

# How to Write an Effective Technical Paper

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President, IEEE Power & Energy Society 2018 & 2019

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IEEE Power & Energy Society Chapter Germany  
Webinar 09 September 2020

## Webinar Speaker,

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Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1978.

M.S., Electrical Sciences, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 1975.

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### Professional Society Activities

- IEEE Member since 1975, Fellow 1998, Life Fellow 2014
- President, IEEE PES, 2018-2019
- Vice president, Publications, IEEE PES, 2001-2003, 2012-2013
- Vice President, Publications, IEEE, 2006
- Editor-in-Chief, IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy, 2010-2012
- Editor-in-Chief, IEEE Electrifications Magazine, 2013-2014
- Launched, the IEEE Power & Energy Technology Systems Journal (Open Access), 2014

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## Writing Quality Technical Papers (Webinar)

### Authoring Webinar

#### Presenter

Saifur Rahman, Ph.D.  
Professor and Director  
Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute



#### Education

Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1978.  
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- Editor-in-Chief, IEEE Electrifications Magazine, 2013-2014
- Launched, the IEEE Power & Energy Technology Systems Journal (Open Access), 2014

[www.srahman.org](http://www.srahman.org)

# Saifur Rahman

Candidate for IEEE President-Elect 2021

HOME

AWARDS

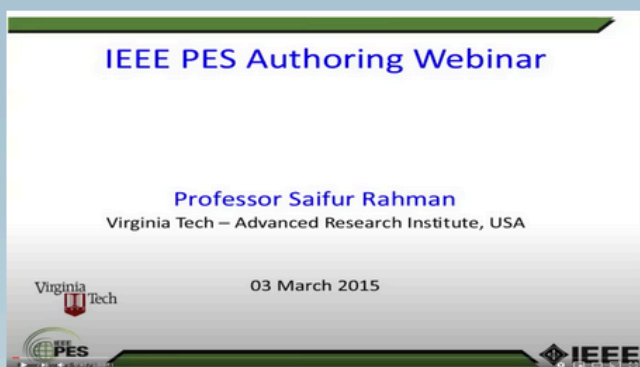
WEBINARS

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## IEEE Related Media



# Audience





**Audience**

## **Basic Questions**

1.Are you writing this paper for the sake of writing a paper?

2.Or do you want to show how others can benefit from your work?

## Audience

# Scientific research publishing

- Who writes scientific papers?
  - Engineers, scientists, educators and researchers from:
    - Corporations
    - Academia
    - Government
  - Students typically write and present conference papers before submitting journal articles



## Audience

# What IEEE editors and reviewers are looking for

- Content that is appropriate, in scope and level
- Clearly written original material that addresses a new and important problem
- Extension of previously published work
- Valid methods and rationale
- Illustrations, tables and graphs that support the text
- References that are current and relevant to the subject



## Audience

# How does the review process work?

- Editor-in-Chief gets the paper after it goes through content match check (iAuthenticate) and “banned author” check
- If the paper is in scope for the journal, it is assigned to an editor (associate editor)
- Editor assigns the paper to five or more reviewers
- Reviewers send their comments back to the editor
- Editor makes a recommendation to the EIC as follows:
  - Accept
  - Revise & Resubmit
  - Reject
- The EIC makes the final decision and informs the corresponding author

## Audience

# Why IEEE editors and reviewers reject papers

- The content is not a good fit for the publication
- There are serious scientific flaws:
  - Inconclusive results or incorrect interpretation
  - Fraudulent research
- It is poorly written
- It does not address a big enough problem or advance the scientific field
- Most of the work was previously published
- The quality is not good enough for the journal
- Reviewers have misunderstood the article

