
fuzzy digest

1 message

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Wed, Jun 10, 2026 at 7:55 AM

To: "nafips-l@listserv.gsu.edu" <nafips-l@listserv.gsu.edu>, "members.list@eusflat.org" <members.list@eusflat.org>

This email is sent:

- * to NAFIPS and EUSFLAT mailing lists and
- * to all the members of IFSA Council, i.e., to IFSA elected officers
and to the Presidents of all fuzzy societies that form IFSA; please
forward this digest to members of your fuzzy society.

- * The 2027 International Fuzzy Systems Association (UFSA) Award for
Long Term Pioneering Contribution will be awarded to Professor
Enric Trillas and Professor Takeshi Yamakawa. These awards will be
given during the 2027 IFSA-EUSFLAT Conference. Congratulations to
Enric and Takeshi!

- * Recommendation of the Council of International Fuzzy Systems
Association (UFSA) on fuzzy-related publications, see below

- * The 9th International Conference on Belief Functions BELIEF 2026:
October 19–21, 2026, Nanjing, China, submission deadline extended to
June 15, 2026, see below

- * The 17th International Conference on Scalable Uncertainty
Management (SUM2026), 21–23 October 2026, Athens, Greece, deadline
extended to Jun 15, 2026, see below

- Recommendation of the Council of International Fuzzy Systems
Association (UFSA) on fuzzy-related publications

Approved, in principle, at the June 8, 2026 IFSA Council meeting

1. WHY DO WE NEED SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS.

At several recent fuzzy conferences. Bernard De Baets, Editor in Chief of "Fuzzy Sets and Systems" (one of the main fuzzy-related publications), provided suggestions on how to write good papers, and how to avoid typical mistakes. This was especially important to young researchers who have just started their research career.

Those who attended these talks definitely benefited from this advice. During the discussion, several participants expressed the need to make this advice more widely available, ideally as general recommendation of IFSA for all IFSA-sponsored events.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUTHORS.

2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the papers have the following general structure:

- 1) A brief description of the general practical problem in which the new idea is helpful or expected to be helpful.
- 2) A brief overview of the current methods for solving this problem, with a clear explanation of their limitations -- namely, limitations that the proposed idea intends to fully or partially overcome.
- 3) A description of a new idea and an explanation of how this idea helps to overcome the above-described limitations.

2.2. EXPLANATION FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS

1) At present, many submitted and published papers start by saying, e.g., that their goal is to improve VAT techniques. This maybe clear to those who know what are VAT techniques and why they are useful, but to many other readers, it is desirable to explain what exactly practical problem is being solved. Computer science is, after all, an applied discipline, our goal is to help others solve practical problems.

Practical problems do not have to be today's problems, future problems are OK. For example, at this moment, no existing quantum computers can break the currently used encryptions, but since this is expected in the future, it is definition important to work on encryption methods that will be safe against quantum computations.

2) What we want to avoid are the following situations:

2.1) Some authors do not even bother to google what is already known. So, when a reviewer places the paper title in the google search, immediately several papers not cited by the authors pop up. In some cases, such authors have wasted their effort by reinventing the wheel, in other cases the method may be new, but the paper still cannot be published without first explaining in what sense this method is better.

Some new authors naively think that novelty is enough for publication, but if a new method is worse than what is used now -- who needs it?

2.2) Some authors do compare their new method with what is known now, but they only compare with other fuzzy methods -- while there is no attempt to compare with other techniques for solving the same

problem.

2.3) Some authors only compare with what many practitioners use, but they also need to compare with what has been proposed in published papers.

Of course, if there is a method that has already proven to be, in some specific sense, better than others, then all the authors need is cite this specific method -- and a publication in which it is shown that this method is indeed better.

3) The comparison does not have to be 100% convincing.

We do not mean that there should necessarily be a formal proof or a statistically convincing comparison, but it is important to have some explanation -- formal or informal -- of why the author(s) believe that the new method is, in some sense, better, with a clear explanation in what exactly sense this method is better.

Some researchers may be better in generating new ideas, some in implementing them. It would be counter-productive to require that all authors of new ideas provide a rigorous confirmation that these methods work well -- that would, e.g., prevent Einstein from publishing his General Relativity paper, since he was a theoretician and did not have needed experimental skills.

Any reasonable criterion is OK: it may be accuracy of the result, it may be computation time, it may be easiness to understand, it may be a better match of results with common sense, etc.

The criterion should be clear: e.g., if the author claims that an image generated by his/her method is better, there should be a numerical value explaining in what sense the image is better.

What we want to avoid is papers in which there is no comparison and no explanation at all -- a new method is proposed, a numerical example is given, but the authors never explain in what sense the new method is better. Without an explanation of why the method is better, the fact that the numerical example is from some application domain does not mean that this method has been applied to this domain -- unless it is clearly explained in what sense the new method is better.

3. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION FOR JOURNAL EDITORS AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

We recommend that the journal editors and conference organizers:

- * explicitly include the above recommendations for authors in their calls for papers, and

- * explicitly include the need to check for these recommendations in their instructions for reviewers, editors of special issues, etc.

4. HOW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE.

1) These recommendations will help potential authors:

- 1.1) to get published, especially in non-fuzzy publications where the above recommendations are common sense, and

- 1.2) to avoid wasting time on papers re-inventing the wheel or introducing new methods without any comparison

2) These recommendations will help reviewers and editors not waste time processing submissions that are clearly not yet ready for

publications.

3) These recommendations will help supervisors of young researchers -- these researchers will see that what their supervisor tells them in a communal practice and not some personal vicious nitpicking -- as some young students think.

4) These recommendations will also help fuzzy research community to better avoid negative attitude about fuzzy.

This attitude often appears when these folks read published fuzzy-related papers where all the authors do is provide a new definition or method and a numerical example, without any justification of why the proposed method is better than what was done before.

5. REPRODUCIBILITY: AN IMPORTANT PUBLICATION-RELATED ISSUE

5.1. REPRODUCIBILITY IS A USUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLICATIONS

In general, in the scientific community, the usual practice is to publish all the details, so that others will be able to reproduce the results.

5.2. WHAT THIS REQUIREMENT TRIES TO AVOID

One of the reasons for this is to avoid papers that are really advertisements for a product that run like this: we have a new method, we will not explain what it does -- it is proprietary -- but here is how well it behaves. Such publications are appropriate for company journals and technical magazines but not for academic publications.

5.3. SOMETIMES, FULL REPRODUCIBILITY IS NOT POSSIBLE, BUT THE AUTHORS SHOULD AIM FOR AS MUCH REPRODUCIBILITY AS POSSIBLE

However, we should not overdo this requirements -- otherwise, we will not be able to publicize a lot of interesting developments performed in industry.

Indeed, many good published papers use commercial software -- be it an operating system, Matlab package, or a Large Language Model such as ChatGPT -- for which details are proprietary. If the corresponding software is available, so that reviewers and readers can repeat the experiments, this is OK even if details are not provided.

But, it should not be just an advertisement: some idea(s) needs to be described explicitly, even if this description does not come with details.

Same with data on which the method was tested: the corresponding data may have come from real patients and is therefore protected for privacy, but some simulated data can be provided to show that the new method works well.

From: David Mercier

Subject: [CFP] BELIEF 2026: submission deadline
extension June 15, 2026 (on-site and online participation)

The 9th International Conference on Belief Functions (BELIEF 2026)

<https://www.bfasociety.org/Belief2026>

Dates: October 19–21, 2026

Location: Nanjing, China

- June 15, 2026 (extended): Paper submission deadline
 - July 24, 2026: Author notification
 - July 31, 2026: Camera-ready manuscript due
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The theory of belief functions, also referred to as evidence theory or Dempster-Shafer theory, is a well-established mathematical framework for reasoning and decision-making under uncertainty, with applications to machine learning, statistical inference, information fusion, knowledge representation, risk analysis, and other fields. It can be viewed as an extension of probability theory and has well-understood connections with related frameworks such as random sets and imprecise probabilities. Recently, generalised evidence theory, based on random fuzzy sets, has been proposed as a unifying framework encompassing both Dempster-Shafer theory and possibility theory.

The biennial BELIEF conferences, sponsored by the Belief Functions and Applications Society, are dedicated to the confrontation of ideas, the reporting of recent achievements, and the presentation of a wide range of applications of this theory. Previous editions of this conference series were held in Brest, France (2010); Compiègne, France (2012); Oxford, UK (2014); Prague, Czech Republic (2016); Compiègne, France (2018); Shanghai, China (2021); Paris, France (2022); and Belfast, UK (2024).

To support cross-fertilisation among researchers working in different subfields of AI and related disciplines, tutorials and special sessions will be proposed, with emphasis on the links between machine learning, statistical inference, and uncertain reasoning, including topics such as quantification of prediction

uncertainty, fusion rules for ensemble learning, belief propagation in deep neural networks, and links with explainable and symbolic AI. Submissions of papers combining several of these topics, or more generally at the crossroads of belief functions and other AI methods or uncertainty theories, along with relevant applications, are welcome.

Attendance

Both on-site and online participation and paper presentation will be possible.

Proceedings

The BELIEF 2026 proceedings will be published by Springer-Verlag in the Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence (LNCS/LNAI) series and indexed by ISI Web of Science, EI Engineering Index, ACM Digital Library, dblp, Google Scholar, IO-Port, MathSciNet, Scopus, and Zentralblatt MATH.

IJAR special issue

Authors of selected papers from the BELIEF 2026 conference will be invited to submit extended versions of their papers for possible inclusion in a special issue of the International Journal of Approximate Reasoning.

