

**PANEL DISCUSSION
PUBLISHING AHP/ANP PAPERS**

Panelists

**Fabio De Felice, Birsen Karpak, Enrique Mu,
Leandro Pecchia, Antonella Petrillo and Luis Vargas**

Rozann Saaty (Chairperson)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.13033/ijahp.v5i1.187>

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Introduction

Rozann Saaty

Managing Editor, IJAHP

rozann@creativdecisions.net

PANEL DISCUSSION PUBLISHING AHP/ANP PAPERS

The purpose of this panel is to offer some helpful suggestions on the art of writing and publishing AHP/ANP papers. The members of the panel are all senior AHP practitioners who have published many papers on AHP.

Each member of the panel will speak for a few minutes on a topic of particular interest to them, then we will open the discussion to the floor for the remaining time.

The Panelists



Rozann Saaty - Chairperson

Rozann is Vice President of the Creative Decisions Foundation. She developed the SuperDecisions software for the AHP/ANP, manages RWS Publications, which publishes books on the AHP by Thomas L. Saaty and others, and is the managing editor of the IJAHP online journal. She is the wife of Thomas L. Saaty.



Enrique Mu

Dr. Enrique Mu is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process, an online journal which focuses on the promotion and dissemination of AHP/ANP knowledge. He will share his experience as editor from the past five years.

He is also the winner of the best paper award at this conference, and he will be presenting it again in a special session just before lunch today from 12:30 to 1:00.

The Panelists

Antonella Petrillo



Antonella has a PHD degree in Mechanical Engineering and is now a researcher at the University of Cassino (Italy) where she conducts research on multicriteria decision analysis and industrial plants. She is a member of the International and Local committee of the 2011 ISAHP meeting in Sorrento, Italy, and associate editor of the online IJAHF journal which focuses on AHP articles.

Fabio De Felice



Fabio is a Professor at the University of Cassino (Italy). He is a board member of several international organizations and is responsible for scientific research in an industrial plant. Co-chair of the 2011 ISAHP meeting in Sorrento, Italy, and member of the editorial board of the IJAHF, he has more than 100 published papers to his credit. In addition he is the founder of the AHP Academy – The International Association for the promotion of multicriteria decision making methods.

The Panelists



Birsen Karpak

Birsen Karpak, Ph.D. in Business Administration, Professor of Management, Youngstown State University, associate editor, IJAHP, directed an International ASI on Multiple Criteria Decision Making and Risk Analysis. Dr. Karpak received numerous awards in research and service including the Distinguished Professorship Award in Scholarship, two times, and another one in Teaching. She published articles on AHP/ANP Applications mainly on business problems.



Leandro Pecchia

Leandro Pecchia, from University “Federico II” of Napoli, in Italy, is currently on special assignment as a Lecturer of biomedical engineering at the University of Nottingham, UK. His research interest is in applying AHP in healthcare and medical decision making, especially eliciting user needs in medicine to help in designing more effective healthcare technologies and medical devices. He was appointed treasurer of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) of the prestigious International Federation of Medical and Biomedical Engineering in 2012.

The Panelists

Luis Vargas



Professor at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. In 1984 he chaired ISAHP1991, held in Pittsburgh, USA. Luis has focused his research on decision theory, practical applications of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), measurement of resource utilization, group decision making, Bayesian networks, and forecasting among other interests. He serves on the editorial board of a number of journals, is senior editor of the IJAHP online journal, and has edited several special journal issues on AHP.

NOTE – Dr. Luis Vargas panel discussion was verbal and without the use of PowerPoint slides. For this reason there are no slides corresponding to his panel participation.

END



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PUBLISHING AHP/ANP PAPERS

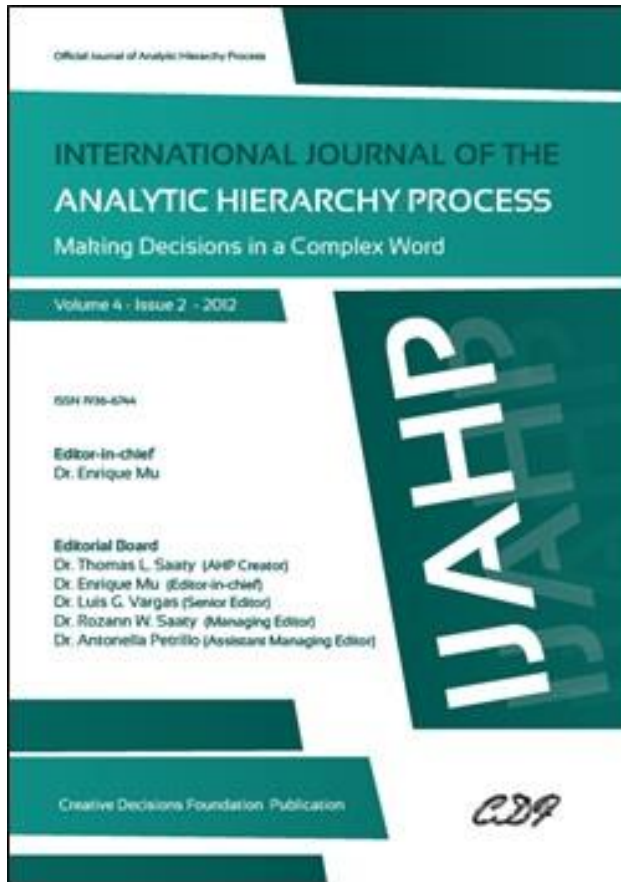
***What constitutes a publishable
AHP/ANP Application Paper?***