# Structure

# Paper Structure

## Elements of a manuscript

Title

Abstract

Keywords

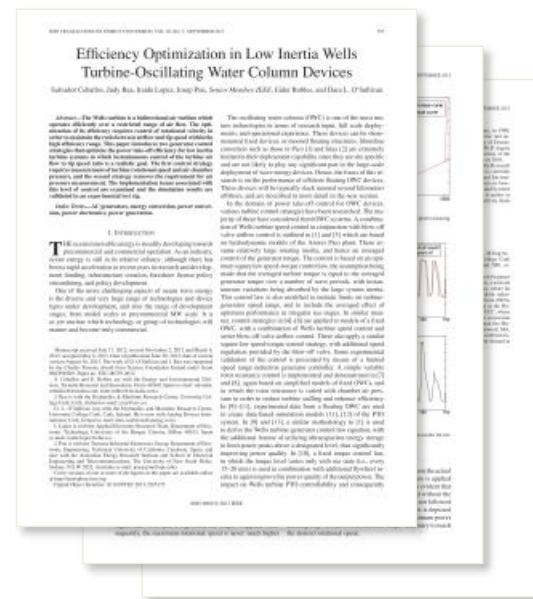
Introduction

Methodology

Results/Discussions/Findings

Conclusion

References



## Paper Structure

# Title

An effective title should...

- Answer the reader's question:  
*"Is this article relevant to me?"*
- Grab the reader's attention
- Describe the content of a paper using the fewest possible words
  - Is crisp, concise
  - Uses keywords
  - Avoids jargon

Good  
Title

VS.

Bad  
Title

## Title Dos and Don'ts



*A Human Expert-based Approach to Electrical Peak Demand Management*

**VS**



*A better approach of managing environmental and energy sustainability via a study of different methods of electric load forecasting*

## Paper Structure

# Abstract

A “stand alone” condensed version of the article

- No more than 250 words; can use past or present tense
- Uses keywords and index terms

Why they're useful & important  
& move the field forward

Why you did it

What you did

How the results  
were useful,  
important & move  
the field forward

## Paper Structure

# Abstract Dos and Don'ts



The objective of this paper was to propose a human expert-based approach to electrical peak demand management. The proposed approach helped to allocate demand curtailments (MW) among distribution substations (DS) or feeders in an electric utility service area based on requirements of the central load dispatch center. Demand curtailment allocation was quantified taking into account demand response (DR) potential and load curtailment priority of each DS, which can be determined using DS loading level, capacity of each DS, customer types (residential/commercial) and load categories (deployable, interruptible or critical). Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) was used to model a complex decision-making process according to both expert inputs and objective parameters. Simulation case studies were conducted to demonstrate how the proposed approach can be implemented to perform DR using real-world data from an electric utility. Simulation results demonstrated that the proposed approach is capable of achieving realistic demand curtailment allocations among different DSs to meet the peak load reduction requirements at the utility level.

**Vs**



This paper presents and assesses a framework for an engineering capstone design program. **We explain** how student preparation, project selection, and instructor mentorship are the three key elements that must be addressed before the capstone experience is ready for the students. **Next, we describe** a way to administer and execute the capstone design experience including design workshops and lead engineers. **We describe the importance** in assessing the capstone design experience and report recent assessment results of our framework. **We comment** specifically on what students thought were the most important aspects of their experience in engineering capstone design and provide quantitative insight into what parts of the framework are most important.

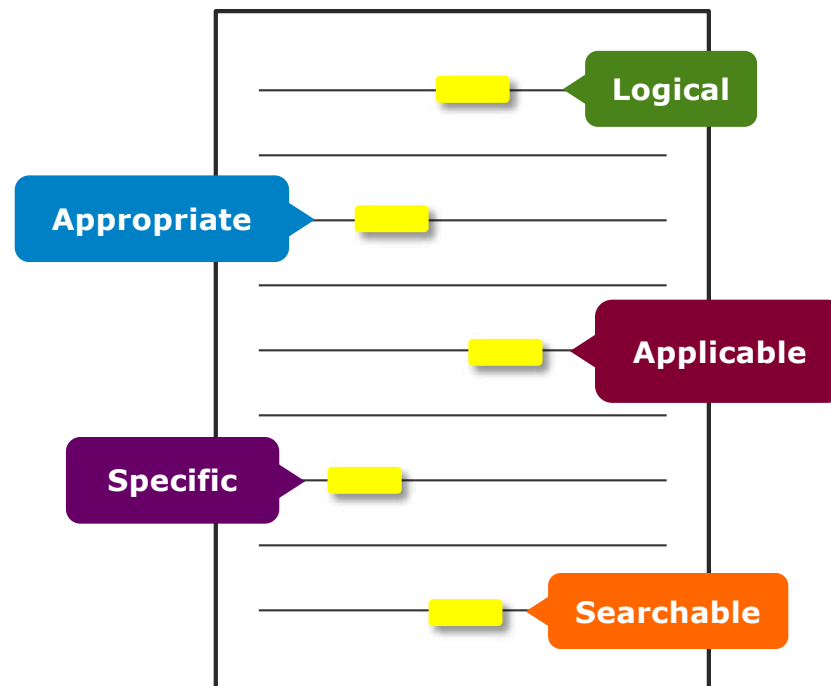
***First person, present tense***

***No actual results, only describes the organization of the paper***



## Paper Structure Keywords

Use in the Title and  
Abstract for enhanced  
Search Engine Optimization



## Paper Structure

# Introduction

- A description of the problem you researched
- It should move step by step through:

