

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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DESCRIPTION

FICTECH focuses on the publication in the area of Structural engineering, Construction management, Environmental engineering, Water resources and hydrology engineering, Geotechnical engineering, Coastal and harbour engineering, Surveying and Geospatial engineering, Transportation engineering, and Construction materials. The journal will publish at least two issues (Bi-Annually. First issue in January and Second in July) each year. Articles are published online when ready for publication (continuously) as Article in Press. Additional issues may be published for special events (e.g., conferences) and when special themes are addressed.

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EDITORIAL BOARD

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Yaser Jemaa, Department of Civil Engineering, Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom 0001-6313-6528

TYPE OF JOURNAL CONTENT

Technical Papers

Technical papers are full-length manuscripts of value and interest to comply with JICTECH journal scope of work. They are written in form of original reviews of past practice, present information of current interest, or probe new fields of science and engineering activity. The technical papers should report the results of fascinating studies that contribute to the planning, analysis, design, construction, management, or maintenance of material engineering and science works. Technical papers should also include whenever possible a practical application section and indicate areas of additional research to implement technology transfer. Practical papers are strongly encouraged. Technical papers must not exceed 30 double-spaced manuscript pages including references, figures, tables, and captions.

Technical Notes

Technical notes present (1) original, practical information; (2) preliminary or partial results of research; (3) concisely presented research results; and (4) innovative techniques to accomplish design objectives. Technical notes must not exceed 7 double-spaced manuscript pages, including references, figures, tables, and captions.

Case Studies

A method or application that illustrates a new or existing principle or presents an innovative way to solve a problem can be also presented in form of case studies. Ideally, results written in a case study paper should picture broad implications and not be specific to only the case presented. Case studies are judged with the same rigor as technical papers and notes. Case studies must not exceed 30 double-spaced manuscript pages, including references, figures, tables, and captions.

Editorials

An editorial is a brief opinion discussing the scope, content, direction, or philosophy of the journal or a policy issue concerning engineering research or its application. Editorials are occasionally invited but not reviewed. Length of manuscript should not be more than 4 double-spaced manuscript pages, and rarely contain tables, figures, or references. Editorials require a title and author byline with current affiliations.

State of the Art Reviews

State-of-the-Art Review articles are full-length papers that provide timely, in-depth treatment of a specific issue relevant to the journal topics. These reviews must provide a complete survey of the state of practice being examined, as well as leave the reader feeling as though they are up to date on the current practices in the field on the given topic. A State-of-the-Art Review consists of an extensive literature review of the most recent and relevant studies as well as perspective on the history of practice and the importance of the field. For this type of manuscript, authors planning to submit State-of-the-Art Review articles must first submit a proposal for the article to be reviewed by the chief editor or member of the editorial board, and if approved, authors will be invited to submit the full article to be peer-reviewed.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Author's Obligation

- An author's central obligation is to present a concise account of his or her research, work, or project completed with an objective discussion of its significance.
- Submitted manuscripts should contain detail and reference to public sources of information to allow the author's peers to repeat the work or otherwise verify the accuracy. All reasonable requests by editors or reviewers for materials, data, and associated protocols should be fulfilled.
- The manuscript must not contain plagiarized material or falsified research data. **JICTECH** is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Guidelines recommended by COPE is outlined at publicationethics.org.
- To protect the integrity of authorship, only persons who have significantly contributed to the research or project and manuscript preparation should be listed as coauthors. The corresponding author will attest to the fact that any others named as coauthors have seen the final version of the paper and agreed to the submission for publication.

