The publication process

kbroman.org/BMI883

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Norms for discussion

- Presume positive intentions
- Engage respectfully
- Listen attentively
- Aim for equal participation
- Respect boundaries
- Provide evidence
Author’s point of view

- Write paper
- Submit paper and fill out a bunch of metadata
- Receive reviews and decision
- Revise and resubmit, with response to reviewers
- Acceptance! Submit final documents
- Comb over proofs
- Pay publication charges
- Sign over copyright

Journal’s point of view (Genetics)
Author’s point of view

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Journal’s point of view (Genetics)

- Staff assigns paper to Senior Editor
- Senior Editor: rapid reject or assign Associate Editor
- AE: find two reviewers (maybe asking 8 people)
- AE: decide on
  - accept as is
  - accept with minor revisions
  - reject but encourage resubmission
  - reject
  (Also, explain what’s most important)
- SE review decision (sufficiently detailed?)
- AE: accept, reject, or send out for re-review?
Features of Genetics

- Academic (volunteer) editors
- Associate Editors interact directly with authors and reviewers
- AE’s name published at the bottom of the paper
- All decisions involve two editors
Journal of the American Statistical Association

- Similar process, but **double-blind**
- AEs interact with reviewers but anonymous to authors
- Decision comes not from AE but from a Senior Editor
Nature journals

- Editors are anonymous and full-time staff
Tips

▶ Suggest reviewers
▶ Cover letter that concisely explains why your paper is interesting
▶ Shoot high and take forever, or shoot in the middle and move on with your life
▶ In revision: would like to avoid re-review (so convince editor that changes are minor) but don’t piss off the reviewers, in case it does go out for re-review
▶ Make some change in response to each criticism (don’t just comment)
▶ Feel free to ask editor for clarification
▶ Be prepared for pain. The process is not gentle.
How to decide where to send a paper?

Why the struggle among editors, reviewers, and authors?