Enrique Mu

Editor-in-Chief, IJAHP
editor-in-chief@ijahp.org

The Journal

International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process



<http://www.ijahp.org>

The AHP/ANP Application

- Ideally, an application should address a problem that is:
 - Worldwide relevant (even if the particular case is local)
 - Current
 - Totally or partially unsolved
- Your literature review should contextualize your research problem to demonstrate the above

The Methodology

- Methodology does not need to be original but needs to be:
 - Rigorous (e.g. where do criteria come from? Literature?)
 - Participant Transparent (e.g. who entered the judgments?)
 - Understandable (i.e. follow reporting standards)

Results: The Model

- The most important contributions of an AHP/ANP application paper are the answers to the following questions:
- Does the model have external validity? (Can it be used – even if only as basis- by someone else?)
- Do conclusions are consistent with the analysis and useful?
- Have we learned anything new about the topic and its analysis? Sometimes there is not a final solution
- Important – AHP/ANP analyses have limitations too!

END



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PUBLISHING AHP/ANP PAPERS

Statistical Data on AHP Papers

DIHAP 2013
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

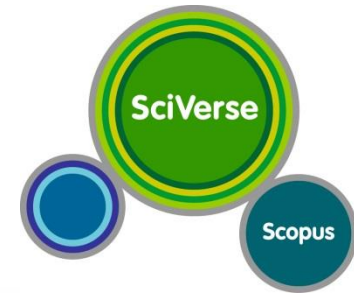
Fabio De Felice and Antonella Petrillo

University of Cassino - ITALY

defelice@unicas.it; a.petrillo@unicas.it

Statistical Data on AHP Papers

Years 2002-2012

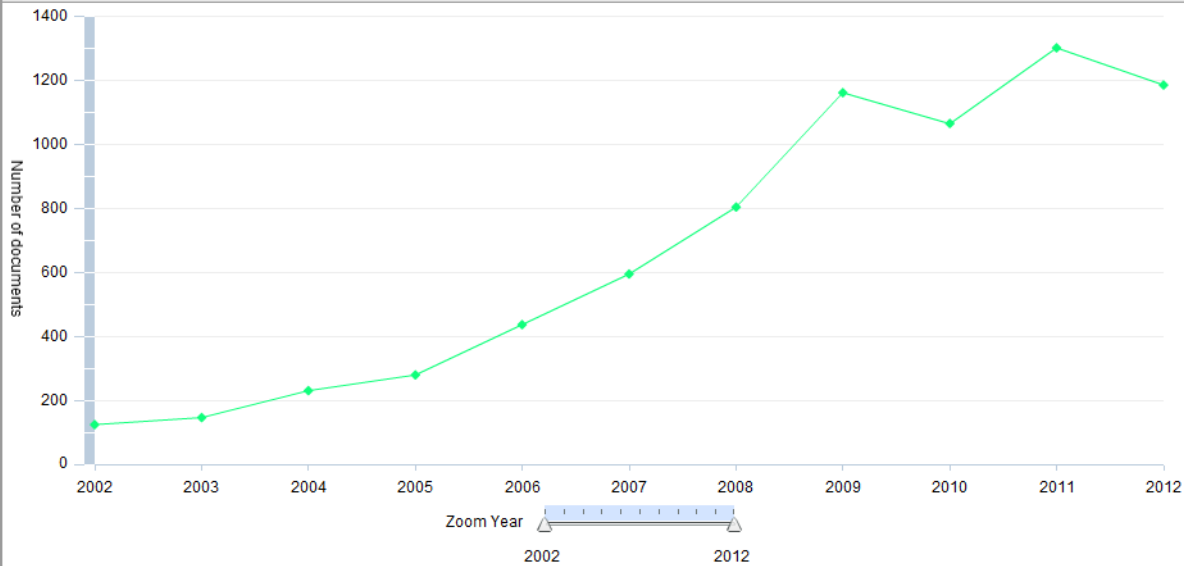


Date range to Document results 7,330

Year | Source title | Author name | Affiliation name | Country | Document type | Subject area

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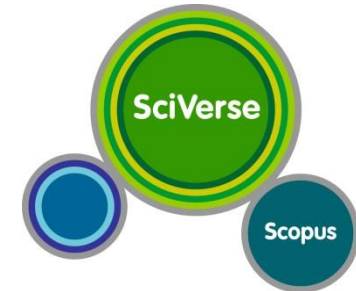
Years This chart shows the total number of documents for this query by Year.



