

A Paper Only Becomes Research Once It Is Written

Writing Papers — From Draft to the World

Tohoku University / Suzuki Lab

In December, You Will Be Pressing Submit

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Today's goal: See yourself submitting

B4

Get the big picture



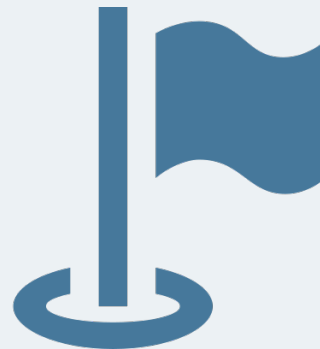
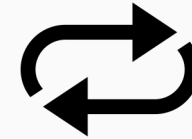
M / D

Check where you stand



Postdoc

Check for gaps

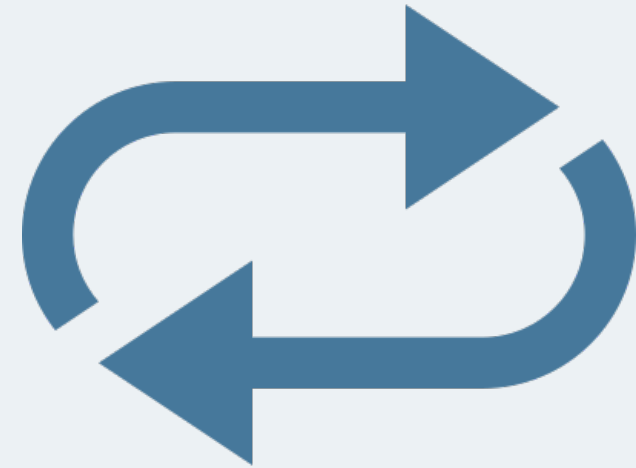


A Discovery Never Written Down

Why we write

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- Research only becomes science
once it is shared in a reproducible form
- A paper is your belief
- expressed to the world
- The final phase of the inquiry cycle



A paper completes the inquiry cycle's final phase

Inquiry: From Doubt to Belief

「疑念」を「信念」に変えるプロセス

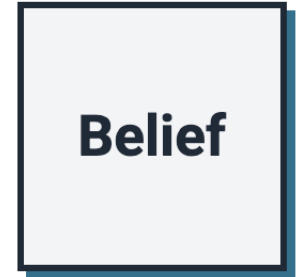


Doubt

疑念（違和感）



Inquiry Cycle



Belief

- Probabilistic (確率的)
- Provisional (暫定的)
- Updatable (更新可能)

What is a Research Paper?

論文とは何か

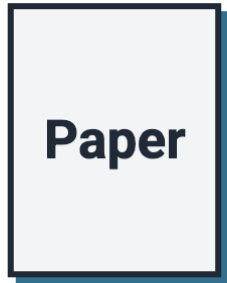
A paper is a medium that **fixes** questions and beliefs.

論文は問いと信念を固定する媒体である。



Consequences of Fixing

固定すると何が起こるか



Fixing Belief



Critique

批判可能になる



Next Question

次の探究へ

Four Acts: Before, During, Submitting, After

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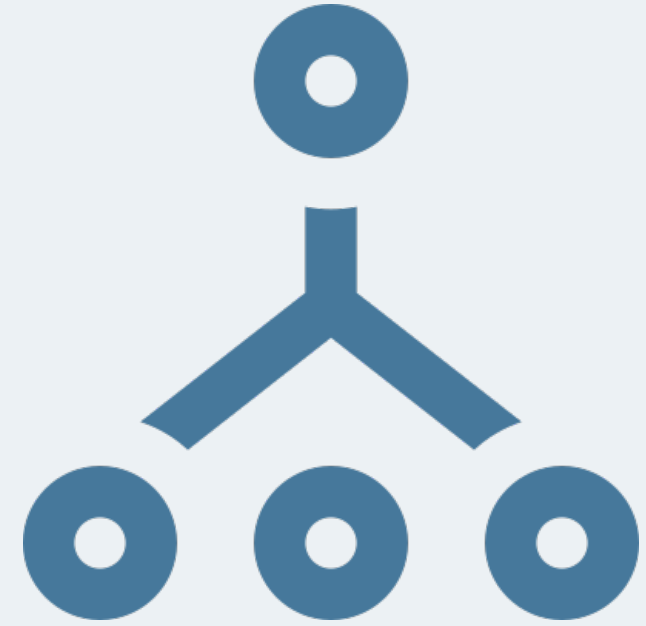
Today's agenda in four acts

