

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

●	<b>Description</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Audience</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Impact Factor</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Abstracting and Indexing</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Editorial Board</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Guide for Authors</b>	<b>p.5</b>



ISSN: 0304-3975

## DESCRIPTION

*Theoretical Computer Science* is mathematical and abstract in spirit, but it derives its motivation from practical and everyday computation. Its aim is to understand the nature of **computation** and, as a consequence of this understanding, provide more efficient methodologies. All papers introducing or studying mathematical, logic and formal concepts and methods are welcome, provided that their motivation is clearly drawn from the field of **computing**.

Any queries about [submissions](#) and peer review should be addressed to the TCS editorial office: [tcs@elsevier.com](mailto:tcs@elsevier.com).

Papers published in *Theoretical Computer Science* are grouped in three sections according to their nature. The first section 'Algorithms, automata, complexity and games' is devoted to the study of **algorithms** and their complexity using analytical, combinatorial or probabilistic methods. It includes the whole field of **abstract complexity** (i.e. all the results about the hierarchies that can be defined using Turing machines), the whole field of automata and language theory (including automata on infinite words and infinitary languages), the whole field of geometrical (graphic) applications and the whole field of measurement of system performance using statistical methods.

The second section, 'Logic, semantics and theory of programming', is devoted to formal methods to check properties of programs or implement formally described languages; it contains all papers dealing with semantics of sequential and parallel **programming languages**. All formal methods treating these problems are published in this section, including rewriting techniques, abstract data types, automatic theorem proving, calculi such as SCP or CCS, Petri nets, new logic calculi and developments in categorical methods.

The third section, 'Natural Computing', is devoted to the study of computing occurring in **nature** and computing inspired by nature. In the rapidly evolving field of **computer science**, **natural computing** plays an important role as the catalyst for the synergy of human designed computing with the computing going on in nature. This synergy leads to a deeper and broader understanding of the nature of computation. Although natural computing is concerned also with experiments and applications, this section of *Theoretical Computer Science* is focused on the theoretical aspects of natural computing with clear relevance to computing. Among others, it will contain papers dealing with the theoretical issues in evolutionary computing, neural networks, molecular computing, and quantum computing.

## AUDIENCE

---

Researchers in the Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science.

## IMPACT FACTOR

---

2016: 0.698 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2017

## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

---

ACM Computing Reviews  
Computer Abstracts  
Engineering Index  
INSPEC Information Services  
Current Contents/Engineering, Computing & Technology  
Mathematical Reviews  
Zentralblatt MATH  
CompuScience  
Scopus

## EDITORIAL BOARD

---

### *Editors-in-Chief:*

**D. Sannella - TCS-B**, Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**L. Kari - TCS-C**, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada & University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

