



FORMATH

Forest Resources & Mathematical Modeling

Author Guidelines

Focus and Scope	1
Manuscript Types	1
Journal & Ethics Policies	2
Peer Review Process	8
Copyright, Licenses and Usage	11
Manuscript Submission	12
Manuscript Preparation	12
Accepted Manuscripts	18
Contact	18

■ **Focus and Scope**

The FORMATH journal is the official journal published by FORMATH Research Society. It is a peer-reviewed, international, and interdisciplinary open access forestry journal that publishes outstanding and informative papers in all areas of "Forest Resources and Mathematical Modeling". The journal publishes high-quality research articles that cover a broad spectrum of subject areas in forestry, through peer review to ensure originality, relevance, and readability. The FORMATH journal has no charges for publication (No APC Charge), which has been sustained by a voluntary editorial team and a team of reviewers since 2002, while reducing publication costs by discontinuing the issuance of printed materials. Besides Free Publication (Normal Publication), the FORMATH journal also offers rapid review process.

The FORMATH journal upholds the highest standards research and publishing ethics. It aims to publish original research papers as well as enhance communication amongst researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and specialists concerned with forest resource management. The FORMATH journal currently publishes one issue per year; consisting of mostly papers presented at the annual meeting of the FORMATH Research Society. It must be noted that papers considered for publications are not limited to those presented at the annual meetings. All submitted papers must be previously unpublished and should be well-written with grace and clarity. The papers must also be written in a style that is understandable to a broad spectrum of readers including students, researchers, specialists, and policymakers working on forest resource management.

■ **Manuscript Types**

There are four categories for publication. They are: "Methodological Category" which emphasizes on methodological advancement in scientific works; "Application Category" which is devoted to new issues requiring scientific works; "Review Category" which provides a comprehensive summary or discussion of an area of scientific research alongside a new

perspective or conclusion; and "Rapid Communication Category", which may be a short, peer-reviewed articles that focuses on a high-quality, activity-driven, self-contained piece of original work and/or a report focused activity based on existing research. These categories should be of significance and of broad interest to readers of The FORMATH journal. The classification of an article into a suitable category is determined through the peer review process.

■ Journal & Ethics Policies

The FORMATH journal publication ethics is based on recommendations of COPE's Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors and the standards of ethical behavior is therefore expected of all parties involved: Authors, Editors and Reviewers.

The FORMATH journal is committed to maintaining the highest standards of publication ethics with all publications, and to uphold ethical research practices. The FORMATH journal adheres to the Guidelines on Good Publication Practice (COPE, 1999), the Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors (COPE, 2011)

We encourage editors to follow the COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors and to refer reviewers to the COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers as appropriate. We shall take all possible measures against publication malpractices.

The FORMATH journal is responsible for enforcing a rigorous peer-review with strict ethical policies and standards to ensure that high quality scientific works are added to the field of scholarly publications. To avoid cases of plagiarism, data falsification, inappropriate authorship credit, and other malpractices, the reviewers and editors of the FORMATH journal are advised to be extra vigilant in identifying such issues as serious offenses, and to flag offending authors for appropriate actions.

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript has not been previously published (in part or in whole, in any language), is not in press, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press or published elsewhere. The availability of a manuscript on a publicly accessible preprint server does not constitute prior publication (see 'Preprints').

If authors choose to submit their manuscript elsewhere before a final decision has been made on its suitability for publication in the journal, they should first withdraw it from the journal.

Submission

The journal welcomes manuscript submissions from authors in anywhere in the world.

Submission of a manuscript to the journal implies that all authors: have approved it, warrant it is factual, have agreed to its submission, and have the right to publish it.

Originality

Authors warrant that the submitted manuscript is an original research. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of originality may be rejected or retracted at the Editors' discretion.