Year	Documents
2012	1186
2011	1302
2010	1065
2009	1162
2008	804
2007	595
2006	437
2005	279
2004	230
2003	146
2002	124

Statistical Data on AHP Papers

Source Title



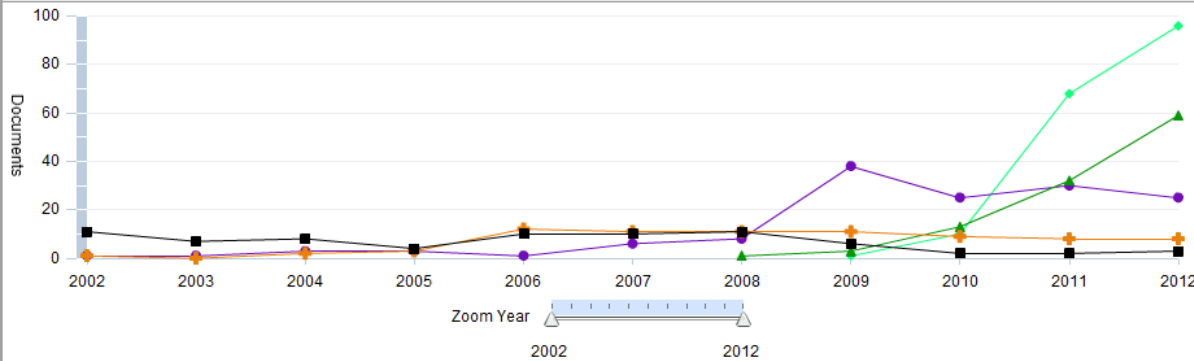
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Year | **Source title** | Author name | Affiliation name | Country | Document type | Subject area

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Source title This chart shows the total number of documents per year for this query by Source Title.

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Source	Documents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced Materials Research	175
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expert Systems with Applications	141
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applied Mechanics and Materials	108
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture Notes in Computer Science Including Subseries Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence	76
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European Journal of Operational Research	74
<input type="checkbox"/> Proceedings International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Knowledge Engineering	64
<input type="checkbox"/> Jisuanji Jicheng Zhizao Xitong Congshu	57
<input type="checkbox"/> 2008 International Conference on Virtual Reality and Avatars	56
<input type="checkbox"/> International Journal of Production Economics	46
<input type="checkbox"/> International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology	38
<input type="checkbox"/> Xitong Gongcheng Lilun Yu Shijian	35
<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematical and Computer Modelling	35
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications in Computer and Simulation Science	32
<input type="checkbox"/> Computers and Operations Research	29
<input type="checkbox"/> IJ-Conferences Publications	20

- Advanced Materials Research
- Expert Systems with Applications
- Applied Mechanics and Materials
- Lecture Notes in Computer Science Including Subseries Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence

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You can add up to 10 source titles to the graph.



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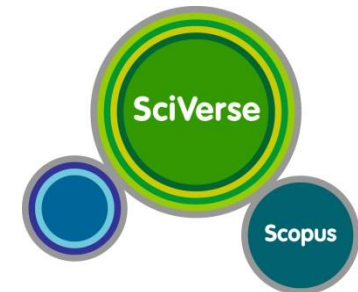
Source Title



