journal?
- Does it make a contribution, is it clearly presented, is the level of language appropriate?
- Is earlier/relevant work from my journal appropriately included? (an editor is expected to manage the journals impact factor)
- „The content/results allocation problem“ revisited
- Has the manuscript potential to be cited in the future (or is it a dead end)?
- Is it worth bothering referees with this paper?

Reasons for acceptance/rejection of papers

- Initial submission
 - Fit with journal
 - Nature/extent of contribution
 - Rigour of methods
 - Novelty of findings
 - General presentation
- First review
 - Theoretically weak
 - Poor description of/inappropriate methods
 - Lack of integration or novelty
 - Weak contribution

During the process

- Selection of referees
 - Database, AE's network, authors of related (cited) work
 - Reviewer recommender tools
 - List of potential referees requested
 - Whom to put on that list: expert in the field (preferably who showed interest in your work at presentation?)
- When the reports are there
 - Unanimous recommendation
 - accept as is, minor/major revision, reject and encourage to resubmit, reject
 - Summarize reports and emphasize the main concerns from the reports
 - What is expected from the authors?
 - Conflicting views
 - Ask a third referee?
 - AE's opinion as a tie breaker, which arguments are more convincing?
 - Do not expect the editor to be decided by majority vote!!
- Further rounds
 - Did the authors properly address the referees and editor's comments?
 - How likely is it that the authors will be able to satisfy the referees?
 - Note: the review result does not necessarily improve from round to round!

Referee's perspective

- Major role in quality control !
- Single vs. double blind
- Referees are expected to be experts in the field who know other work (detect plagiarism and epsilon-extensions) and can judge the innovation
- Independence, avoid conflict of interest (rules)
- When submitting a rejected manuscript elsewhere:
 - consider that another editor might choose the same expert again
 - have you properly dealt with the remarks before submitting?

Review criteria

- What is the manuscript's innovation?
- Contribution to the existing literature
 - Epsilon variation of earlier work by others or the authors?
- Correctness of results and clarity of presentation
 - Avoid typos ...; it is not the referee's job to copy edit your paper!
 - Length vs contribution, all necessary, what can be moved to an online appendix?
 - Any alibi references to please the editor? (I find this unacceptable!)
- What did I learn? Why should I continue reading?
 - Abstract important, do not repeat text-book knowledge
- Does the manuscript have the same level as other manuscripts that appeared in this journal?

During the process

- Have I reviewed the manuscript before?
 - My comments, other referee's comments
- Have the authors properly addressed my comments?
 - Reply to referee essential
 - If not, are the arguments convincing?
 - Is there a conflict with my comments and the other referee's concerns, did the AE comment on this?
- Do I want/need to see the revision of this manuscript again?
- Credentials in file properties removed?

Concerns with peer review

- Promote honest evaluation and criticism by anonymity
- Competing schools
 - Protection of entry by negative reviews?
 - Parallel work: rat races with innovative ideas
- Effort of reviewer (negatively) affected by anonymity?

Responding to reviewers/timescales...

- Read the reviews and note all the points
- Write to the editor if clarification is needed
- Disagree with the reviewers, firm but polite
- Be aware of timescales
- Write a detailed response
- Pay attention to detail

- Initial response – one month
- Receipt of reviews and decision – 3-4 months
- Resubmission – 6-8 months
- Receipts of reviews and decision – 3-4 months
- Acceptance to publication – 6-12 months

only averages...

Summary

- Do not only follow the author's perspective but anticipate the editor's and the referee's perspective
 - What would be my thoughts if I were a referee?
- Editor's and referee's work is (usually unpaid) service to the academic community

PAPER WRITING

General rule of thumb

- Write for a person who knows about the field
- But does not know about your work
- Guidelines for manuscripts (format, style, page limits)

Structure

- Paper title
- Descriptive, reflect the content of the paper
- Abstract
- Research question, method, answers to the research question
- First chance to make an impression to the reviewer
- Get reader excited about the work
- Key words
- Body
- What was done

Introduction

- 1. *What is the problem?*
- 2. *Why is it interesting and important?*
- 3. *Why is it hard? (E.g., why do naive approaches fail?)*
- 4. *Why hasn't it been solved before? (Or, what's wrong with previous proposed solutions? How does mine differ?)*
- 5. *What are the key components of my approach and results? Also include any specific limitations.*

Body, Theory, Methods

- Empirical versus modeling papers
- Theoretical contribution
- Formulation of hypothesis
- Model description

- Maybe include figure
- Reader needs exactly to understand what the contribution is

Experiments (for computational paper)

- Show your work in its best light
- What to measure? Possibilities:
 - Pure running time
 - Sensitivity to important parameters
 - Scalability in various aspects: data size, problem complexity, ...
- What should performance experiments show? Possibilities:
 - Absolute performance (i.e., it's acceptable/usable)
 - Relative performance to naive approaches
 - Relative performance to previous approaches
 - Relative performance among different proposed approaches

- Discussion („Managerial implications“)
- Conclusions
- Short summary of main result
- Outlook on future research or ongoing work
- Appendix
- Acknowledgements

REFEREEING

“Referees' reports are often demoralizing to authors. It is possible to write a report that is supportive and helpful by following two rules: Say what is good about a piece of work, and say how it can be improved.” (Martin, 2008)

Summary

- “Some reports start with a sentence or two saying what's nice and then proceed with the bloodletting.”
- “The whole idea of quality control via peer review is to weed out inadequate work. So finding shortcomings can be taken up as a challenge.”
- “Referees are usually asked to make a recommendation, for example, 'accept without revision,' 'accept with minor revisions,' 'revise and resubmit,' or 'reject.' Everything I've said about writing a helpful report is compatible with making a recommendation.”
- “The best referees are the ones that help the authors make the paper *better*. *Try to be that kind of* referee. The worst are the ones that don't read the manuscript closely enough, then unfairly criticize it. The just plain unhelpful are the ones who just say “publish as is.””

Some nice statements

“This is an excellent analysis of theory and practice in relation to [. . .]. The critique of formulaic positions is well done, as is the discussion of [. . .]. The four responses to the question of [. . .] are astute and serve very well to highlight creative ways of thinking. The second half, on [. . .], is even more stimulating. The role of [. . .] is explained vividly, with informative commentary on issues such as [. . .]. This material shows how practical experience can provide directions for transcending sterile theoretical debates. The article is very well written, logically structured and a pleasure to read. Use of sources is appropriate.”

Structure

- Content of the manuscript
- Main comments (major comments)
- Minor comments
 - List of small points, from missing words to additional references for consideration. This is a good place to add some positive comments: 'Table 1 is very helpful'; 'The first paragraph in the conclusion is well expressed.'
 - Recommendation
- Challenge : “Making such comments is to phrase them in terms of how to improve rather than simply stating what's wrong. Rather than saying 'This sentence is confusing,' say 'Rewrite this sentence to make it clearer.' This may seem a trivial matter, but it reflects a mode of thinking: By phrasing comments in terms of actions for improvement, we focus attention on what the author should do, not on the author's inadequacies.”

Response to referees: Principles

- Organize report
- Reply to referees
 - Respond to each point individually
 - Format: repeat referees comment
 - Write (copy) how this was incorporated
- Argue against referee opinions, if not right
- Acknowledgements
 - Acknowledge helpful reviews

GOOD LUCK!