Generally  
known  
information  
about the topic

Prior studies'  
historical  
context to  
your research

Your hypothesis  
and an  
overview  
of the results

How the  
article is  
organized

- The introduction should be:
  - Specific, not too broad or vague
  - About 1-2 pages
  - Written in the present tense

## Paper Structure

# Methodology

- Problem formulation and the processes used to solve the problem, prove or disprove the hypothesis
- Use **illustrations** to clarify ideas and support conclusions:

### Tables

Present representative data or when exact values are important to show



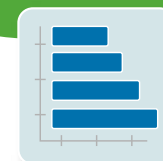
### Figures

Quickly show ideas/conclusions that would require detailed explanations



### Graphs

Show relationships between data points or trends in data



# Paper Structure

## Results/discussion

Demonstrate that you solved the problem or made significant advances

### Results: Summarizes the Data

- Should be clear and concise
- Use figures or tables with narrative to illustrate findings

### Discussion: Interprets the Results

- Why your research offers a new solution
  - How can it benefit other researchers
- professionals

### Discussion

### Results

IMENES-OLIVEIRA et al.: LST ESTIMATION METHODS FROM LANDSAT-4 THERMAL INFRARED SENSOR DATA

1803

the SC algorithm over the whole range of  $w$  values increase to 3–4 K, except for the TIGR<sub>0-10</sub> database, with an RMSE of 2 K. This result is explained by the  $w$  distribution, which is biased toward low values of  $w$  in this database. When only atmospheric profiles with  $w$  values lower than  $3 \text{ g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  are selected, the SC algorithm provides RMSEs around 1.5 K, with almost equal values of bias and standard deviation, around 1 K in both cases (with a negative bias, due the SC underestimates the LST). In contrast, when only  $w$  values higher than  $3 \text{ g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  are considered, the SC algorithm provides RMSEs higher than 2 K. In these cases, it is preferable to calculate the atmospheric functions of the SC algorithm directly from (3) rather than approximating them by a polynomial fit approach as given by (4).

#### V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The two Landsat-5 TIR bands allow the intercomparison of two LST retrieval methods based on different physical assumptions, such as the SC (only one TIR band required) algorithm (two TIR bands required). Down inversion of the transfer function, which can be considered as a "ground-truth" condition that the information about the ground  $L_d$  is accurate enough. The SC algorithm in this letter is a continuation of the previous SC algorithm developed for Landsat-4 and Landsat-5 TM sensors, and the ETM+ sensor on board the Landsat-7 platform [9], and it could be used to generate consistent LST products from the historical Landsat data using a single algorithm. An advantage of the SC algorithm is that, apart from surface emissivity, only water vapor content is required as input. However, it is expected that errors on LST become unacceptable for high water vapor contents (e.g.,  $> 3 \text{ g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ). This problem can be partly solved by computing the atmospheric functions directly from  $\tau$ ,  $L_w$ , and  $L_v$  values [see (2)], or else by including air temperature as input [15]. A main advantage of the SW algorithm is that it performs well over global conditions and, thus, a wide range of water vapor values; and that it only requires water vapor as input (apart from surface emissivity at the two TIR bands). However, the SW algorithm can be only applied to the new Landsat-8 TIRS data, since previous TM/ETM sensors only had one TIR band.

The LST algorithms presented in this letter were tested with simulated data sets obtained for a variety of global atmospheric conditions and surface emissivities. The results showed RMSE values of typically less than 1.5 K, although for the SC algorithm, this accuracy is only achieved for  $w$  values below  $3 \text{ g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ . Algorithm testing also showed that the SW errors are lower than the SC errors for increasing water vapor, and vice versa, as demonstrated in the simulation study presented in Sobrino and Jiménez-Muñoz [15]. Although an extensive validation exercise from *in situ* measurements is required to assess the performance of the two LST algorithms, the results obtained for the simulated data, the sensitivity analysis, as well as the previous findings for algorithms with the same mathematical structure give confidence in the algorithm accuracies estimated here.