Preprints

To support the wide dissemination of research, the journal encourages authors to post their research manuscripts on community-recognized preprint servers, either before or alongside submission to the journal. This policy applies only to the original version of a manuscript that describes primary research. Any version of a manuscript that has been revised in response to reviewers' comments, accepted for publication or published in the journal should not be posted on a preprint server. Instead, forward links to the published manuscript may be posted on the preprint server.

Authors should retain copyright in their work when posting to a preprint server.

Scooping

When assessing the novelty of a manuscript submitted to the journal, the editors will not be influenced by other manuscripts that are posted on community-recognized preprint servers after the date of submission to the journal (or after the date of posting on a preprint server, if the manuscript is submitted to the journal within 4 months).

Authorship

Submission to the journal implies that all authors have seen and approved the author list. Changes to the author list after manuscript submission – such as the insertion or removal of author names, or a rearrangement of author order – must be approved by all authors and the editor.

Only persons who meet the following four criteria for authorship should be listed as authors in the manuscript (ICMJE Recommendation 2018)(<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>) as they must be able to take public responsibility for the content:

- a. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work
- b. Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work
- c. Drafted the manuscript or revised it critically for important intellectual content
- d. Have investigated and approved the final version of the manuscript for its submission for publication.

The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors are based on the above four criteria, and no inappropriate co-authors included in the author list.

Contributing to research can broadly be classified into the following categories:

- a. Intellectual contribution (ideas, writing)
- b. Practical contribution (conducting research, data analysis)
- c. Financial contribution (funds, experimental material)

Any researcher who does not meet all four criteria for authorship should be listed as a contributor in the "Acknowledgements" section of the manuscript. All persons who made substantial contributions to the work reported in the manuscript (such as technical help, writing and editing assistance, general support) but who do not meet the criteria for authorship must not be listed as an author, but should be acknowledged in the "Acknowledgements" section after their written approval.

Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication

The authors should ensure that their work is original, and if they have used the work and/or words of others, they should appropriately cite or quote them. An author should not publish the same work (i.e. work describing essentially the same research) in more than one journal. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical publication behaviour. Simply said, an author should not submit for consideration in another journal a previously published paper.

Data falsification, data fabrication and image integrity

Authors must not falsify or fabricate data. Authors may digitally manipulate or process images, but only if the adjustments are kept to a minimum, are applied to the entire image, meet community standards, and are clearly described in the manuscript. All images in a manuscript must accurately reflect the original data on which they are based. Authors must not move, remove, add or enhance individual parts of an image. The editors reserve the right to request original, unprocessed images from the authors. Failure to provide requested images may result in a manuscript being rejected or retracted.

Reproducing copyrighted material

If a manuscript includes material that is not under the authors' own copyright, the authors must obtain permission from the copyright holder(s) to reproduce it.

If a manuscript includes previously published material, the authors must obtain permission from the copyright owners and the publisher of the original work to reproduce it. The authors must cite the original work in their manuscript.

Copies of all reproduction permissions must be included with the manuscript when it is first submitted.

Secondary publication

One of the main ambitions of the journal is to ensure the dissemination of knowledge, especially knowledge that is inaccessible to the journal's broad international audience. Following [ICMJE policies](#) on this issue, the journal therefore considers articles that have been previously published in Japanese if the following conditions are met:

- All authors of the original publication agree to the secondary publication, but understand that acceptance in the journal is not guaranteed.
- The manuscript undergoes full peer review.
- Editors from both journals approve of the re-publication.
- Full copyright permissions, per the section 'Reproducing copyrighted material', are supplied upon manuscript submission.
- A reasonable period has elapsed before the publication of the English version, to maintain the priority of the original publication. This time will be decided by the editors of both journals.
- The journal's audience is different to the original publication's audience. Differentiating elements can include that the original publication and the original journal are published wholly in Japanese; the original journal is not in PubMed, the Science Citation Index Expanded (Clarivate Analytics), Scopus (Elsevier) or other

large international database; and the original journal has a restricted distribution (e.g. in print to members of a society only). Authors should contact the Editor-in-Chief for clarification if needed.

- The secondary publication faithfully reflects the data and interpretations of the original publication.