Editor's Obligation

- The editor is responsible for ensuring an efficient and fair review process of manuscripts submitted for publication and for establishing and maintain high standards of technical and professional quality.
- An editor shall give unbiased consideration to all manuscripts offered for publication and shall judge each on its merits without regard to any personal relationship or familiarity with the author(s), or to the race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, professional association, or political philosophy of the author(s).
- The editor and editorial staff shall disclose no information about a manuscript under consideration to anyone other than those from whom professional advice regarding the publication of the manuscript is sought. The names of reviewers shall not be released by the editors or editorial staff.
- An editor who authors or coauthors a manuscript submitted for consideration to the journal with which that editor is affiliated, shall not review that work. If after publication, the editor-author's work merits ongoing scientific debate within the journal, the editor-author shall accept no editorial responsibility in connection therewith.
- An editor shall avoid conflicts of interest and/or the appearance thereof. An editor shall not send a manuscript to reviewers who are known to have a personal bias in favor of or against the author or the subject matter of that manuscript.

Reviewer's Obligation

- A reviewer shall objectively judge the quality of a manuscript on its own merit and shall respect the intellectual independence of the author(s). Personal criticism is never appropriate.
- A reviewer shall not suggest unnecessary revisions to add content or citations to works authored by the reviewer or associates of the reviewer.
- A reviewer shall avoid conflicts of interest and/or the appearance thereof. If a manuscript submitted
 for review presents a potential conflict of interest or the reviewer has a personal bias, the reviewer
 shall return the manuscript promptly without review, and so advise the editor.
- If a reviewer receives for review a manuscript authored or coauthored by a person with whom the reviewer has a personal or professional relationship, the existence of this relationship shall be promptly brought to the attention of the editor.
- A reviewer shall treat a manuscript received for review as a confidential document and shall neither disclose nor discuss it with others except, as necessary, to persons from whom specific advice may

be sought; in that event, the identities of those consulted shall be disclosed to the editor. The review submitted to **JICTECH** remains confidential and should not be shared publicly on any platform regardless of the final decision of the paper.

- Reviewers shall explain and support judgments adequately so that the editor and author(s) may understand the basis for their comments. Any statement that an observation, derivation, or argument has been previously reported shall be accompanied by the relevant citation.
- A reviewer shall call to the editor's attention any substantial similarity between the manuscript under consideration and any published paper or any manuscript submitted concurrently to another journal.
- If a reviewer has convincing evidence that a manuscript contains plagiarized material or falsified research data, the reviewer shall notify the editor or **JICTECH** journals staff immediately. The reviewer should not contact the author directly.

Authorship

To protect the integrity of authorship, only persons who have significantly contributed to the research or project and paper preparation shall be listed as coauthors. The corresponding author attests to the fact that any others named as coauthors have seen the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

COPE has the following advice on authorship:

- 1. Check the author(s)' institution for policies on authorship.
- 2. Research team members should have open discussions from the very beginning about authorship. Team members should continue to discuss the roles of each player as the project progresses and keep a written record of the decisions.
- 3. Documentation should be kept on who is performing which tasks throughout the research.
- 4. Authorship should be decided prior to the writing of the paper. The entire research team should know what to expect. [Albert, T., and E. Wager. 2004. "How to handle authorship disputes: A guide for new researchers." In The COPE Report 2003, edited by C. White, 32-34. London: BMJ Books. https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines.]

JICTECH Journal does not allow changes to the author byline, to include the order of the authors, after the paper has been accepted. During review, any changes must be verified by every author on the paper. Authors cannot be removed without their explicit permission.

Acknowledgments at the end of the paper are encouraged as a way to thank those who have contributed to the research or project but did not merit being listed as an author. The Acknowledgments should indicate what each person did to contribute to the project.

Similarity Check

JICTECH is a member of Crossref and employs the Similarity Check tool, powered by Turnitin, to evaluate the originality of work submitted to the journals. Similarity Check evaluates the text of a submitted paper against a large database of published journal content and non-journal content on the internet. A similarity report is provided to the editors in evaluating the originality of work.

Papers that are found to have excessive overlap with the author(s)' previous work may be returned to the author with a request to revise the overlap and/or verbatim sections.

Papers that are found to have excessive and unattributed overlap with published works authored by others will be subject to review by the editors and possibly the corresponding author's institution.

Accusations of Scientific Misconduct

Manuscripts submitted to **JICTECH** are considered confidential and will not be shared. If a paper is under investigation for possible misconduct, **JICTECH** may share the manuscript with editors of **JICTECH** and non-**JICTECH** journals, also investigating the matter.