**P.G. Spirakis - TCS-A**, Computer Technology Institute, Patras, Greece

### *Editorial Board: Algorithms, Automata, Complexity and Games (TCS-A)*

**G. Ausiello**, Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma, Italy

**T. Calamoneri**, Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy

**K. Censor-Hillel**, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel

**M. Crochemore**, King's College London, London, UK

**X. Deng**, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England, UK

**J. Díaz**, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Barcelona, Spain

**D.-Z. Du**, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas, USA

**T. Erlebach**, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK

**S. Fekete**, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany

**A. Fiat**, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

**A. Fink**, Queen Mary, University of London (QMUL), London, UK

**F.V. Fomin**, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

**L. Gaşieniec**, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England, UK

**R. Giancarlo**, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Palermo, Italy

**M.J. Golin**, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Kowloon, Hong Kong

**S.-Y. Hsieh**, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, ROC

**O.H. Ibarra**, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, , California, USA

**G.F. Italiano**, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", Roma, Italy

**M. Ito**, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

**C. Kaklamanis**, University of Patras, Rio, Patras, Greece

**J. Karhumäki**, University of Turku, Turku, Finland

**L.M. Kirousis**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, ZOGRAFOS, Greece

**M. Kiwi**, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile

**R. Klasing**, Université de Bordeaux, Talence, France

**P. Krysta**, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England, UK

**A. Kučera**, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

**M. Latapy**, Sorbonne Universités, Paris, France

**Z. Lotker**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel

**A. Marchetti-Spaccamela**, Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Roma, Italy

**N. Ollinger**, Université d'Orléans, Orléans, France

**V.Y. Pan**, City University of New York (CUNY), Bronx, New York, USA

**V. T. Paschos**, Université Paris-Dauphine, Paris Cedex 16, France

**D. Perrin**, Université de Marne-la-Vallée, Marne La Vallée, France  
**G. Persiano**, Università degli Studi di Salerno, Baronissi, Italy  
**P. Lu**, Shanghai University of Finance & Economics, Shanghai, China  
**H. Prodinge**r, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
**G. Rozenberg**, Universiteit Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands  
**S. Sen**, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India  
**P. Widmayer**, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland  
**M.H.M. Winands**, University of Maastricht, Maastricht, Netherlands  
**G. Yang**, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia

**Editorial Board: Logic, Semantics and Theory of Programming (TCS-B)**

**P. A. Abdullah**, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden  
**A. Avron**, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel  
**J. Davies**, University of Oxford, Oxford, England, UK  
**W. Fan**, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK  
**M. Hofmann**, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU), München, Germany  
**B.P.F. Jacobs**, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, Nijmegen, Netherlands  
**A. Jung**, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK  
**H. Lin**, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China  
**M. Mavronicolas**, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus  
**P.-A. Melliès**, Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7), Paris, France  
**M.W. Mislove**, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA  
**U. Montanari**, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy  
**M. Nielsen**, Aarhus University, Århus N, Denmark  
**J.-F. Raskin**, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Bruxelles, Belgium  
**G. Rozenberg**, Universiteit Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands  
**V. Sassone**, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK  
**N. Shankar**, SRI (Stanford Research Institute) International, Berkeley, California, USA  
**P. Stevens**, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK  
**J. Tiuryn**  
**R.J. van Glabbeek**, UNSW Australia, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

**Editorial Board: Theory of Natural Computing (TCS-C)**

**T. Baeck**, Universiteit Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands  
**W. Banzhaf**, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada  
**C. Blum**, The Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (IIIA-CSIC), Bellaterra, Catalonia, Spain  
**G. Brassard**, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Quebec, Canada  
**C.S. Calude**, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand  
**L. Cardelli**, Microsoft Research, Cambridge, England, UK  
**D.W. Corne**, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK  
**P. Degano**, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy  
**B. Doerr**, École Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France  
**M. Dorigo**, IRIDIA, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium  
**G. Dowek**, Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique (INRIA), Paris, France  
**A.E. Eiben**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
**S. Hallgren**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, USA  
**D. Harel**, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel  
**J. Hillston**, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK  
**M. Hirvensalo**, University of Turku, Turku, Finland  
**N. Jonoska**, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA  
**J. Kari**, University of Turku, Turku, Finland  
**J.N. Kok**, Universiteit Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands  
**N. Krasnogor**, Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, England, UK  
**S. Miyano**, University of Tokyo, Minato-Ku, Japan  
**T. Mor**, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel  
**P. Orponen**, Aalto University, Espoo, Finland  
**G. Paun**, Universidad de Sevilla, Sevilla, Spain  
**M. Perez-Jimenez**, Universidad de Sevilla, Sevilla, Spain  
**I. Petre**, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland  
**J.E. Rowe**, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK  
**G. Rozenberg**, Universiteit Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands  
**H. Siegelmann**, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA  
**A. Skowron**, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warsaw, Poland  
**A. Sperduti**, Università degli Studi di Padova, Padova, Italy  
**J. Timmis**, University of York, York, England, UK  
**C. Torras**, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Barcelona, Spain  
**M.D. Vose**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA

**C. Witt**, Danmarks Tekniske Universitet (DTU), Lyngby, Denmark  
**X. Yao**, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK  
**T. Yokomori**, Waseda University, Shinjuku-Ku, Japan  
**S. Zhang**, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

***Founding Editor:***

**M. Nivat†**

**G. Rozenberg**

founding Editor 'Section C, Theory of Natural Computing'

***Honorary Board:***

**C. Böhm**

**E. Engeler**

**M.A. Harrison**

**Z. Manna**

**A.R. Meyer**

**M. Nivat†**

**F.P. Preparata**

**E. Shamir**

**R. Siromoney**

**O.H. Ibarra**

## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

---

### *Your Paper Your Way*

We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.

**To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.**

### **Introduction**

Theoretical Computer Science is mathematical and abstract in spirit, but it derives its motivation from practical and everyday computation. All papers introducing or studying mathematical, logic and formal concepts and methods are welcome, provided that their motivation is clearly drawn from the field of computing.

Papers published in Theoretical Computer Science are grouped in three sections according to their nature. *Algorithms, automata, complexity and games*, or *TCS-A*, is devoted to the study of algorithms and their complexity using analytical, combinatorial or probabilistic methods. *Logic, semantics and theory of programming*, or *TCS-B*, is devoted to formal methods to check properties of programs or implement formally described languages and contains all papers dealing with semantics of sequential and parallel programming languages. *Natural Computing*, or *TCS-C*, is devoted to the study of computing occurring in nature and computing inspired by nature. This section is focused on the theoretical aspects of natural computing with clear relevance to computing. Among others, it will contain papers dealing with the theoretical issues in evolutionary computing, neural networks, molecular computing, and quantum computing. Any queries about submissions and peer review should be addressed to the TCS editorial office: [tcs@elsevier.com](mailto:tcs@elsevier.com).

### *Submission checklist*

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

#### **Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

*Manuscript:*

- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

*Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files* (where applicable)

*Supplemental files* (where applicable)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our [Support Center](#).

### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

## Ethics in publishing

Please see our information pages on [Ethics in publishing](#) and [Ethical guidelines for journal publication](#).

## Declaration of interest

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double-blind) or the manuscript file (if single-blind). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. [More information](#).

## Submission declaration and verification

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see '[Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#)' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service [Crossref Similarity Check](#).

## Preprints

Please note that [preprints](#) can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's [sharing policy](#). Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see '[Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#)' for more information).

## Contributors

Each author is required to declare his or her individual contribution to the article: all authors must have materially participated in the research and/or article preparation, so roles for all authors should be described. The statement that all authors have approved the final article should be true and included in the disclosure.

## Changes to authorship

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors **before** submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only **before** the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the **corresponding author**: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors **after** the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

## Copyright

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see [more information](#) on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. [Permission](#) of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has [preprinted forms](#) for use by authors in these cases.

For open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' ([more information](#)). Permitted third party reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of [user license](#).

### **Author rights**

As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. [More information](#).

#### *Elsevier supports responsible sharing*

Find out how you can [share your research](#) published in Elsevier journals.

### **Role of the funding source**

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

#### *Funding body agreements and policies*

Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the Open Access Publication Fee. Details of [existing agreements](#) are available online.

### **Open access**

This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

#### **Subscription**

- Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our [universal access programs](#).
- No open access publication fee payable by authors.

#### **Open access**

- Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
- An open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following [Creative Commons user licenses](#):

#### *Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)*

Lets others distribute and copy the article, create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), include in a collective work (such as an anthology), text or data mine the article, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, and do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honor or reputation.

#### *Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)*

For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

The open access publication fee for this journal is **USD 1600**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: <https://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing>.

#### *Green open access*

Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our [green open access page](#) for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution's repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription

articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. [Find out more](#).