Secondary publications will include text that indicates they are fully peer-reviewed translations of an original publication. They will contain a statement such as: “This article is based on a study first reported in [journal title, with full reference].”

Data and reproducibility

All available data upon which the conclusions of the manuscript depend on must be made available upon request, while considering the manuscript for publication in FORMATH, and upon reasonable request immediately after publication.

It is recommended to deposit datasets in public repositories, where available. Datasets in repositories should be bidirectionally linked to the published material in a way that ensures proper attribution of data production.

It is encouraged to present all other data values in machine readable format as supplementary information. Materials sharing after publication may be required.

Sharing information about code and software is also encouraged. At a minimum and where relevant, a statement must be included in the manuscript that describes availability of the code or software and how it can be obtained.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools

As per [COPE guidance](#), authors must disclose and fully describe any use of generative or non-generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (also known as Large Language Models or LLMs) in the Methods section. This includes, but is not limited to, using AI tools to collect or analyze data, produce, or amend images or graphics used in the manuscript, or write all or part of the manuscript. Authors must describe which tools they used and how the tools were used. In general, the use of generative AI tools is allowed only where that use is an integral part of the research design or methods. Other uses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, authors remain responsible for all the content of their submitted manuscript.

Authors should be aware that there are ongoing concerns about the copyright status of any AI-generated content. Authors must adhere to the instructions in the ‘Reproducing copyrighted material’ section of this document and comply with relevant statutory and other copyright laws.

It is acceptable to use non-generative AI tools to improve the readability of a manuscript, such as through spelling and grammar checking, but any such use should be declared to the Editors upon submission.

Reviewers and Editors must not upload unpublished manuscripts to any AI tool or service. Doing so would breach privacy and confidentiality provisions, as described elsewhere in this

document. There are also potential copyright issues if unpublished material is uploaded to a third-party service.

Author competing interests and conflicts of interest

A “Conflict of Interest” is defined as any financial interests or connections, direct or indirect, or other situations that might raise the question of bias in the work reported or the conclusions, implications or opinions stated, including pertinent commercial or other sources of funding for author(s) or for the associated department(s) or organization(s), personal relationships, or direct academic competition.

A simple test for “Conflict of Interest” is to seek if there is any arrangement that would compromise the perception of your impartiality or that of your coauthors if it was to emerge after publication and you have not declared it.

- The corresponding author is expected to obtain the relevant information from all coauthors on the “Conflicts of Interest” described above.
- FORMATH requires a declaration of any “Conflict of Interest” to be included in the manuscript upon submission. This information will be available to the Editors. If your manuscript is published, this information will be communicated in a statement in the published manuscript.
- The corresponding author must report on behalf of all coauthors.
- On submission, any potential “Conflict of Interest” should be clearly stated for each author by the corresponding author. The corresponding author is responsible for confirming with all coauthors whether they have any conflicts to declare.
- All reviewers are either asked to decline to review a manuscript if they have a potential conflict or declare any potential conflict.

Editors would not handle the review of a manuscript if there was a potential “Conflict of Interest”.

Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section of their manuscript.

Confidentiality

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. By submitting their manuscript to the journal, the authors warrant that they will keep all correspondence about their manuscript (from the Editorial Office, editors and reviewers) strictly confidential.

Self-archiving (Green Open Access) policy

Self-archiving, also known as Green Open Access, enables authors to deposit a copy of their manuscript in an online repository. The journal encourages authors of original research manuscripts to upload their article to an institutional or public repository immediately after publication in the journal.

Long-term digital archiving

J-STAGE preserves its full digital library, including the journal, with Portico in a dark archive (see <https://www.portico.org/publishers/jstage/>). In the event that the material becomes unavailable at J-STAGE, it will be released and made available by Portico.

Advertising Policy

The journal does not allow advertising on its articles, other pages, or websites.

Publication frequency

The FORMATH journal is published online in December on an annual basis.

