

The Review Process

IEEE RAS YRP Online Event

Conference vs Journal

The IEEE RAS organizes or co-organizes about:

- 11 fully-sponsored conferences
- 19 financially co-sponsored conferences
- 48 technically co-sponsored conferences and workshops.

The three **major RAS conferences** are:

- **ICRA** - IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation
- **CASE** - IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering
- **IROS** - IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems

The IEEE RAS releases about:

- 4 fully-sponsored publications
- 8 financially co-sponsored publications
- 11 technically co-sponsored publications

The four **RAS sponsored publications** are:

- **RA-L** - IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters
- **RA-M** - IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine
- **T-ASE** - IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering
- **T-RO** - IEEE Transactions on Robotics

Different review process

Why reviewing?

1) For the research community (quality control)

- > is it worth publishing or not?
- > will anybody read it (and understand it)?
- > does it address an important question or problem?
- > does it make a great/major/good/minor contribution?
- > did anybody do it before?

2) To help the authors

- > constructive criticism: can the work be improved?
- > accept, revise or reject?

3) For yourself

- > to learn more about the work of other researchers
- > to learn how to criticise your own work
- > to learn how to better present your work
- > to learn how the reviewing process works

1. Conference issues a Call for Papers
 - > list of topics
 - > paper format (IEEE), pages (ICRA: 6+N, IROS/CASE: 6+2 with extra charge)
 - > deadline (ICRA: mid-Sept, IROS: beg March, CASE: mid-March)
2. Authors write papers and submit them to the conference before the deadline via **PaperPlaza**
3. Based on the author's choice of the first keyword the paper is initially assigned to an Editor
NB: there are 7-30 Editors assigned to a corresponding number of groups of keywords, supervised by an Editor-in-Chief
4. The Editor assigns the paper to an Associated Editor (AE), avoiding conflict of interest
5. AE finds N reviewers for each paper (**$N \geq 2$, $N < 5$**)
Associate Editor should reject any sub-standard (too short or too shallow) or not-constructive review.
6. AE suggest a Review Summary Report for each paper based on its N reviews, summarizing the reviews, stating his/her own opinion on the paper, and noting any special circumstances. AE also recommends a score
"A," "B+," or "B" are likely accept, "D" are likely rejects, "B-," "C" or "C-" are borderline papers
7. The Editor oversees all the reviews and balances the scores based on similarly-reviewed papers
8. The Conference Editorial Board (CEB) collects reviews and provides recommendations on acceptance
9. The program chair (PC) makes the final decision on acceptance/rejection
10. Successful authors submit the revised paper

Review process

Journals (RA-L/RA-M/T-RO)

1. No need for a call for papers, except for Special Issues (SI)
SI have a submission deadlines, special organisers, are on a particular topic (high selection)
2. Authors submit a journal paper
3. Editor-in-chief makes a first evaluation of the paper: ok/reject
4. Editor-in-chief together with Senior Editors assign a paper to an Associate Editor (AE)
5. AE finds N reviewers for each paper ($N \geq 3$, $N < 6$)
Associate Editor should reject any sub-standard (too short or too shallow) or not-constructive review.
6. AE suggest a Review Summary Report for each paper based on its N reviews, summarizing the reviews, stating his/her own opinion on the paper, and noting any special circumstances. AE also recommends a score
"A," "B+," or "B" are likely accept, "D" are likely rejects, "B-," "C" or "C-" are borderline papers
7. The Editorial Board (EB) has a first discussion based on the reviews and provide a feedback to authors
> Accept/Revise and Resubmit (Minor/Major)/Reject
8. Authors submit revised paper (v2) and reply to reviewers with detailed answers
9. Reviewers review the paper (v2), write new reviews. AE writes a new Review Summary Report and the Editorial Board discuss the status of the manuscript.
10. The EB makes the final decision on acceptance/rejection
11. Successful authors submit the final (v2? v3? v99?) version of the paper

ITERATIVE PROCESS*



*For RA-L, the **second recommendation** is also the final one



- Any **IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)** paper, other than survey papers, may be presented at either an upcoming **ICRA, IROS, CASE, RoboSoft, Humanoids, BioRob, RO-MAN**.
- Any **IEEE Transactions on Robotics (T-RO), IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering (T-ASE), IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine (RA-M)** paper, other than communication items and survey papers, may be presented at either an upcoming **ICRA, IROS, or CASE**, provided most of the key ideas of the paper have never appeared at a conference with a published proceedings.

>> Authors of accepted RAS journals will be given the option to **select a conference** at which they wish to present. Conference options will be open only for a **period of time** only.

Questions?

The Young Reviewers Program

For high-quality science



Questions

- What are the average durations for each step of the review process?

Depends on the journal/conference, e.g., RA-L provides a final decision on any manuscript within 6 months from submission.

RA-L Editorial Timeline

The schedule for a sampling of the conference options are shown below. Note that the day count is applicable to any RA-L submission, including those papers that are submitted to RA-L only (without a conference option). Most papers should progress through the review process faster than shown in this table -- the timeline show here gives the absolute latest deadlines.

Time (days)	Duration (days)	Action
Day 0	0	Manuscript received. Submission Deadline Assignment of M S to SE and AE
Day 7	7	(Optional) Editorial reject of MS
Day 14	7	(AEs assign MS to REs) At least three REs commit to review MS
Day 44	30	(REs submit reviews) At least two good reviews per MS are received
Day 58	14	(AE interacts with REs to improve reviews) AE submits recommendation
Day 72	14	(SE interacts with AE) SEs endorses/revise AE recommendation
Day 86	14	(EIC checks process) Authors receive reviews and RA-L recommendation
Day 100	(14)	Authors of accepted MS submit final RA-L version
Day 116	30	Authors of RR MS resubmit revised MS
Day 116	-	MS re-assigned to SE and AE
Day 123	7	AE re-assigns MS to REs (if needed)
Day 137	14	REs submit the second review
Day 144	7	AE submits the final recommendation
Day 148	4	SE endorses/revise recommendation
Day 151	3	(EIC checks process) Authors receive the final decision
Day 165	14	Authors submit final files
Day 170	5	Camera-ready version appears on Xplore
Day 180	10	Absolute Final Publication Deadline

Questions

- Can Masters students also be reviewers for journals? If so, how to apply?
- How can we review papers in ICRA or IROS conferences?
- How can we review IROS/ICRA conference papers?
- What should be the initial steps for someone with no real past experience to be reviewer in IEEE/RAS journals/conferences?
- How to actively register and become reviewer of IEEE journals other than publishing in the journal and get invited for review?
- What are the prerequisites for becoming a reviewer? Is having an undergraduate degree enough?
- How to qualify as a reviewer?

Publications, networking and reputation

- What is the benefit of doing reviews?

See slide 3 of the presentation

Questions

- During my Ph.D, i sent a paper to ieee Trans. Robotics who took 6 months for review decision and subsequent rejection Afterwards, I sent another article to IEEE Trans. Mechatronics and, the review took 18 months(first review in 8 months, second review in another 6, third review in 4 more!), that resulted in a big career loss. I see that such practices in review is still the case with many ieee robotics journals-especially the ones sent from Eastern countries. Is there any way to get around this?

>> The IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ROBOTICS (and others) also publishes evolved papers, which build on the authors' previously-published conference work.
>> Select the best journal for your publication

Other questions?

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