Publishing editor: Thomas Wohlbier, TTP USA



Elsevier



Springer

Statistical Data on AHP Papers



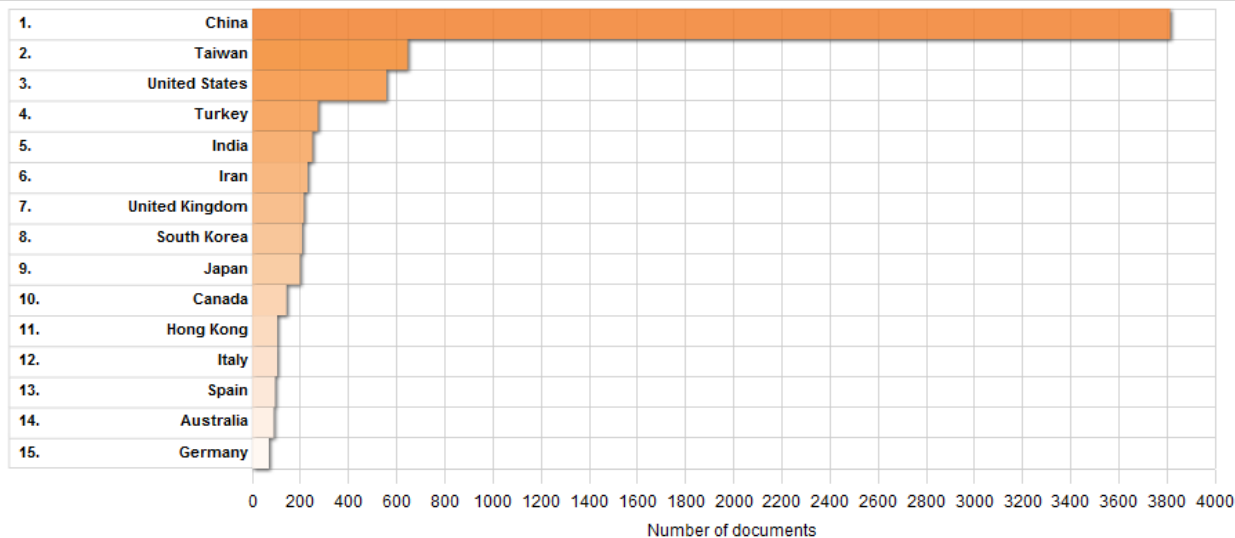
Country

Date range to Document results 7,330

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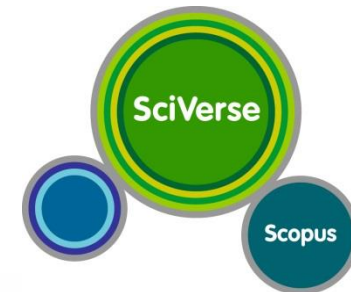
Country This chart shows the total number of documents for this query by Country.



To add more countries to the graph use the checkboxes in the list on the right.
There are a maximum of 15 countries you can add to the graph.

	Country	Documents
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Taiwan	646
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United States	556
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Turkey	273
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	India	250
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Iran	229
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Kingdom	214
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	South Korea	206
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Japan	198
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Canada	142
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hong Kong	104
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Italy	103
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Australia	89
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Germany	68

Statistical Data on AHP Papers

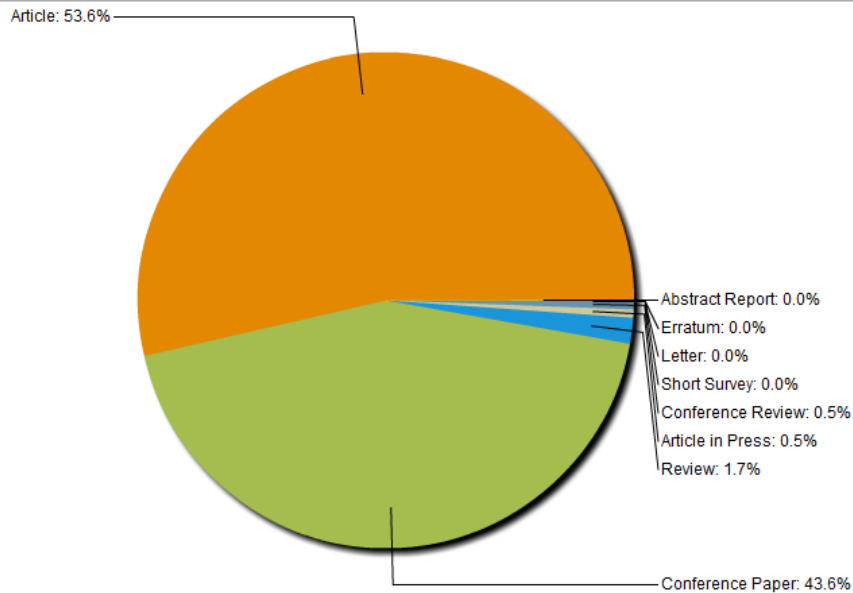


Document type

Date range to Document results 7,330

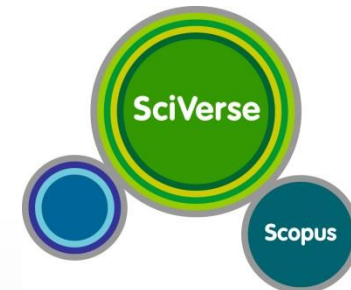
[Year](#) | [Source title](#) | [Author name](#) | [Affiliation name](#) | [Country](#) | [Document type](#) | [Subject area](#)

Document Types This chart shows the total number of documents for this query by Document Type.