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## Paper Structure

# Conclusion

- Explain what the research has achieved
  - As it relates to the problem stated in the Introduction
  - Revisit the key points in each section
  - Include a summary of the main findings and implications for the field
- Provide benefits and shortcomings of:
  - The solution presented
  - Your research and methodology
- Suggest future areas for research



## Paper Structure

## References

- Support and validate the hypothesis your research proves, disproves or resolves
- There is no limit to the number of references
  - But use only those that directly support your work (about 30)
- Ensure proper author attribution
  - Author name, *article title*, publication name, publisher, year published, volume and page number, Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

**Properly  
cited  
material**

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} (P_t^{s,+} + P_t^{s,-})^2 &= (\hat{P}_t^{s,+} - \hat{P}_t^{s,-})^2 + 4\hat{P}_t^{s,+}\hat{P}_t^{s,-} \\ &\leq (\hat{P}_t^{s,+} - \hat{P}_t^{s,-})^2 + 4\hat{P}_t^{s,+}\hat{P}_t^{s,-} \\ &= (\hat{P}_t^{s,+} + \hat{P}_t^{s,-})^2, \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Since  $P_t^{k+} - P_t^{k-} = \hat{P}_t^{k+} - \hat{P}_t^{k-}$ , we then have  $P_t^{k+} < P_t^{k+}$ , and  $P_t^{k-} < P_t^{k-}$ . Because the operational cost is an increasing function of  $(P_t^{k+}, P_t^{k-})$ , we obtain that

$$c_{0/m}[P_t^{s,+}, P_t^{s,-}] < c_{0/m}[\dot{P}_t^{s,+}, \dot{P}_t^{s,-}]. \quad (33)$$

Therefore the optimal pair  $\{P_i^{k,+}, P_i^{l,-}\}$  must satisfy that  $P_i^{k,+} P_i^{l,-} = 0$ , i.e., only one of  $P_i^{k,+}$ ,  $P_i^{l,-}$  can be non-zero. ■

## References

- to thus have
- $$\begin{aligned} P_{11}^{(t+1)} - P_{11}^{(t)} &= P_{11}^{(t)} - P_{11}^{(t-1)} - P_{11}^{(t-1)} + 4P_{11}^{(t-1)}P_{11}^{(t-1)} \\ &< P_{11}^{(t-1)} - P_{11}^{(t-1)} + P_{11}^{(t-1)} + P_{11}^{(t-1)} \\ &= P_{11}^{(t-1)} - P_{11}^{(t-2)} \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$
- Since  $P_{11}^{(t)} - P_{11}^{(t-1)} < P_{11}^{(t-1)} - P_{11}^{(t-2)}$ , we thus have  $P_{11}^{(t)} < P_{11}^{(t-1)} + P_{11}^{(t-1)} - P_{11}^{(t-2)}$ . Because the operational cost is an increasing function of  $\{P_{11}^{(t)}, P_{11}^{(t-1)}\}$ , we obtain that
- $$C_{\text{min}}(P_{11}^{(t)}, P_{11}^{(t-1)}) < C_{\text{min}}(P_{11}^{(t-1)}, P_{11}^{(t-2)}). \quad (33)$$
- Therefore the optimal price  $P_{11}^{(t)}$  must satisfy that  $P_{11}^{(t)} - P_{11}^{(t-1)} > 0$ , i.e., only one of  $P_{11}^{(t)}, P_{11}^{(t-1)}$  can be non-zero. ■
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## Who should be on the Authors' list

### A Report

A report documents in detail the work done including results for a project and has a lead author and other multiple authors

### A Technical Paper

- It highlights one or more aspects of a report
- Multiple papers can come out of one report
- Include any and all who have contributed to the writing of the paper
- Others can be acknowledged

# Ethics



## Ethics

# Types of misconduct

### Conflict of Interest

- A financial or other relationship with the publication at odds with the unbiased presentation of data or analysis.

### Plagiarism

- Copying another person's work word for word or paraphrasing without proper citation.

### Missing Author Attribution

- Must be given if you use another author's ideas in your article, even if you do not directly quote a source.

