



Expanding MODSIM conference papers for future submission to journals MSSANZ guidelines

Background

It is increasingly common for MODSIM authors to expand their conference papers to journal submissions post the conference. A number of special journal issues emerge from MODSIM conferences leveraging the original MODSIM paper. Emerging journal policies with regard to earlier conference publication has led us to develop MSSANZ guidelines to build author awareness, and to provide suggested strategies for our science community. Elements of the MSSANZ guidelines have been adapted from those developed by the IEEE as they are consistent with how we have been informally operating for the Elsevier journal *Environmental Modelling and Software*.

MODSIM conferences present a unique case, giving authors the opportunity for up to 7-page peer-reviewed manuscripts. These papers approach in length what is expected of some journal manuscripts hence the guidelines are even more relevant than for abstract-only conferences. Guidelines are also important with the increasing use of plagiarism detection software used by journal editors, and the fact that MODSIM conferences are now electronically indexed. Anticipating the use of this software rather than being surprised by it will ensure a more seamless journal review process.

Guidelines are not prescriptive as journal policies will differ. We feel authors are best placed to embrace a specific strategy if planning to progress their MODSIM paper to a journal submission and we offer the following as possible approaches.

Guidelines

- Guidelines are only relevant if authors are planning a journal submission after MODSIM.
- Become aware of the target journal policy before writing the MODSIM paper.
- Some journals may require a letter confirming whether a conference paper was peer-reviewed and a clear statement of the changes which were made for journal submission. Examine the specific journal policy ahead of time.
- Some journals may require authors to also submit the earlier conference paper. Again, be aware of this ahead of time.
- Consider presenting preliminary results at conferences, particularly in the case of larger ongoing projects. Framing a paper in the context of preliminary results provides an opportunity to expand at a later stage.
- Journal papers typically provide additional background material, in addition to scientific results. They may reference earlier work including providing detailed citations, critical evaluation, provision of a detailed justification leveraging the earlier research, or communicate in detail the applied justification for particular research. A conference paper could limit its treatment of such contextual material (without entirely ignoring these) and focus in greater detail on the results.
- Journal papers demand a detailed methodology which in principle should allow other researchers to repeat the study. In the conference paper consider limiting your treatment of the methodology to the core elements with a greater focus on results.

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- Consider a conference paper as 'incomplete' awaiting further analysis and evaluation. It is appropriate to highlight this in the conference paper while providing reference to the larger study. Provide data in the journal paper that was not published via the conference.
- Consider presenting only a subset of your results at the MODSIM conference with other components presented in the journal paper. This ensures a distinct difference between the conference and journal content.
- Revise and update figures and tables to avoid exact duplication with the conference proceedings.
- Ensure the title and keywords are cognisant of the conference content, rather than the planned journal content. Planning this ahead of time (prior to MODSIM submission) will make the journal submission process easier (e.g. use different titles & keywords).
- Consider writing less for the conference paper. The MODSIM limit is an upper limit and it is often possible to communicate a key message in fewer pages while recognising MODSIM papers are peer reviewed.
- **Always acknowledge the earlier conference paper in the journal paper via citation or footnote.**
- If unsure of the policy, contact the editor-in-chief to seek clarity.

These strategies should not devalue the quality of what is prepared for a MODSIM paper given the universally high quality of MODSIM papers and proceedings.

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Responsibility for the contents of MODSIM papers rests with authors, with MSSANZ guaranteeing the paper peer-review process.

See the relevant conference page on <<http://www.mssanz.org.au>> for how to cite a MODSIM paper.

MSSANZ Committee

April 2011