Document Type	Documents
Article	<u>3929</u>
Conference Paper	<u>3195</u>
Review	<u>123</u>
Article in Press	<u>40</u>
Conference Review	<u>39</u>
Erratum	<u>1</u>
Letter	<u>1</u>
Short Survey	<u>1</u>
Abstract Report	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>7330</u>

Statistical Data on AHP Papers



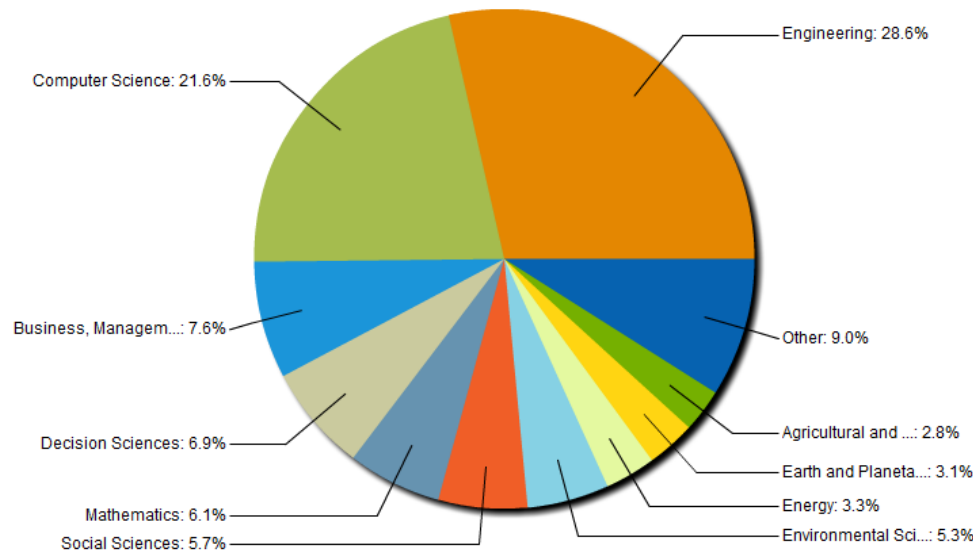
Subject area

Date range to Document results 7,330

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Subject Areas This chart shows the total number of documents for this query by Subject Area.



Subject Area	Documents
Engineering	3485
Computer Science	2638
Business, Management and Accounting	925
Decision Sciences	842
Mathematics	742
Social Sciences	701
Environmental Science	647
Energy	400
Earth and Planetary Sciences	384
Agricultural and Biological Sciences	340
Materials Science	172
Economics, Econometrics and Finance	165
Medicine	139
Multidisciplinary	137
Business and Economics	100

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What is AHP?

The Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) is a structured method for helping people deal with complex decisions. It provides a comprehensive and rational framework for structuring a problem, for representing and quantifying its elements, for relating those elements to overall goals, and for evaluating alternative solutions. Rather than prescribing a "correct"



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CONFERENCES

ISAHP 2013



**THE 12th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON THE ANALYTIC HIERARCHY PROCESS**
Multi-Criteria Decision Making
23rd-26th JUNE, 2013

ORGANIZED BY:
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
ISURE SOLUTIONS SDN BHD

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MIM 2013



23-26 June 2013, Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur

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Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

DI AHP 2013
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Birsen Karpak

Youngstown State University, Ohio - USA

bkarpak@ysu.edu

General Comments

- Don't format the manuscript according to the journal standards for your 1st submission.
- Don't add the name of your supervisor to the paper if s/he has not substantively contributed (In some countries it might not be possible though) .
- Don't complain about the referee reports, if your paper gets rejected.
- Don't throw the paper away if it gets trashed by the referees. **There is a suitable journal for most of the papers.**

General Comments

- Don't ignore the referee reports if your paper gets rejected.
- Don't do everything the referees ask for if your paper gets an r&r. Sometimes you might get conflicting comments.
- Don't forget to write a detailed 'letter to the editor' to explain your revisions and justify your decision not to do what the referees want if you get an r&r. Don't forget to address every point.

General Comments

- Be the reviewer for journals that publish AHP/ANP papers
- Be a good one. Journals grade the reviewers.
- Ask the editor if s/he can share with you the final decision and the other reviewers' comments.(You can judge if you have done a good job and learn from other reviewers)

General Comments

- Don't take anything exactly from existing published article even if it is of your own (You can quote)
- Never submit the same article for another journal when it has already been published in or accepted by a first journal even if you make some improvements. I know at least one paper that was rejected because a very similar article was already published in another journal. (It is unethical, in the US you may be fired from your university. Now it is very easy to catch.)

Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

- European Journal Of Operational Research (EJOR)
- International Journal of Production Economics (IJPE)
- International Journal of Production Research (IJPR)
- Decision Support Systems
- Expert Systems with Applications
- OMEGA
- Transportation

Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

- Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management
- Journal of Supply Chain Management
- Journal of Cleaner Production
- Computers in Industry
- Computers & Operations Research
- Computers & Industrial Engineering
- Transportation Research Part E: Logistic and transportation

Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

- Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (Wiley)
- Mathematical and Computer Modeling
- Information Sciences (Elsevier)
- Applied Mathematical Modeling (Elsevier)
(Quite probably it disappeared, just learned from Luis Vargas)
- Safety Science (Elsevier)

- Benchmarking: An International Journal
 - Indexed in
 - Emerald Management Reviews
 - Cabell's Dictionary of Publishing Opportunities in Management and Marketing
 - INSPEC
 - Scopus

- Journal of Manufacturing Technology Management
 - Is indexed and abstracted in:
 - ABI/INFORM
 - Cabell's Dictionary of Publishing Opportunities in Management and Marketing
 - Compendex
 - Emerald Management Reviews
 - Ergonomic Abstracts
 - INSPEC
 - Materials Business File
 - METADEX
 - Scopus

Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

- Journal of Systems Science and Systems Engineering (By Springer Verlag)
- International Journal of Management and Decision Making (Inderscience)
- International Journal of Productivity and Quality Management (Inderscience)
- International Journal of Multicriteria Decision Making (Inderscience)

Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

- International Journal of Services Sciences (Inderscience)
- International Journal of Operational Research (Inderscience)
- International Journal of Services Technology and Management (Inderscience)
- International Journal of Services and Operations Management (Inderscience)

Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

- Int. J. Logistics Systems and Management (Inderscience)
- Int. J. of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management – IJISSCM (An Official Publication of the Information Resources Management Association)
- Journal of Applied Business Research
- Journal of Aeronautics and Space Technologies

- Management Decision
 - is indexed and abstracted in:
 - ABI Inform
 - Business Periodicals Index
 - Business Source Elite
 - Business Source Premier
 - Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Management & Marketing
 - Emerald Management Reviews
 - Scopus
 - Social Science Citation Index (ISI)
 - And others

Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

- International Journal of Business & Management
- Forest Ecology and Management
- Journal of Quality in Maintenance Engineering
- South Asian Journal of Management
 - And quite probably some others

Journals That Publish AHP/ANP Papers

- AHP/ANP, being a decision theory, has been applied in many fields, and those fields often have special journals that are receptive to AHP/ANP decision making papers.
- Introduce the methodology to these audience. Be very clear. AHP/ANP explanation depends on the journal you are publishing

Thoughts for AHP/ANP Applied papers

- Don't forget IJAHP!
- Read IJAHP, cite it

Thoughts for AHP/ANP Applied papers

- – You can still publish ANP papers with an illustrative validating example.
- Find a virgin area that ANP not yet applied (Sustainable Supply Chains is one of them. There are some applications but not many)
- For AHP papers you need real decision makers
- Do very good literature search in the area you are planning to apply AHP/ANP

General Comments

- Publishing articles is like playing tennis:
 - you don't learn it by reading a book or attending a course. You need to practice
- Academic journals reject almost all papers. In the leading journals only about 10 percent of the submitted manuscripts get accepted.
- Editors reject an increasing number of submissions without sending them out for review.

General Comments

- Don't be afraid of rejection letters.
- Don't start too low on the journal ladder.
- Don't submit the manuscript to more than one journal at a time.
- Don't submit unfinished / unpolished manuscripts to get comments from the reviewers.

General Comments

- Make the English as good as you can. Spell-check and grammar-check the paper with the tools Word for Windows provides (most AHP/ANP papers are written in Word, though some journals want LaTeX)
- Submit the paper as the journal asks you to. Sometimes journals want the names of the authors stripped from the paper and the meta-data that is hidden in the paper. Make sure it is hidden. Sometimes it is very easy to guess the author though s/he has stripped (but not properly) from the paper.

Thoughts for AHP/ANP Applied papers

- Instead of saying “there is no article in this area” say “to the best knowledge of the authors, there is no article in this area
- Give theoretical base the criteria you are using. Just saying that “experts selected this criteria is not sufficient”
- We have the advantage of considering the number of factors and interrelationships among these factors that most of the other models cannot explicitly addresses.

Thoughts for AHP/ANP Applied papers

- Give as much detail as possible about the actual problem
 - Who are the decision makers
 - What are the criteria, sub-criteria
 - Who were the parties creating the structure?
- AHP/ANP papers should always be specific about who the decision is for. Who will implement the outcome? Was it implemented or likely to be implemented (If not implemented why? It is much easier to publish an article if the study is implemented we can learn from our mistakes too.)

Thoughts for AHP/ANP Applied papers

- Who gave the judgments, how many were involved, and how was it done. Questionnaire? Group meeting?
- What did you learn from this study?
- What are the strengths of the research?
- What are possible improvements?
- What can be done in future?

Thoughts for AHP/ANP Applied papers

- The application of the AHP/ANP approach should not only be concerned with a ‘final’ solution to the problem, but it also should be applied as a learning tool for decision makers and managers to help understand the various linkages among the various components, clusters, and elements.