## Ethics

# Ethical publishing

### Plagiarism

- Avoid plagiarism
  - Cite and separate any verbatim copied material – **but how much?**
  - Paraphrase other's text properly, and include citation
  - Credit any ideas from other sources
  - Familiarize yourself with IEEE Policies



**Refer to our Tips Sheet**  
[http://www.ieee.org/publications\\_standards/publications/authors/plagiarism\\_and\\_multiple\\_submissions.pdf](http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/authors/plagiarism_and_multiple_submissions.pdf)

## Ethics

# Ethical publishing

### Duplication, Redundancies & Multiple Submissions

- Author must submit original work that:
  - Has not appeared elsewhere for publication
  - Is not under review for another refereed publication
  - Cites previous work
  - Indicates how it differs from the previously published work
  - Authors MUST also **inform the editor** when submitting any previously published work



**Refer to our Tips Sheet**  
[http://www.ieee.org/publications\\_standards/publications/authors/plagiarism\\_and\\_multiple\\_submissions.pdf](http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/authors/plagiarism_and_multiple_submissions.pdf)

# Where to Publish?

# Traditional Journals -

Articles available through subscription

# Open Access Journals –

Author pays, free download

# Hybrid Journals –

Most articles are traditional, some are open access (author preference)

# Open Access Publications

## Next Steps

# Open Access Opportunity for IEEE Authors (Author pays model)

IEEE provides 3 open access publishing options to meet the varying needs of authors:

- New multidisciplinary journal, **IEEE Access**
- 100+ Hybrid journals
- Fully open access topical journals



<http://open.ieee.org/>

## PES Full Open Access Option #1

### IEEE Open Access Journal of Power and Energy

- Will start publishing articles from January 2020
- Existing OA Journal of Power and Energy Technology Systems will be rebranded with this **new name**, scope covering the entire field of PES for both practice-oriented and academic articles
- Article processing charge subsidised at **US\$1350**
- Between 10-15 articles each year will receive further subsidy depending on authors' affordability/circumstances



## PES Full Open Access Option #2

A dedicated section on Power & Energy for publishing papers in the PES field in **IEEE Access**


- The section will start from January 2020, submissions started in September 2019
- Paper will be handled by 3 PES-appointed Editors
- APC: **US\$1750**

# Impact Factor



# **Are we depending too heavily on Impact Factors?**

# Impact Factor from Journal Citation Reports

 the answer company  
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## Journal Citation Reports

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**Description:**

Journal Citation Reports® offers a systematic, objective means to critically evaluate the world's leading journals, with quantifiable, statistical information based on citation data. By compiling articles' cited references, JCR helps to measure research influence and impact at the journal and category levels, and shows the relationship between citing and cited journals. Available in Science and Social Sciences editions.

To find out more, visit us on the [Web of Science™ website](#)



Systematic and objective

## Impact Factor is not necessarily enough of a metric

Other attributes:

- Journal's reputation in the community is important
- For new and lesser known journals – look at the editorial board, their reputation

## **Other ways of judging a journal's value to the engineering community**

- 1. Number of Downloads** (IEEE uses this information for revenue distribution)
- 2. Patent Citations** (Available from IEEE)

# Follow-up Steps

## Process of Writing the Paper

Discuss the content among team members  
Literature search – Reference List  
Description of the Experiment/Model  
Results/Discussion  
Write the Conclusion  
Collect the components – Prepare the draft  
All members comment on the draft  
Produce the final copy



# I would like to see a broader IEEE

We need to ensure that we are “READY FOR RECOVERY”, when we get back to the “NEW NORMAL” after COVID-19. Let us enhance cooperation, collaboration and community spirit.

For this we need to make IEEE broader so that IEEE is more relevant to the work our members do regardless where they work.

We need more participation from volunteers globally in IEEE governance. A broader based IEEE will make the Institute more relevant to technologists and academics from all parts of the world.

I would like to see more **IEEE Senior Members** and **IEEE Fellows** from Regions **8, 9 & 10**

# IEEE President-elect Election 2020

Prof. Saifur Rahman (s.rahman@ieee.org)



Past-President of IEEE Power & Energy Society  
Past-Chair, IEEE Publication Services & Products Board

PES accomplishments:

PES University

PES Corporate Engagement Program

PES Chapters' Councils in China, India, Africa and Latin America

website: <https://www.srahman.org>