BELIEF 2026 conference co-chairs

Prof. Zhigang Su (zhigangsu@seu.edu.cn), Southeast University, China

Prof. Thierry Denoeux (tdenoeux@utc.fr), Universite de Technologie
de Compiègne, France

More information: <https://www.bfasociety.org/Belief2026>

The 17th International Conference on Scalable Uncertainty
Management (SUM2026)

21–23 October 2026, Athens, Greece

**** EXTENDED DEADLINES ****

Long and short papers: June 15, 2026

Extended abstracts: July 15, 2026

Call for Papers and Abstracts

We solicit papers and extended abstracts on the management of large amounts of complex kinds of uncertain, incomplete, or inconsistent information. We welcome both theoretical contributions and application-driven research demonstrating uncertainty management techniques in real-world domains. We are particularly interested in papers that focus on bridging gaps, for instance between different communities, between statistical and symbolic approaches, uncertainty reasoning and modern machine learning systems, or between theoretical foundations and practical applications.

In addition to the extended deadline for long and short papers, we would like to draw special attention to the possibility of submitting extended abstracts until July 15, 2026. This option is intended for authors who would like to contribute to SUM 2026 and present relevant work-in-progress or work that has been previously published in recognized journals or conferences, but may not be able to prepare an original long or short paper. Extended abstracts provide an opportunity to share ongoing work and previously published results with the SUM community and take part in the conference discussions.

Topics of interest include (but are not limited to):

Imperfect information in databases

- * Methods for modeling, indexing, and querying uncertain databases
- * Top-k queries, skyline query processing, and ranking
- * Approximate, fuzzy query processing
- * Uncertainty in data integration and exchange
- * Uncertainty and imprecision in geographic information systems
- * Probabilistic databases and possibilistic databases
- * Data provenance and trust
- * Data summarization
- * Very large datasets

Imperfect information in information retrieval and semantic web applications

- * Approximate schema and ontology matching
- * Uncertainty in description logics and logic programming
- * Learning to rank, personalization, and user preferences
- * Probabilistic language models
- * Combining vector-space models with symbolic representations

- * Inductive reasoning for the semantic web

Imperfect information in artificial intelligence

- * Statistical relational learning, graphical models, probabilistic inference
- * Argumentation, defeasible reasoning, belief revision
- * Weighted logics for managing uncertainty
- * Reasoning with imprecise probability, Dempster-Shafer theory, possibility theory
- * Approximate reasoning, similarity-based reasoning, analogical reasoning
- * Planning under uncertainty, reasoning about actions, spatial and temporal reasoning
- * Incomplete preference specifications
- * Learning from data

Risk analysis

- * Aleatory vs. epistemic uncertainty
- * Uncertainty elicitation methods
- * Uncertainty propagation methods
- * Decision analysis methods
- * Tools for synthesizing results

Submission Guidelines

SUM 2026 solicits submissions in the following three categories:

- * Long papers: technical papers reporting original research or survey papers
- * Short papers: papers reporting promising work-in-progress, system

descriptions, position papers on controversial issues, or survey papers providing a synthesis of some current research trends

* Extended abstracts of recently published work in recognized journals or conferences or summaries of relevant work-in-progress

Long papers should be at most 14 pages (including references, figures, and tables). Short papers should be between 4 and 7 pages. Extended abstracts should be at most 2 pages. Extended abstracts of recently published work should reference the original publication. For the final version of accepted long and short papers, authors may use an additional page to address the reviewers' comments. Long and short papers may therefore extend to 15 and 8 pages, respectively (including references). All submissions will undergo double-blind peer review by members of the program committee.

All SUM submissions must be formatted according to the LNCS/LNAI guidelines, and uploaded as a single PDF file via Chairingtool at the following URL:

<https://chairingtool.com/conferences/sum2026/main-track?role=author>

Publication

Accepted long and short papers will be considered for publication by Springer in the Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence (LNAI) series. Authors of an accepted long or short paper will be expected to sign copyright release forms, and one author is expected to give a presentation at the conference. Authors of accepted extended abstracts will be expected to present their work during the conference, but the extended abstracts will not be published in the LNCS/LNAI proceedings (they will be made available in a separate booklet).

Organization

Conference Chair: Petros Stefaneas, National Technical University
of Athens, Greece

Local Committee Chair: Sofia Almpani, National Technical University
of Athens, Greece

Program Chairs:

Inés Couso, University of Oviedo, Spain,

Michael Sioutis, University of Montpellier, France

Steering Committee:

Salem Benferhat, Artois University, France

Didier Dubois, IRIT-CNRS, France

Lluís Godo, IIIA-CSIC, Spain

Eyke Hüllermeier, Universität Paderborn, Germany

Anthony Hunter, University College London, UK

Henri Prade, IRIT-CNRS, France

Steven Schockaert, Cardiff University, UK

V. S. Subrahmanian, Northwestern University, USA

IMPORTANT DATES

Long and short paper submissions: June 15, 2026

Extended abstract submissions: July 15, 2026

Notification: July 31, 2026

Camera-ready copies: August 15, 2026

Conference: October 21-23, 2026

Registration: from August 1, 2026
