How to Improve the Chances to Get a Paper Accepted

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Where I’m Coming From

- 227 refereed journal, conference and workshop papers published
- 60% acceptance rate (very much an estimation!)
- 378 submissions
- 1,135 reviews! Phew!
Weekly reading group
Target the right journal, conference, or workshop … and write to that audience
Focus … who are you serving?

- The goal of this research is to aid [stakeholder] to [what is the problem] by [your research approach]

- Example: The goal of this research is to aid software developers to prioritize their security vulnerability detection efforts by the development of an attack surface approximation using metrics developed from stack traces from crash dumps.
Start with a compelling motivation

KEEP CALM AND MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE
Goal - Question - Metric
List your contributions in the introduction
Be impeccable with your research plan ... solicit feedback.
Be modest and up front:
Limitations and threats to validity
Share data and tools (if possible)
Enable replication

"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

"Then a miracle occurs..."
Pace yourself … let the work ripen
Require drafts from your students **EARLY!!**

... or don’t allow them to put your name on the paper.

*To be early is to be on time;*
*to be on time is to be late;*
*to be late is just SAD.*
Good old Reviewer #2

THANK YOU

REVIEWER 2
On Reviewer #2: Hanlon’s Razor

... and stupidity is far more common than malice.
Constantly keep abreast of latest research/literature
Review other’s papers

Help people and they will help you back:D
Read your paper aloud
"If you can’t explain something simply, you don’t understand it well."

*Albert Einstein*
Practice cooperation, not competition with colleagues in the same field … and your new faculty colleagues.
The inevitable rejection
Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as ‘quite an improvement.’
Many thanks to my former and current PhD students

- Mark Sherriff
- Andy Meneely
- Dright Ho
- Jee Hyun Hwang
- Jiang Zheng
- Rahul Pandita
- Pat Morrison
- Maria Riaz
- Sarah Heckman
- Xusheng Xiao
Final Thought

Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic, be enthusiastic and faithful, and you will accomplish your object. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803-1882, Essayist, Lecturer, and Poet
Images

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