Date of Submission is the date when the submitted manuscript arrives at the secretariat of FORMATH. Date of Acceptance is the date when the reviewers determine that the submitted manuscript can be published.

The Listing Order is the order of acceptance. A certification of publication will be issued upon request.

Open access policy

The FORMATH journal provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge under the term of Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

■ Peer Review Process

Editorial and peer review process

The journal uses single-anonymized peer review.

When a manuscript is submitted to the journal, it is assigned to the Editor-in-Chief, who performs initial screening. Manuscripts that do not fit the journal's scope or are not deemed suitable for publication are rejected without review. The remaining manuscripts are assigned to a handling Editor who assigns two reviewers to assess each manuscript. The deadline for submission of the reviewers' reports varies by article type.

Upon receipt of the two reviewers' reports, the Editor makes the first decision on the manuscript. If the decision is to request revision of the manuscript, authors have 2 months to resubmit their revised manuscript. Revised manuscripts submitted after this deadline may be treated as new submissions. The Editor may send revised manuscripts to peer reviewers for their feedback or may use his or her own judgement to assess how closely the authors have followed the Editor's and the reviewers' comments on the original manuscript.

The Editor then makes a recommendation to the Editor-in-Chief on the manuscript's suitability for publication. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for making the final decision on each manuscript.

In cases where the Editor-in-Chief is an author on a manuscript submitted to the journal, a member of the Editorial Board is responsible for making the final decision on the manuscript's suitability for publication in the journal.

Reviewer selection, timing and suggestions

Reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field, reputation, recommendation by others, and/or previous experience as peer reviewers for the journal.

Reviewers are asked to submit their first review within four weeks of accepting the invitation to review. Reviewers who anticipate any delays should inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

When submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors may suggest reviewers that they would like included in or excluded from the peer review process. The Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation and assignment of peer reviewers is at the Editor's sole discretion.

Reviewer reports

Reviews should be conducted objectively, and observations should be formulated clearly with supporting arguments. It is the journal's policy to transmit reviewers' comments to the authors in their original form. However, the journal reserves the right to edit reviewers' comments, without consulting the reviewers, if they contain offensive language, personal criticism, or confidential information.

Acceptance criteria

If a manuscript satisfies the journal's requirements and represents a significant contribution to the published literature, the Editor may recommend acceptance for publication in the journal.

Articles in the journal must be:

- within the subject area of the journal's scope
- novel and original
- descriptions of technically rigorous research
- of high interest to the journal's audience
- important additions to the field.

If a manuscript does not meet the journal's requirements for acceptance or revision, the Editor may recommend rejection.

Editorial independence

The FORMATH Research Society has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions and will not become involved in editorial decisions, except in cases of a fundamental breakdown of process.

Editorial decisions are based only on a manuscript's scientific merit and are kept completely separate from the journal's other interests.

Confidentiality in peer review

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. Editors and reviewers will not:

1. disclose a reviewer's identity unless the reviewer makes a reasonable request for such disclosure
2. discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved with the manuscript or its peer review
3. use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications
4. use information obtained from the peer review process to provide an advantage to themselves or anyone else, or to disadvantage any individual or organization
5. Share or upload the content of the manuscript with any AI tool or public platform.

In addition, reviewers will not reveal their identity to any of the authors of the manuscript or involve anyone else in the review (for example, a post-doc or PhD student) without first receiving permission from the Editor.

Editor and reviewer conflicts of interest in peer review

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor or reviewer's ability to act impartially when assessing a manuscript. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, having a financial stake in the work or its publication, or having seen previous versions of the manuscript.

Reviewers and members of the journal's Editorial Board undertake to declare any conflicts of interest when handling manuscripts. An editor or reviewer who declares a conflict of interest is unassigned from the manuscript in question and is replaced by a new editor or reviewer.

Editors try to avoid conflicts of interest when inviting reviewers, but it is not always possible to identify potential bias.