General Comments

- Provide three names of possible referees for your paper (include their educational institution or affiliation). They should be people familiar with the field in which you applied AHP. If the journal asks so.
- Be prompt in responding to correspondence from the journal and in getting your paper back with the editors' suggested corrections or improvements.
- It is better to give institutional e-mail address.

END



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PUBLISHING AHP/ANP PAPERS

Articles describing application of AHP in healthcare

Leandro Pecchia

University of Nottingham (UK)

leandro.pecchia@nottingham.ac.uk

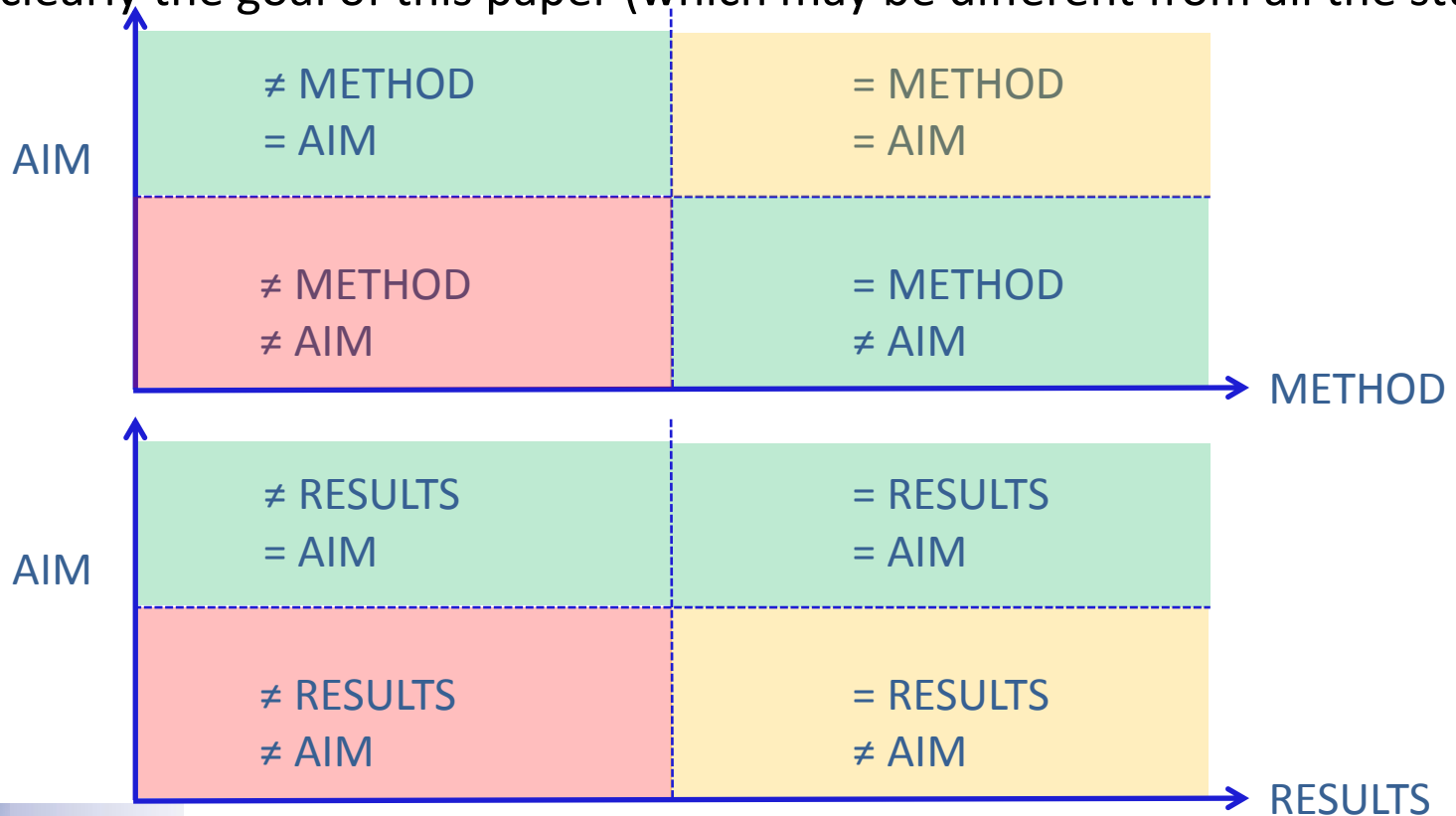
Scenario

1. There is a growing number of study focusing on application of AHP in healthcare
2. These applications span from:
 - Medical decision making
 - Health Technology Assessment
 - Identification of the best treatment for a patient or a specific population of
 - User need elicitation and human centered design
 - Selection of health technologies
 - Identify the best candidate for a treatment (i.e. candidate for organ donation)
3. This is a very promising and challenging field, but few considerations have to be done before writing a paper
4. This is mainly because healthcare researches present some peculiarities:
 - The final user of a technology is not a technologist
 - The main stakeholder is not expert of the field
 - Safety and ethical issues are paramount important
5. Thus, it is useful to discuss some issues regarding paper on AHP in healthcare