Act 1 Write (Draft mindset)

Act 2 Polish (Authorship, Acknowledgements,
Data, Self-plagiarism, AI)

Act 3 Submit (Cover letter)

Act 4 Dialogue (Review process)



Today unfolds in four acts, all the way to submission

PART 01

Your Greatest Enemy Is Perfectionism

Draft Mindset

01

Once Fix Figures, Just Write

Start writing

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🌱 Idea | アイデア

🧭 Framing | フレーミング

🖼️ Figures | 図で主張を作る

✍️ Draft | 文章にする



Paper card can be a stem of your writing

Sharpening a Manuscript Until It Can Withstand Peer Review

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Install "paper writing skills"

- A methods proposing paper lives or dies by the strength of its claim. It isn't strong until you can say "we made X possible for the first time," not merely "we observed X."
手法提案論文は強い主張がすべて。「Xを観察した」でなく「Xを初めて可能にした」と言い切れて初めて強い。
- Read the output sentence by sentence; the manuscript won't get stronger until you can say, for every sentence, why it's there.
出力を一文ずつ読み、なぜその文がそこにあるか言えない限り原稿は強くない。
- A passage that doesn't land when you read it is a symptom of a flaw in the logic or the claim — don't dismiss unreadability as a stylistic issue; trace it back to the claim and the logic. Your own snag is a preview of the reviewer's snag.
読んで頭に入らない文章は、論理か主張の欠陥の兆候。読みにくさを書き方の問題で片付けず、主張・論理に遡る。自分の引っかかりは査読者の引っかかりの予兆。
- The smell of AI erodes a reviewer's trust. Removing it isn't an aesthetic preference — it's a defense for getting the paper through review.
AI臭は査読者の信頼を損なう。排除は美的好みでなく査読を通すための防御。
- Anticipate the review, don't just react to it. Don't hide weaknesses — own them as stated limitations, and use logic to draw a clean boundary around them. AI is a drafting tool, not the author.
査読対応は先回り。弱点は隠さず自分から限界として認め、論理で切り分ける。AIは下書き器であって書き手ではない。

Check Writing paper skills

PART 02

A Paper Isn't Finished With the Manuscript Alone

Beyond the manuscript

02

Authorship Needs All Four Criteria, Not Some

ICMJE's four pillars

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- 1 Substantial contribution
 - 2 Drafting / revising
 - 3 Final approval
 - 4 Accountability — all four, or it isn't authorship
- "Just collected data" or "just funded it" -> Acknowledgements



All four criteria, or it isn't authorship

Decide Author Order and Roles Before You Start Writing

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Talk early, not at submission

Author disputes right before submission

are the most draining

Agree early on first / corresponding / co-author roles

When unsure, ask Suzuki (advisor makes the call)



The time to talk is the Framing stage

Acknowledgements Record Sub-authorship Contributions Accurately

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Credit where credit is due

- Material providers (include their location)
- Technical support, language editing
- Get grant numbers exactly right
- Get their consent before listing them



Acknowledgements need consent and accuracy too

Data Is Now Reviewed as Part of the Paper

Open science is the default

- Many journals have data-sharing policies
- FAIR: Findable, Accessible,
- Interoperable, Reusable
- Use a DOI-backed repository (e.g., Zenodo)



Data is now held to the same standard as the paper

A README and a License Hand Your Data to a Stranger

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Package your data for strangers

- README must include: file naming,
- variable definitions, ORCID
- Software requirements listed
- Dates in ISO 8601 (YYYY-MM-DD)
- State the license explicitly (CC0/CC-BY)