Editors as authors in the journal

Any member of the journal's Editorial Board, including the Editor-in-Chief who is an author on a submitted manuscript is excluded from the peer review process. Within the journal's online manuscript submission and tracking system, they will be able to see their manuscript as an author but not as an editor, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of peer review.

A manuscript authored by an editor of the journal is subject to the same high standards of peer review and editorial decision making as any manuscript considered by the journal.

Complaints and appeals

Complaints and appeals are handled in accordance with [the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#):

Authors who wish to appeal the rejection of their manuscript can do so by emailing the Editorial Office of FORMATH with a reference to the manuscript ID number. Authors should explain in detail why they believe their manuscript should be reconsidered. If it is determined that, it should be reconsidered, the author may be asked to submit it as a new manuscript. The manuscript will then receive a new identification number and submission date and undergo a review, just like a new submission. Appeals are generally only considered if the authors provide detailed evidence of a misunderstanding or mistake by a reviewer or editor.

Authors, reviewers, and readers may register complaints and or concerns about a range of issues including (but not limited to): 1) falsification, 2) fabrication, 3) plagiarism, 4) duplicate publication, 5) authorship disputes, 6) conflicts of interest, 7) bias or inappropriate competitive acts, 8) copyright issues, 9) stolen data, 10) defamation, and 11) legal problems. If individuals or institutions wish to lodge a complaint, they can do so by sending a letter to the Editor-in-Chief of FORMATH. Appropriate and empirical detail must be provided on the background, context, and specific circumstances to support the complaint or appeal. The Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Board, or Editorial Office is responsible for considering the issues; decisions made are final.

Responding to potential ethical breaches

All allegations of scientific misconduct will be referred to the Editor-in-Chief, who will review the circumstances in consultation with the Editorial Board. Initial fact-finding may include a request to all involved parties to state their case, and explain the circumstances in writing. With respect to research misconduct around data (data fabrication and falsification), methods or technical issues, and falsified text (such as purposeful hiding of research outcomes and plagiarism), the Editor-in-Chief may consult with experts who are blinded to the identity of the individuals involved. Or, if the allegation is against an editor, consult with an external editorial expert. The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board may arrive at a conclusion as to whether there is enough evidence to lead a reasonable person to believe there is a possibility of misconduct.

When allegations concern the authors, the peer review and publication process for the manuscript in question shall be halted, while the appropriate investigation is undertaken. Investigations may be continued even where authors choose to withdraw the manuscript. In

cases of allegations against reviewers or editors, they will be recused and replaced, and an investigation undertaken.

The integrity of the research may also be compromised by inappropriate methodology that could lead to retraction. See [COPE flowcharts](#) for further guidance on scientific misconduct and expressions of concern.

Errata and retractions* (<https://publishingsupport.iopscience.iop.org/questions/post-publication-corrections-to-journal-articles/>)

If authors notice an error in the published manuscript, several courses of action are available. A corrigendum shall be published when the authors have made an error in the manuscript. An erratum shall be published when the publishing processes have made an error in the article. A post-publication change to the original article can only be made where the error affects the discoverability, visibility and citability of the article. Example includes author names, titles and abstracts, or changes to affiliations, footnotes and/or acknowledgments in order to meet the requirements of a funding body, or those related to legal issues.

If post-publication changes are made, the errata of the article will be published online.

In cases where serious errors are identified, a retraction or expression of concern may be published. A retraction shall be published as a way to correct the scientific record by bringing fundamental flaws/errors in the manuscript to the attention of the readership. They are usually reserved for cases where there is clear evidence of unreliable findings due to misconduct or honest error. An expression of concern shall be issued when concerns about publications have not been conclusively proven but are sufficiently serious to warrant warning potential readers.

The decision to publish Errata or Retractions is made at the sole discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

■ Copyright, licenses and usage

The FORMATH journal has been a fully Open Access journal since 2013. Articles are published under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). This license permits users to adapt, distribute, and reproduce the articles of FORMATH in any medium, even commercially, provided that the users give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the original source, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made, without obtaining permission from the FORMATH Research Society. The copyright of articles is retained by the authors.

