

## The LSST Transient and Variable Stars Collaboration Science Collaboration Publication Policy

Reading and agreeing to this policy *is a condition for membership* to the LSST Transients and Variable Stars Science Collaboration.

*Version information: v 0.1 prepared by Federica Bianco (TVS co-Chair) in June 2018*

This Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) Transients and Variable Stars Science Collaboration (TVS SC, also referred here as “the Collaboration” and TVS) *Publication Policy* described in this document applies to all papers produced by TVS members on topics discussed and developed within the TVS research environment. This refers to interactions during TVS in-person or online meetings, to any communication between TVS members that are not otherwise academically connected on topics of relevant to LSST’s exploration of the transient and variable Universe and to the use of TVS resources.

There are two primary goals for this policy:

- To protect the intellectual property of TVS members and provide a trusted, supportive environment in which they can share ideas and expertise.
- To maximize the quality and ensure the validity of TVS publications by taking full advantage of the scientific and technical expertise within the collaboration.

Reading and agreeing to the TVS Publication Policy is a condition for membership and the Publication Policy should be reviewed by all applying for membership before submitting their application.

This publication policy covers

- peer-reviewed publication (journal articles),
- white papers,
- conference contributions (oral and posters),
- theses,
- data releases,
- software tools, and
- documentation relating to TVS data products and software.

These categories are further specified below.

## TVS core member's right to co-authorship on TVS publications

The TVS SC core members shall be asked if they want to be co-authors on TVS publications. The core members should not abuse this right, and evaluate if their contribution to TVS has in fact facilitated the publication. TVS core member status is acquired through a nomination and approval process, as defined in the TVS charter document. To see a current list of TVS builders please see our website:

<https://lsst-tvssc.github.io/builders.html>.

**To take advantage of this right the core members must read the full content of the proposed publication and serve as internal reviewer by providing comments.**

The publication authors have the right to object to an individual with core member status co-authoring their paper and the publication panel (see TVS charter) will review these issues on a case-by-case basis. This form <https://goo.gl/QAaYvX> should be used to appeal a co-authorship request by a TVS member holding core status but that the paper's authors do not believe contributed significantly to the paper, either through their service to TVS or intellectually through exchange of ideas happening within TVS. Similarly, full members of a subgroup (generally the *primary subgroup of lead author*, but this could also be another subgroup if it is most relevant to this publication) should be asked and can opt-in to be co-authors on a TVS-lead paper that the TVS infrastructure through intellectual exchange or the use of facilities.

->

The lead author of a TVS publication is responsible for contacting all members who contributed that publication to offer them the opportunity to be co-authors. This should be done sufficiently in advance of the publication being submitted to a journal to allow the members a reasonable period to read the publication and provide meaningful feedback, which the author should consider. In general it is envisaged that this group will include full members of the lead-author's subgroup or task force, but is not limited to these bodies. Full members of these groups may opt-in to be co-authors on a TVS-lead paper that the TVS infrastructure through intellectual exchange or the use of facilities.

If a member of your subgroup is opting-in to be a co-author on your publication and you do not believe their contribution was significant enough please use the same form (<https://goo.gl/QAaYvX>) to appeal the co-authorship policy.

## Definition of a *TVS publication*

A publication is considered a TVS publication and is covered by this policy if both of the following **criteria for TVS publications** are satisfied:

- (1) the publication uses TVS SC non-public products or is a result of active collaborative work within the TVS SC subgroups or task forces, and*
- (2) it is authored by one or more TVS SC members.*

TVS SC products include:

- data products (real and simulated),
- analysis methods and theory,
- simulations, and
- software
- publications, presentation slides and other media

developed substantially or entirely within the TVS SC, by TVS SC members or using or depending on TVS SC resources.

Conversely, products wholly developed outside TVS SC, that did not use TVS SC resources or expertise, and are then made available to TVS SC, are not considered TVS SC products.

Publications that do not satisfy both criteria above are considered “external publications” and are outside the purview of this policy. The TVS SC publication board can decide whether a publication is or is not a TVS SC publication in cases of ambiguity.

Below, the publication categories covered by this publication policy are described:

### **Journal papers:**

Journal papers are peer-reviewed publication, or refereed scientific publications. TVS journal papers are papers that satisfy both criteria for TVS publications are intellectual property of the TVS SC. The TVS members who have made a meaningful material and/or intellectual contribution to the publication have the right to be co-authors. The authors of the proposed publication must notify the builders about the intent to submit said publication and circulate a draft at least two weeks prior to submission. To take advantage of their right to become co-author the builders must read the full content of the proposed publication and serve as internal reviewers by providing comments. The authors of the paper should value this review and consider addressing the comments. This review process should be documented within

TVS. It is the responsibility of the paper's authors to collect information about the paper including submission and publication and any information relating to the internal TVS review via this [google form](#).

**White papers:**

White papers include publications that are not conceived for peer-review journals and that advocate for scientific resources or strategies. An example of this are white papers that respond to LSST calls to define or redefine the LSST observing strategy. The same rules about authorship as for journal papers apply.

**Conference contributions:**

This category refers to all materials (figures, tables, results) presented during conference presentations (as posters, talks, proceedings) and scientific seminars (including colloquia) that were developed within TVS SC and fulfill both criteria for TVS publications (see above). The same rules as for journal papers apply, and core and full subgroup members can request to be explicitly named as a co-author, although in most cases a collective reference to “the LSST Transient and Variable Stars Science Collaboration” as a collective of author is expected to be sufficient.

**Thesis:**

Ph.D. theses are not reviewed by the Publication Board. On the other hand, associated journal papers are subject to the rules applying to journal papers.

**Data releases:**

The TVS SC data releases consist of material produced within the TVS and made available to the community in machine-readable form after submission of the corresponding data release paper (and no later than its publication). This includes processed (or reprocessed) data and results of numerical simulations, along with their documentation.

**Software tools:**

Software tools developed by the TVS SC can be documented in an associated journal paper that should be cited in all publications that make use of the tools, and the criteria for authorship for journal papers (above) apply. They should follow standard reproducible research guidelines and best practises for citing software in the list of references so that the use of software is properly attributed to its author(s) through the publication metrics. The TVS SC

leadership can advocate for the publication of software tool documentation in peer-review journals.

**Documentation relating to TVS data products and software:**

Documentation of the steps followed to obtain the results of a TVS SC study, data release, or software tools, constitutes one component of “reproducible research,” as long as the documentation is comprehensive enough that the authors and others can repeat the procedures and obtain the same results. Documentation also serves to justify key choices made in the analysis and allows researchers to verify and build on each other’s work. This documentation may take the form of formal research notes, documented software, wiki pages, and documentation created with emerging tools. Documentation supporting each TVS SC journal paper shall be made available to members of the TVS SC that are offered the opportunity to be co-authors and to the publication board in case of appeal to co-authorship requests for the publication review purposes. Authors are expected to provide sufficient documentation that the analysis (including any steps not described in the paper) can be reviewed efficiently by their collaborators. Research notes may be posted to a public web site (and possibly the arXiv as well) following the same criteria for publication as for journal papers. Public research notes can be cited in TVS SC journal papers.

All TVS SC publication, following under any of these categories, should be listed on the TVS website.