Your data is a package addressed to a stranger

Even Your Own Text Can Become Self-Plagiarism

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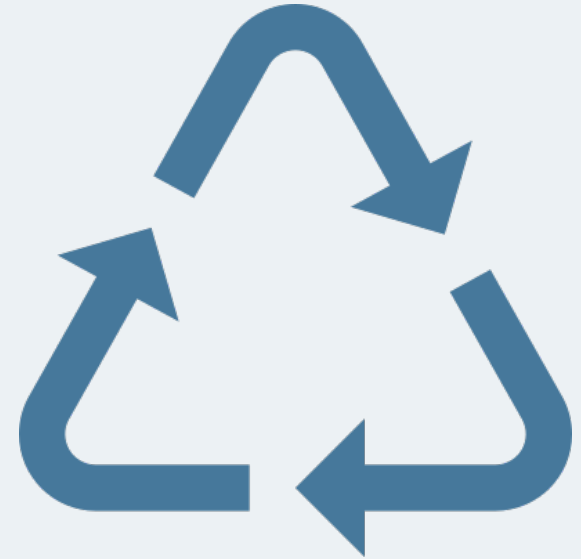
Text recycling has section-specific rules

Methods: reuse is common, but cite the source

Introduction: wholesale copying is not allowed

Results/Discussion: no reuse (duplicate publication)

Extra caution turning a thesis into a paper



How much reuse is allowed depends on the section

AI Cannot Be an Author

Deficit of accountability

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- AI cannot sign a copyright agreement or bear ethical responsibility
- Authors bear full responsibility for hallucinated (fake) citations
- If used, disclose tool name, version, and purpose in Methods/Acknowledgements



What can't be held accountable can't be an author

Feeding a Manuscript Under Review to AI Is a Serious Violation

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Confidentiality is absolute

- Uploading an unpublished manuscript = breach of confidentiality and copyright
- Check each publisher's policy
(Springer Nature generally bans AI-generated figures)
- Suzuki Lab practice: log tool use and check the disclosure statement before submission



Confidentiality is non-negotiable

PART 03

The Editor Doesn't Read the Paper First

The cover letter

03

From Submission to Publication

What actually happens after you click submit

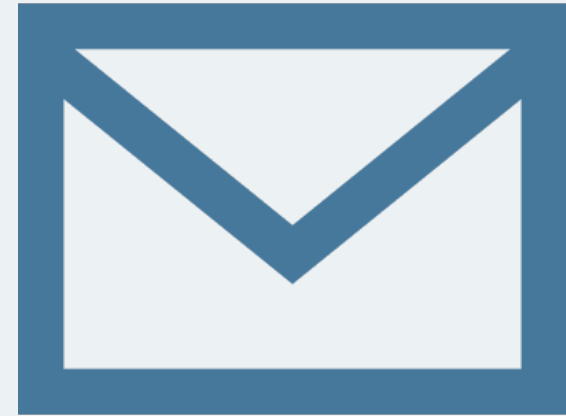
- ① Submission
- ② Editor decision (desk rejection possible)
- ③ Peer review 1-3 months
- ④ Decision (Accept / Minor / Major / Reject)
- ⑤ Major revision = still in the running
after revision -> re-review
- ⑥ Publication

The Cover Letter Is Your 90-Second Pitch to the Editor

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Your first (and maybe only) pitch

- Most desk rejections are decided right here
- A copy-pasted abstract is spotted instantly
- Say, in your own words, why this journal, why now, and what's new



The cover letter is a 90-second first impression

Submitting in December Means Figures Are Locked by October

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Count backwards from December

December: Submit

November: co-author review, write the cover letter

October: Draft complete

August: Figures locked

Now (July): Sharpen your Paper card's one-line claim



Work backward from December, starting today

Here's Your Next Step

One action per career stage

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B4

Write your Paper card's
claim in one sentence

M / D

Self-diagnose your draft
with the submission checklist

Postdoc

Update your response-letter
template to fit your style

One step to take home today