Authors are required to sign a License to Publish form in order to give the FORMATH Research Society permission to reproduce the article in FORMATH under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license.

Sample codes and/or programs provided as Supplementary Materials can be used, copied, and modified freely without obtaining any permission from FORMATH for any purposes, given no specific terms and conditions for use are provided in the main text. Authors are

encouraged to specifically provide the terms and conditions for the usage of the sample codes. The FORMATH Research Society shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, damages, or inconvenience caused by the use of the sample codes.

License to Publish form:

The License to Publish (LTP) form signed by Author should be uploaded to the file upload page on Editorial System of FORMATH at the time of manuscript submission or should be sent separately via e-mail to the FORMATH Editorial Office (office@formath.jp).

■ Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts must be submitted via the journal's online submission system at: <https://www.formath.jp/journal/index.php/formath/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions>.

File types: Please upload a PDF formatted file of the manuscript for submission and review to avoid any operating system dependent font errors. After acceptance, the original source text, table and figure files will need to be supplied.

If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office as per the details in the Contact section.

■ Manuscript Preparation

Manuscripts should also be written in a style that is understandable to our broad audience that includes students, researchers, specialists, and policymakers working on forest resource management and Mathematical Modeling.

Style and format

The accepted manuscript is prepared for publication using Tex. Therefore, authors are encouraged to prepare manuscripts using Tex or Microsoft Word. If Microsoft Word is your preference, use the guideline described here to avoid burdensome changes upon acceptance. When submitting figure files for publication, please ensure that the original software files and other figure files are saved in EPS FORMAT, at a high quality. Further details of these instructions are sent to authors upon notification of acceptance.

- Font type and size: 10.5 point, Times New Roman or similar. Do NOT use unusual fonts or styles in your manuscript.
- Spacing: 1.5 line-spaced.
- Page Layout: Use 2.5cm or 1-inch margins on all sides with page numbers in the bottom center and no header/footer. Line numbering is recommended.

Do not add headers or footers to pages (other than the page number).

The manuscript should be no more than 20 A4 pages (1.5 line-spaced).

English standards

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct English. If necessary, authors should have their manuscript checked by a proficient English speaker or by an editing service prior to submission. If a manuscript is not clear due to poor English, it may be rejected without undergoing peer review.

Format

The first page of each manuscript should contain: Title, Authors' full names, Affiliations, Key words, Running Title, and the name and full address (including telephone number and e-mail address) of the corresponding author.

Readability

The submitted manuscripts are judged not only on the depth and scope of the ideas presented and their contributions to literature, but also on whether they can be read and understood by the average reader of FORMATH. The following guidelines may help authors with the preparation of manuscript.

- Write in an interesting, readable manner with varied sentence structure, and use active voice. Use as little passive voice as possible.
- Avoid using technical jargons that will make it difficult for the average reader to understand the manuscript. If you choose to use these jargons, please provide definitions.
- Keep sentences short so the reader does not get lost before the end of a sentence.
- Limit the number of footnotes to a minimum. Preferably, the sentence should be structured to avoid the need for a footnote.

Abbreviations

Each abbreviation should be defined in parentheses together with its non-abbreviated term when it first appears in the text (except in the Title and Abstract). Common abbreviations in forestry mathematics can be used without any explanation.

Units

SI or SI-derived units should be used. More information on SI units is available at the [Bureau International des Poids et Mesures \(BIPM\) website](#).

Headings

Headings are numbered and are formatted according to level:

- Primary Heading: Flush left, title-style capitalization (first letter of each word), with an extra line space before and after.
- Secondary heading: Flush left with only capitalization of first letter of first word. You must have at least two sections beginning with a secondary heading. If there is only one, the heading should be excluded. No extra line space is needed.
- Further heading levels are not recommended.