DUAL SUBMISSION

Definition — **JICTECH** will not review papers that are being reviewed elsewhere. **JICTECH** performs a duplicate submission check that looks for similar papers throughout the **JICTECH** journal database. If

JICTECH discovers that a paper in a review is also in review elsewhere, **JICTECH** will contact the other journal and request a copy of the manuscript for evaluation.

Action — If it is discovered that the same or very similar papers have been submitted to more than one **JICTECH** journal, both papers will be rejected. If a paper in review appears to be in review at another non-**JICTECH** journal, **JICTECH** will ask the author for an explanation and, barring an honest mistake, likely reject the paper in review.

DUAL PUBLICATION

Definition — **JICTECH** does not review or publish material that has been published already. This includes publication in other journals, books, and proceedings. **JICTECH** expects that all submissions are novel and original to the author (see Redundant Publication or Fragmentation of Research).

Action — The papers in question will be evaluated for similarity. The authors will be asked for an explanation. The publisher of a similar paper will be contacted. If the investigation by **JICTECH** finds that the paper meets the definition of dual publication, the paper may be retracted, and the author's institution notified of the action.

FABRICATION AND FALSIFICATION OF DATA

Definition — Fabrication of data is "making up data or results and recording or reporting them," and falsification is "manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record" (ori.hhs.gov/definition-misconduct).

Action — Fabricating or falsifying data is a major violation of proper scientific conduct. Authors accused of either violation will be asked to supply all supporting data and results for evaluation. If **JICTECH** and its editors find cause for further investigation, the issue may be referred to as the author(s)' institution and/or funding agency for investigation. Authors who are members of **JICTECH** may also be reported to the **JICTECH** Committee on Professional Conduct. **JICTECH** journals may issue an Expression of Concern during any investigation. If wrongdoing is determined, the offending paper(s) will be rejected or retracted, and the authors may be banned from publishing with **JICTECH** in the future.

PLAGIARISM

Definition — "Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit" (ori.hhs.gov/definition-misconduct).

Action — **JICTECH** journals use Similarity Check, powered by Turnitin, to compare submitted papers to already published works. The authors may be asked to explain similarities. Follow-up investigation and action depends on the nature of the offense. If a paper is found to have deliberately plagiarized works of another, the paper will be rejected or retracted, and the author(s)' institution will be notified.

CROSSMARK

As a member of Crossref, **JICTECH** participates in Crossmark, a multi-publisher initiative, to provide a standard way for readers to locate the authoritative version of a document. The appearance of the Crossmark logo on a document indicates that **JICTECH** is committed to maintaining the content it publishes and to alerting readers to changes if and when they occur.

Clicking the Crossmark logo on a document will tell you its current status and may also give you additional publication-record information about the document. If an update exists, the status information will include a Crossref DOI link to the updated document and any associated documents such as Errata, Expressions of Concern, and Retractions.

JICTECH PUBLICATIONS POLICIES

Peer Review Policies

Technical papers, technical notes, and case studies must be reviewed by at least two competent reviewers. The editor must receive an agreeing review from one of the reviewers in order to render a decision of accept or decline. **JICTECH**'s goal is to have manuscripts complete their initial review within 30 days. Revisions and rereview are frequently required conditions of acceptance.

Previously Published Content

JICTECH only considers original manuscripts that have not been previously published and are not under consideration with other journals. "Previously published" includes papers in print and available online and may include conference proceeding papers, posters, and preprints on institutional repositories, preprint servers, or other internet sites. Special considerations are taken for posted theses and dissertations as well as government reports required by federal funding agencies.

Conference Proceedings

JICTECH will consider papers containing material previously published in conference proceedings only if the following conditions apply:

- The submitted paper contains significantly different technical material, text, and figures at least 50% new material.
- The journal article must not have the same title as a conference paper.
- Text that overlaps should be rewritten where possible to avoid word-for-word chunks of text.
- Conference papers must be cited
- The authors must disclose that the submitted manuscript is an expanded version of a conference paper or papers in the submission questions.