This journal has an embargo period of 24 months.

#### *Elsevier Researcher Academy*

[Researcher Academy](#) is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

#### *Language (usage and editing services)*

Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the [English Language Editing service](#) available from Elsevier's WebShop.

#### **Submission**

Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

#### *Referees*

Please submit the names and institutional e-mail addresses of several potential referees. For more details, visit our [Support site](#). Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

#### **Peer review policy**

The practice of peer review is to ensure that good science is published. It is an objective process at the heart of good scholarly publishing and is carried out by all reputable scientific journals. Our referees therefore play a vital role in maintaining the high standards of *Theoretical Computer Science* and all manuscripts are peer reviewed following the procedure outlined below.

#### *Initial manuscript evaluation*

The Editor-in-Chief first screens all manuscripts. It is possible but almost unprecedented for an exceptional manuscript to be accepted at this stage. Those rejected at this stage are insufficiently original, have serious scientific flaws, have poor grammar or English language, or are outside the aims and scope of the journal.

Those that meet the minimum criteria are passed on to a Handling Editor who is a member of the Editorial Board with expertise in the subject area of the submission, where the screening process repeats. Those that pass this stage are passed on to at least two experts for review.

Authors of manuscripts rejected without refereeing may be informed within a few weeks of receipt.

In rare cases it may be impossible to find qualified experts who are prepared to review a submission. An unsuccessful search may take weeks or months. Such a manuscript will be rejected and the author informed of the situation. In cases where the problem is solely with the presentation - for example, where the manuscript would be very time-consuming to review because of extreme length - the author may wish to submit a revised version.

#### *Special issues*

In the case of Special Issues, the Guest Editor(s) acts as Handling Editor. For manuscripts having the Guest Editor(s) as author, the Editor-in-Chief acts as Handling Editor. The timing of reviewing for Special Issues is subject to the overall planning of the Special Issue itself.

#### *Type of peer review*



This journal employs single blind review, where the referee remains anonymous throughout the process.

#### *How the referee is selected*

Referees are matched to the paper according to their expertise. We welcome suggestions for referees from the author though these recommendations may or may not be used.

#### *Referee reports*

Referees are asked to evaluate whether the manuscript:

- Is original and of sufficient weight and interest
- Is sound and valid
- Fits the scope of *Theoretical Computer Science*
- Is clearly presented, including linguistic quality
- Correctly references previous relevant work

Referees will often provide suggestion for improvement, but they are not expected to proofread or copyedit manuscripts. Authors are expected to carefully check manuscripts for errors before submission.

#### *How long does the review process take?*

Manuscripts are typically reviewed within 4-5 months. Unusually long or difficult manuscripts may take longer. The time required will also be greater in cases where it is difficult to find suitably qualified referees. Should a report be unreasonably delayed, a further expert opinion may be sought. If the referees' reports contradict one another, the Handling Editor may obtain additional reviews if this is required to make a decision. Revised manuscripts are usually reviewed by the referees of the original submission, but the Handling Editor may seek input from additional reviewers.

More than one revision of a manuscript may be required. A revised manuscript may be rejected on the grounds that the revision process is converging too slowly. A manuscript may be rejected for a Special Issue on the grounds that the publication schedule does not allow time for revision; in that case, the manuscript will normally be re-considered for publication in an ordinary issue.

#### **Feedback to authors**

A decision to accept or reject the manuscript, or to request a revision, will be sent to the author along with any recommendations made by the referees, and may include verbatim comments by the referees.

#### **Editors' decision is final**

The referees advise the Handling Editor, who is responsible for the decision to accept or reject the submission. This decision is subject to confirmation by the Editor-in-Chief.

#### **Refereeing for *Theoretical Computer Science***

If you are not currently a referee for *Theoretical Computer Science* but would like to be added to our list of potential referees, please contact the editorial office at [tcs@elsevier.com](mailto:tcs@elsevier.com). The benefits of refereeing for *Theoretical Computer Science* include the opportunity to see and evaluate the latest work in your research area at an early stage. You may also be able to cite your work as a referee for *Theoretical Computer Science* as part of your professional development requirements for various Professional Societies and Organizations.