Footnotes

Footnotes can be used to give additional information, which may include the citation of a reference included in the reference list. Footnotes are to be used sparingly and must be concise at the minimum. Format footnotes in plain text, with a superscript asterisk-number (*1) appearing in text and the corresponding note after the reference section. Footnotes to the

text are numbered consecutively in plain text, with a superscript asterisk-number (*1) appearing in text. Those to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data).

Mathematical Notations

Equations should be centered in the line, and be numbered with square blanket, (e.g. [1]) flush with the left margin. It is recommended to use Equation Editor or MathType for mathematical equations in MS Word. Cite the equation by “Eq.[1]” in the document. Please do not forget to put enough explanation for variables and parameters in equation notation:

$$\max z = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \cdot x_i$$

where c_i is the i -th parameter and x_i is the i -th variable.

Document organization

The main document should contain the following sections in the order presented below.

Title page and title

1) Title Page: Please include the following information.

- Title
- Author(s) names, title, institution, address, and e-mail address, with identification of the corresponding author using asterisk, *. Please note that if the manuscript has coauthors, authors' contributions should be carefully judged. Criteria for authorship can be found in our editorial policies.
- Declaration of conflict of interests: If you do not have any conflict of interests, please state "The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests". Otherwise, please state it here.

The title should clearly describe the content of the article in less than or equal to ≤ 25 words. The title is important for search purposes by third-party services. Do not use the same main title with numbered minor titles, even for a series of papers by the same authors. Do not use abbreviations in the title, except those used generally in related fields.

Keywords

Include 4-5 keywords that are not in the manuscript title, but are related to the relevant topics.

Abstract

Abstract: The abstract is limited to 250 words and summarizes the key components of the manuscript, offering the reader the main findings of the work. Minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract.

Introduction

This section should explain the background to the study, its aims, summary of the existing literature and why this study was necessary, or its contribution to literature.

Methods

This section should explain how the study was performed and statistical tests used, for instance. The methods section can include the design and setting of the study, description of materials used, and the type of statistical analysis used.

Results

This section should explain the main findings. Tables and figures, including photographs, can be used to present the experimental results (see below). Excessive explanations of the data presented in tables and figures should be avoided.

Discussion

This section should discuss the implications of the findings in context of existing research and highlight limitations of the study.

Conclusions

This section should provide brief summary and potential implications. This may state clearly the main conclusions and provide an explanation of the importance and relevance of the study reported.

Acknowledgments

All sources of funding for the research reported should be declared. Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship including anyone who provided professional writing services or materials. Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements section. See our editorial policies for a full explanation of acknowledgements and authorship criteria.

This section should be brief and acknowledge those that have assisted in the work or preparation of the manuscript, but who do not qualify for authorship, as defined in the Authorship section. Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section.

Disclosure Statement

Authors are required to declare any competing financial or other conflicts of interest in relation to the work described. Please see the Conflict of Interest section in the Journal Policies below for detailed information. If there are no declared interests, include a statement under the section heading “The authors declare no competing interests.”

Data Availability Statement

All manuscripts must indicate an “Availability of data and materials” statement. Following Hrynaszkiewicz et al. (2020, <http://doi.org/10.5334/dsj-2020-017>), data availability statements should include information on where data supporting the results can be found, including hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analyzed or generated during the study. Authors are allowed to upload data files as supplement to the system for publication. Examples of the statement are following:

- The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are available in the [name] repository, [web link to datasets]

- The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.
- All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].
- The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due [reason why data are not public], but are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.
- The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission from [third party name].

Author Contribution Statement

Authors are required to include a statement that specifies the contribution of each author that follows the [CRedit](#) (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) taxonomy. One or more of the 14 CRedit taxonomy categories should be ascribed to each author. Authors should examine the CRedit website and include the appropriate roles for each author. An example would be (use the initials of author names in your manuscript):

Conceptualization: Author 1.

Funding acquisition: Author 1.

Investigation: Author 1, Author 2.

Methodology: Author 1, Author 2.

Project administration: Author 2.

Supervision: Author 1.

Writing – original draft: Author 1, Author 2, Author 3.

