



# **Author Instructions and FAQ**

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## Introduction

The ISSCC follows a double-blind review system since this approach has emerged as the best known practice for highly competitive publication venues. In a single-blind review, the identities of the reviewers are withheld and not revealed to the authors. In a double-blind process, the identities of the authors are also withheld and not revealed to the reviewers. The double-blind process is expected to eliminate any bias (positive or negative) that the reviewers may have due to their personal knowledge of the authors or their affiliations. For the double-blind review process to be effective, the authors must refrain from including any information in their submissions that may reveal their identities.

Manuscripts that are not properly anonymized (per the instructions below) will not be considered for review. The review process will also include a software-based plagiarism check. After paper selection, a final pre-publication check (using the authors' names) is applied using the pre-publication guidelines summarized in the Call for Papers. The ISSCC may withdraw any submission that violates the pre-publication guidelines.

## Initial Steps

- Read the conference pre-publication guidelines provided in the Call for Papers.
- Read and closely inspect the "ISSCC sample manuscript" available on the ISSCC submission website.
- Begin the electronic submission process early (you can come back to modify as needed). Work through the submission questionnaire and submit your abstract and pre-publication material (where appropriate).

## Manuscript Preparation for Double-Blind Review

- Eliminate names, contact information, and affiliations from the entire manuscript (including PDF metadata, logos on die photos, logos on printed-circuit-board photos, etc.). This information is added back once the paper is accepted.
- When citing your own prior work, simply refer to the work in the third party as it would be done by someone else (for example, "It has been shown that... [1]"; do not use the words "my" or "our"). If related work has been submitted for publication elsewhere but not yet published, then you should reference this work e.g. as "This ADC is 3X faster than our previous work [2]", and Reference [2] should state "Details withheld in accordance with the

double-blind review process (paper attached as supporting document)". The unpublished manuscript should be submitted as a supporting material (see below).

- Do not cite patents (these can be added once the paper is accepted).
- Eliminate acknowledgments and references to funding sources. These can be added once the paper is accepted.
- Do not contact the program committee members to solicit input on your manuscript. The ISSCC website contains a list of the current member so that you can check and avoid undesired contact. The review is still considered "double-blind" in the sense that the reviews provided by each committee member remain anonymous.
- The identity of authors is known to the program chair/vice-chair and the subcommittee chairs; you may contact them for questions. In case you need help with your manuscript, consider the following options:
  - Consult the document on "Writing a good ISSCC paper," available on the ISSCC submission website
  - Ask the subcommittee chair to identify someone outside the current committee (e.g., a former committee member) to provide input and help

## Supporting Material

- As part of your submission, you must disclose all material that falls under into the pre-publication category (see Call for Papers). Such material includes for example data sheets and related work that is presently under review. These items should be submitted as supporting material and do not need to be anonymized. The program committee will evaluate these documents and perform a final pre-publication check only after your paper has been selected. The ISSCC may withdraw any submission that violates the pre-publication guidelines.

## FAQ

Q: What is the character limit for my manuscript?

A: The manuscript length is limited to 10,000 characters, including title and spaces, but excluding references and author/affiliation/acknowledgement placeholders.

Q: Should I label subfigures (using a, b, c, ...)?

A: No, do not use subfigure labels.

Q: Do I have to provide a chip photo for Fig. 7?

A: It is up to you how you order/populate the figures. However, it is most common for our submissions to show a chip photo as the last figure (which will not be printed in the hard copy digest).

Q: Can I contact program committee members of a committee different than the one I will be submitting to for advice?

A: No. You may not contact any of the current program committee members.

Q: Can I reuse figures from one of my previous publications?

A: In the spirit of the double-blind review, please avoid the direct reuse of figures that create obvious and identifiable links to your prior work as much as possible.

Q: May I use special non-English characters in my submission (e.g., in figures)?

A: No. This would give away regional information about your submission. Use only plain Roman characters and Greek characters (math symbols).

Q: Is it OK to have a logo in my chip/PCB photo?

A: No. All logos, even generic ones that you did not custom-design should be covered up as shown in the sample manuscript. The cover-up can be removed once your paper is accepted.