FASLIP Discussions

Little things to make your paper more appealing

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* avoid *too* long sentences, shorter sentences easy to be clear
* use interesting figures – readers would enjoy reading
* try to use some simple, interesting, common examples
* check paper to avoid repetitions
  + repetitions can be useful, e.g. motivations, goals/scope, contributions in different way to express.
* Paper revisions: think of why supervisors raising the questions, why suggesting a different way.
  + Write complete sentences
  + Every paragraph should have a key idea or argument, should have connections with other paragraphs
  + Write the idea in a complete way, avoid write partially the idea everywhere
* over use, miss use “however”, “moreover”,
* over use “we”, “our”, never use “I”
* Mind little issues:
  + not start with “Because”, “why”, “so”
  + mind the difference between similar words
    - “because” “because of” ;
    - “due” and “due to”;
    - try not use “as” as “because”,
    - “while” and “meanwhile”;
    - “limit” and “limitation”;
    - “algorithms (specific steps), methods, *approaches* (more general), techniques (different general)”
      * PSO is a technique but not a method.
      * a single approach can have multiple methods
      * a single method can have multiple algorithms/techniques
    - “best” and “optimal”
      * “optimal” is a technical term means best possible among all possible results, best in the universe
        + Meng is the best researcher here, but not the optimal researcher
      * “best” is much safer to use
      * never use “optimal” = “good”
      * Pareto front = optimal
        + Use the approximated Pareto front
        + Be careful use Pareto front to say the non-dominated solutions your algorithm found, not say “optimal Pareto front ”
    - “propose”, “develop”, “investigate”, “design”，”devise”, “invent”
      * New (without using the word new): “propose”>“invent”>“develop”>“design” >“investigate *(sounds substantial)* ”
      * From algorithm point of view: You can design without development, but you have design in order to develop
      * ”present”, “describe” has to + new if you mean new
  + Genetic algorithm**s**, particle swarm optimisation, genetic programming
    - A genetic algorithm,
    - Never say “a genetic programming” “a particle swarm optimisation”
    - But can say “a genetic programming algorithm/method” “a particle swarm optimisation algorithm/method”
  + **A, an, the**
    - Use “**the** proposed PSO/GP method”, or “PSO/GP”, not use “PSO/GP method” ;
    - “**the** proposed Wine dataset”, or “Wine”, not use “Wine dataset” ;
    - Use “a/an” when first time use: we propose ***a*** PSO/GP method.
    - **A** linear GP method, **an** LGP method, **an** NLP method,
    - **a** multi-objective problem, **an** MOP
    - **An** hour, a university, a unified approach
  + Never use “although” and “but” together, only use one of them
  + Sample, example, instances
  + Example – not necessary true, generic
  + Sample – sample from data, not necessarily a data/instance, sampling indicates a distribution
  + Instance is a simulation in JSS
  + Instances/examples/observations/
  + Features/attributes/variables/
  + Datum/data: data is a collection of datum
    - The data are xxxx
* prepositions in main body text e.g. “above” and “below”, since those types of words often end up incorrect after a few revisions/reformatting of the paper. Also generally not good to use for formal writing.
  + Try to use Table xx, Section xx, not use “above” and “below”
* Figures/tables should be somewhere close to where it is mentioned, ideally after it is mentioned.
  + Do not put a figure but never mention it.
* Keep everything in a closed loop, i.e. don't mention anything earlier on that you don't plan on using directly or in a related form later in the paper, less is more.
  + Sometimes the presentation of the results can be changed to shift the focus of the paper and improve the overall contribution without having to revise the method.
* do not worry about page limit in first draft
  + Bullet points the key ideas in the paper – then write the full paper
* Tenses: past and present tense
  + Keep consistent, do not use a mixture
  + Write related work:
    - Was proposed (past tense), sets a threshold (present),
    - present to keep consistent
  + Abstract: present
  + Introduction: we **propose**
  + Conclusions: the method **achieved**
* Do not use too many “we”, but use “we propose a new method ”
* Numbers: usually less than 10 should be written (one, nine), >=10, use 19, 20
* Goals VS Contributions:
  + “in order to,” “to”, “to develop”🡪 goals. Not contributions
  + Contributions -- somethings have been achieved: Higher accuracy has been achieved, the new method enables xxxx, can xxx, the model is shown to be interpretable.
    - Tense: past tense ? “has been”, present should also be fine.
  + Goals/objectives are something you want to do; Contributions are something has been achieved
  + Often in Section I at the end of Introduction
* Well-known diagrams: redraw in every paper and cite
  + Draw **clear** figures, use R, Matlab, in eps, pdf format, not use png
  + Re-draw – make some changes, size, colour, rotate, add/remove
  + Consistent colour/pattern for the same component/
* Make sure you store **all copyright agreements** signed during your PhD, in case you need to show them when you submit the thesis
  + Keep everything about one paper into a single place.
* Take a good nickname for your proposed method
  + Short names
  + OMOPSO = our multi-objective PSO
  + For people who aren’t creative, you can use this algorithm for generating new method names <https://github.com/joaoperfig/GRaNDPapA>
* References:
  + recent references, from current year, from top journals
  + selective: not >80 references, ~40-50 references,
  + try to cite papers from world-leading researchers, try to cite others’ papers
  + check relevant papers from the target journal, TCYB