Writing – review & editing: Author 1, Author 2.

References

Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work.

References are listed in alphabetical order by the first author's last name. Only references cited within the text are included. The author is fully responsible for any citation in the manuscript. All cited papers should be identified in the reference section.

- Citation in the manuscript should be in the form of [name year], e.g. in the parenthesis (Matsumura 1990), (Matsumura 1990; Matsumura and Yoshimoto 1991; Matsumura et al. 1993), and in the direct citation Matsumura (1990), Matsumura and Yoshimoto (1991), Matsumura et al. (1992). Citation in the reference section should follow the alphabetical order with the following format. Note that a capital letter should be used for the first character of the first word of the title of scientific papers, the first character of words in the title of books and proceedings. Italic font is also used as specified below.
- Use abbreviation for citation from Scientific Journal: Please use ISI Journal Title Abbreviation (<https://www.library.caltech.edu/journal-title-abbreviations/>).
- If available, DOI should to be added.

Article within a journal:

[Name] [Year] [Title], [*Abbreviated Name of Journal: Italic*] [Vol #: pages][DOI].

Yoshimoto, A. and Shoji, I. (1998) Searching for an optimal rotation age for forest stand management under stochastic log prices, *Eur J Oper Res* 105: 100-112, doi:10.1016/S0377-2217(97)00040-4.

Article within a journal by DOI only

[Name] [Year] [Title], [*Abbreviated Name of Journal: Italic*] [Vol #][DOI].

Surovy, P., Yoshimoto, A., and Panagiotidis, D. (2016) Accuracy of Reconstruction of the Tree Stem Surface Using Terrestrial Close-Range Photogrammetry, *Remote Sens* 123, doi: 10.3390/rs8020123

Citation from Book:

[Name] [Year] [*Title: Italic*], [Publisher], [Place of Publisher].

Hillier, F.S. and Lieberman, G.J. (1990) *Introduction to Operations Research*, McGraw Hill, New York.

Citation from a part of proceedings:

[Name] [Year] [Title], [Editors], [*Name of Proceedings: Italic*], [Publisher's information], [pages].

Yoshimoto, A., Paredes, V.G.L. and Brodie, J.D. (1988) Efficient optimization of an individual tree growth model, In: Kent, B.M., Davis, L.S. (eds), *The 1988 Symposium on Systems Analysis in Forest Resources*, USDA Forest Service. General Technical Report RM-161, pp. 154–162.

Citation from Web publication:

[Name] [Year] [*Title: Italic*], [Web Site] [Accessed date].

Pellegrino, J. (1999) *Homepage*, <http://www.english.eku.edu/pellegrino/default.htm> (Accessed 12 June 1999).

Tables

Tables: Tables should appear after the document. Each table should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are to appear in the document. No table is allowed without a reference in the document. When preparing a table file, do NOT use the graphic format for tables, which could result in lower quality after printing.

Figures

12) Figures: Figures should follow tables. Each figure should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are to appear in the document. No figure is allowed without a reference in the document.

Appendices

If Appendixes are provided, they must appear on a new page after the figures. Multiple appendixes are labeled with letters (Appendix A, Appendix B). A single appendix is labeled without letters (Appendix). Multiple appendixes must be numbered in the order in which they are to appear.

■ Accepted Manuscripts

Manuscripts that are accepted for publication are copyedited and typeset by the journal's production team before publication. The journal is published online in December on an annual basis. All communication regarding accepted manuscripts is with the corresponding author.

■ Proofs

Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author, who should check and return them within 48 hours. Only essential corrections to typesetting errors or omissions are accepted; excessive changes are not permitted at the proofing stage.

■ Contact

Principal Contact

Editor in Chief, FORMATH,
Professor Yoshiyuki Ninomiya
Institute of Statistical Mathematics
10-3 Midori-cho, Tachikawa
Tokyo 190-8562, Japan

Email: editor@formath.jp

Support Contact

Editorial Office
Email: office@formath.jp

Updated: 12 April 2024