## **PREPARATION**

### **NEW SUBMISSIONS**

Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.

As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or layout that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.

#### *References*

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

#### *Formatting requirements*

There are no strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.

If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.

Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

#### *Figures and tables embedded in text*

Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file. The corresponding caption should be placed directly below the figure or table.

#### **Peer review**

This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. [More information on types of peer review.](#)

#### **REVISED SUBMISSIONS**

##### *Use of word processing software*

Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the [Guide to Publishing with Elsevier](#)). See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

##### *LaTeX*

You are recommended to use the Elsevier article class [elsarticle.cls](#) to prepare your manuscript and [BibTeX](#) to generate your bibliography.

Our [LaTeX site](#) has detailed submission instructions, templates and other information.

#### **Article structure**

##### *Subdivision - numbered sections*

Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

##### *Introduction*

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

### *Material and methods*

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

### *Theory/calculation*

A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

### *Results*

Results should be clear and concise.

### *Discussion*

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

### *Conclusions*

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

### *Appendices*

If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

### *Vitae*

Include in the manuscript a short (maximum 100 words) biography of each author, along with a passport-type photograph accompanying the other figures.

### **Essential title page information**

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

### **Abstract**

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

### *Highlights*

Highlights are a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article. Highlights are optional and should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). You can view [example Highlights](#) on our information site.

## Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

## Abbreviations

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

## Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

## Formatting of funding sources

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

## Math formulae

Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

## Footnotes

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article.

## Artwork

### Electronic artwork

#### General points

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Preferred fonts: Arial (or Helvetica), Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, Courier.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Indicate per figure if it is a single, 1.5 or 2-column fitting image.
- For Word submissions only, you may still provide figures and their captions, and tables within a single file at the revision stage.
- Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be provided in separate source files. A detailed [guide on electronic artwork](#) is available.

**You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.**

#### Formats

Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics'.

TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.

TIFF (or JPG): Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.

TIFF (or JPG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.

**Please do not:**

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low.
- Supply files that are too low in resolution.
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

*Color artwork*

Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. [Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.](#)

*Figure captions*

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. A caption should comprise a brief title (**not** on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

**Tables**

Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

**References**

*Citation in text*

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

*Reference links*

Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is encouraged.

A DOI can be used to cite and link to electronic articles where an article is in-press and full citation details are not yet known, but the article is available online. A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambeh W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884>. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

*Web references*

As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

### *Data references*

This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

### *References in a special issue*

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

### *Reference management software*

Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support [Citation Style Language styles](#), such as [Mendeley](#) and [Zotero](#), as well as [EndNote](#). Using the word processor plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:

<http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/theoretical-computer-science>

When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

### *Reference formatting*

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:

### *Reference style*

*Text:* Indicate references by number(s) in square brackets in line with the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given.

Example: '..... as demonstrated [3,6]. Barnaby and Jones [8] obtained a different result ....'

*List:* Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

### *Examples:*

Reference to a journal publication:

[1] J. van der Geer, J.A.J. Hanraads, R.A. Lupton, The art of writing a scientific article, *J. Sci. Commun.* 163 (2010) 51–59.

Reference to a book:

[2] W. Strunk Jr., E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*, fourth ed., Longman, New York, 2000.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

[3] G.R. Mettam, L.B. Adams, How to prepare an electronic version of your article, in: B.S. Jones, R.Z. Smith (Eds.), *Introduction to the Electronic Age*, E-Publishing Inc., New York, 2009, pp. 281–304.

Reference to a website:

[4] Cancer Research UK, Cancer statistics reports for the UK. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/cancerstatsreport/>, 2003 (accessed 13 March 2003).

