

From: [Transactions on Software Engineering](#)
To: [Prechelt, Lutz](#); prechelt@computer.org; lloyd.montgomery@uni-hamburg.de; julian.frattini@chalmers.se; franz.zieris@bth.se
Subject: Decision Re: TSE-2025-06-0539
Date: Sonntag, 27. Juli 2025 01:10:55

RE: TSE-2025-06-0539, "How (Not) To Write a Software Engineering Abstract"
Manuscript Type: Regular (Journal First)

Dear Dr. Prechelt,

Please see below a review by an Associate Editor who has reviewed your manuscript for its suitability for publication in the IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering. Based on this review, the AE is not able to accept your paper for publication. I would like to encourage you, however, to consider Transactions on Software Engineering for possible publication of your future papers.

We thank you for your interest in the IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering.

Best regards,

Chahat Gogia on behalf of Sebastian Uchitel, EIC
IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering
tse@computer.org

=====Editor Review=====

Associate Editor

Comments to the Author:

I've been asked to prescreen this manuscript to determine its suitability for IEEE TSE. While I understand the importance of properly writing a paper abstract, I'm afraid this contribution is not suitable for consideration by the journal. The reasons are explained in the following.

- As for the journal's call for contributions, TSE is seeking contributions aimed at advancing the software engineering body of knowledge, rather than contributions aimed at explaining how to better write a manuscript. This is more suitable, perhaps, for a conference tutorial. I fully understand articles on how to write abstracts have been published in the past, but TSE is targeting different types of articles.
- The work isn't much software engineering specific, apart from the assessment of a software engineering paper. However, the way in which the assessment has been performed, and the considered dimensions, do not contain much specific to software engineering.
- Important, the work is missing an evaluation. While the abstracts have been assessed by a very rigorous open coding, whether or not they are good remains the point of view of the authors. In other words, the study does not show that better-written abstracts are more useful to the readers than the others. This may require a validation with external readers. In the end, the purpose of an abstract is to encourage the reader to go through the manuscript.