Introduction

This is the section that needs to be better structured

- Focus only on the specific problem you are trying to solve
- Support your goal with references (why you did your study?)
- Present in few words the state of the art (...put all the references here!!!!)
- Clarify clearly what your study added/is adding/is going to add/will add
- State clearly the goal of this paper (which may be different from all the study)

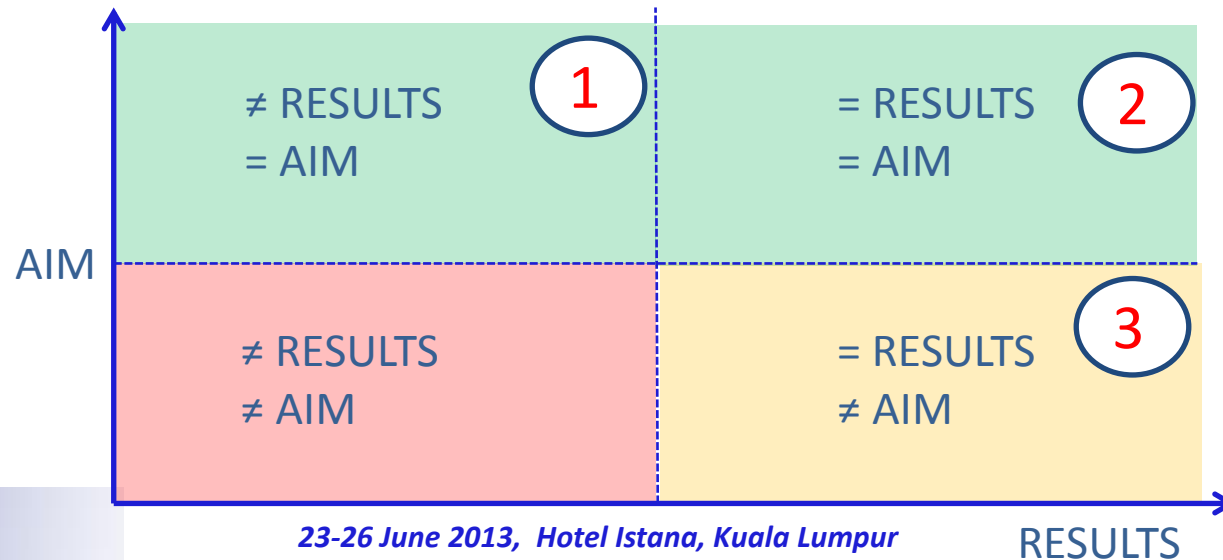


Method

1. Describe in details only **your relevant contributions**:
 - Was AHP used in a peculiar way?
 - Was it a new target of responders?
 - ...
2. Spend less words on other methodological bits, remanding the readers to the references for the **well established parts**
3. *I would suggest not to describe the **basic method of AHP**, unless your paper is the first one describing AHP for the journal your are submitting your work.*
4. Please minimize the **numbers in this section...**
5. Try to write this section in an understandable way for **readers not familiar with AHP** (or with other mathematical staff), but do **not repeat** well known thinks
6. **Some references** in this section are normally due (i.e. Saaty fundamental scale)
7. Critical **data pooling**: readers are use to see a mean value and a variace...
8. In healthcare there are some methodological requirements:
 - minimum **sample size** estimation (this is essential to start the study)
 - generality of your results (given with statistical tests and **p-value**)
 - mention your **ethical approval**
 - Opinion study are the base of **pyramid of evidence...**

Results and Discussion

1. Put here **all the numbers**, tables, diagrams
2. **Report the results achieved in your study**
3. **Report ONLY the results achieved in your study**
4. Use graphs and plots to describe the main results (do not repeat all, just the main)
5. **No new references** here: cite all the studies you need in the introduction...
6. **Discuss your results against existing literature:**
 - “differently from Dr X, we proved that...”
 - “we confirm the results of Dr X with an independent method...”
 - This may happen. It is the frequent case of a secondary outcome...
7. If there is no previous studies to compare your work... search better and better!



Conclusion

1. Describe in few lines the contribution of your paper
2. Describe in few words the learned lesson
3. Try to describe the impact of your work
4. Highlight possible future directions
5. State clearly the limits of your study

Thank you for your time!

*P.s.: please do not blame me, this is only the lesson I learned by writing 28 papers in 2012/13.
I would have published much better if somebody had told me these few thinks...*

Leandro Pecchia

University of Nottingham (UK)

leandro.pecchia@nottingham.ac.uk

L.pecchia@warwick.ac.uk (from next September)

**PANEL
END**