Reference to a dataset:

[dataset] [5] M. Oguro, S. Imahiro, S. Saito, T. Nakashizuka, Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions, *Mendeley Data*, v1, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>.

### *Journal abbreviations source*

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the [List of Title Word Abbreviations](#).

## **Video**

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. . In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including [ScienceDirect](#). Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our [video instruction pages](#). Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

## **AudioSlides**

The journal encourages authors to create an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect. This gives authors the opportunity to summarize their research in their own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. [More information and examples are available](#). Authors of this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

## **Data visualization**

Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions [here](#) to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

## **Supplementary material**

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

## **Research data**

This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the [research data](#) page.

### *Data linking*

If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the [database linking page](#).

For [supported data repositories](#) a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

#### *Mendeley Data*

This journal supports Mendeley Data, enabling you to deposit any research data (including raw and processed data, video, code, software, algorithms, protocols, and methods) associated with your manuscript in a free-to-use, open access repository. Before submitting your article, you can deposit the relevant datasets to *Mendeley Data*. Please include the DOI of the deposited dataset(s) in your main manuscript file. The datasets will be listed and directly accessible to readers next to your published article online.

For more information, visit the [Mendeley Data for journals page](#).

#### *Data in Brief*

You have the option of converting any or all parts of your supplementary or additional raw data into one or multiple data articles, a new kind of article that houses and describes your data. Data articles ensure that your data is actively reviewed, curated, formatted, indexed, given a DOI and publicly available to all upon publication. You are encouraged to submit your article for *Data in Brief* as an additional item directly alongside the revised version of your manuscript. If your research article is accepted, your data article will automatically be transferred over to *Data in Brief* where it will be editorially reviewed and published in the open access data journal, *Data in Brief*. Please note an open access fee of 500 USD is payable for publication in *Data in Brief*. Full details can be found on the [Data in Brief website](#). Please use [this template](#) to write your Data in Brief.

#### *MethodsX*

You have the option of converting relevant protocols and methods into one or multiple MethodsX articles, a new kind of article that describes the details of customized research methods. Many researchers spend a significant amount of time on developing methods to fit their specific needs or setting, but often without getting credit for this part of their work. MethodsX, an open access journal, now publishes this information in order to make it searchable, peer reviewed, citable and reproducible. Authors are encouraged to submit their MethodsX article as an additional item directly alongside the revised version of their manuscript. If your research article is accepted, your methods article will automatically be transferred over to MethodsX where it will be editorially reviewed. Please note an open access fee is payable for publication in MethodsX. Full details can be found on the MethodsX website. Please use [this template](#) to prepare your MethodsX article.

#### *Data statement*

To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the [Data Statement page](#).

## **AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

### **Proofs**

One set of page proofs (as PDF files) will be sent by e-mail to the corresponding author (if we do not have an e-mail address then paper proofs will be sent by post) or, a link will be provided in the e-mail so that authors can download the files themselves. Elsevier now provides authors with PDF proofs which can be annotated; for this you will need to [download the free Adobe Reader](#), version 9 (or higher). Instructions on how to annotate PDF files will accompany the proofs (also given online). The exact system requirements are given at the [Adobe site](#).

If you do not wish to use the PDF annotations function, you may list the corrections (including replies to the Query Form) and return them to Elsevier in an e-mail. Please list your corrections quoting line number. If, for any reason, this is not possible, then mark the corrections and any other comments (including replies to the Query Form) on a printout of your proof and scan the pages and return via e-mail. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. We will do everything possible to get your



article published quickly and accurately. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication: please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

### **Offprints**

The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized [Share Link](#) providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on [ScienceDirect](#). The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's [Webshop](#). Corresponding authors who have published their article open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

### **AUTHOR INQUIRIES**

Visit the [Elsevier Support Center](#) to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.

You can also [check the status of your submitted article](#) or find out [when your accepted article will be published](#).

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | <https://www.elsevier.com>