Theses and Dissertations

- **JICTECH** does not consider the online posting of theses and/or dissertations to be prior publication if the degree-granting institution requires that the final version be posted as a requirement for an undergraduate, Masters, or Ph.D. degree. Postings may be made in open institutional repositories or on ProQuest UMI, provided that posting is a requirement of obtaining a degree.
- If a thesis or dissertation has been posted online prior to submitting a journal article, authors must disclose this in the submission questions and provide the URL or DOI permalink.
- It is the author's responsibility to ensure that the submitted paper has all copyright permission and authorship approvals. Authors should take care in revising their academic work to best suit publication in a journal.

Peer Review Process

Once an article is submitted for review, it will be evaluated by JICTECH to ensure it meets technical requirements for submission. Once the manuscript passes the technical check, the manuscript will be sent to the chief editor of the journal to begin the review process.

Review procedure starts wherein the chief editor will perform an initial review of the article to make sure it fits the aims and scope of the journal. The authors can review each journal's aims and scope on the journal home page at jictech.ejournal.unri.ac.id.

If a manuscript fits within the journal's scope and the English are reasonable, the chief editor may send the article to an associate editor who will invite reviewers and make a decision on the manuscript. Once the associate editor submits their recommendation and the reviews, the chief editor will review the recommendation and make a final decision.

Review Decisions

Upon initial review of a submitted manuscript, the editor is permitted to take the following actions:

- Send the paper out for review.
- Return the paper without review because the paper is outside the scope of the journal.

- Return the paper without review because the grammar is substandard.
- Return the paper without review because the technical content is insufficient.
- Return the paper without review because the paper grossly exceeds the length limitations.

Reviewers are experts who critically read and provide detailed reviews to improve the paper. Editors review the comments and will often provide a summary for the authors. The decisions available after review are:

- Accept
- Revise
- Decline

Upon submitting revisions to the journal, authors are required to submit a rebuttal to the reviewer comments. Authors should note the page and line number and fully address all reviewer comments. Even if an author does not agree with the change requested, the author should explain the rationale in the rebuttal. If an editor feels that an author has ignored reviewer comments, the editor may reject the revised manuscript.

Appeal of Review Decisions

An author who disagrees with a review decision may appeal it, stating in writing the wish to do so. If the editor decides the appeal is valid, the authors will be invited to resubmit the article as a new submission and the manuscript will undergo a new round of review. If it is again declined, the decision may be appealed to the appropriate division, council, or institute. The division, council, or institute's decision is final.

Manuscript Submission and Revision Requirements

Manuscripts must be submitted to the journal's submission system. Links to the submission page can be found on the journal home page in the **JICTECH**. Any manuscript mailed or emailed will be returned to the author(s) with instructions for online submission.

When submitting a manuscript for an *initial review*, please ensure the following:

- The manuscript title, author byline, and abstract are on the first page of your manuscript text. Authors should make sure the byline listed on the manuscript matches what they have entered in **JICTECH**'s submission system.
- All authors have separate affiliation statements. The corresponding author should be noted. **An email address is required for the corresponding author and encouraged for all authors**.
- The manuscript is in a double-spaced, single-column format with continuous line numbering.
- All figures and tables are included.
- Initial submissions must be in Microsoft Word.
- Funding for the research must be declared in the Acknowledgments.
- Authors are encouraged to have an ORCID and supply it with the submission. All ORCIDs submitted should be "fetched" via the instructions on the site. ORCIDs that are typed or cut and pasted into the box will not be validated and therefore, not used. Unauthenticated ORCIDs entered as text in the manuscript will not be published.

When submitting a *revised manuscript*, ensure that the following requirements are met:

- All aforementioned requirements listed for new submissions apply to revised manuscripts.
- Manuscript file is in Microsoft Word.
- Figures are uploaded as separate files and in BMP, EPS, PDF, PS, or TIF/TIFF formats.
- Tables are in Microsoft Word.
- All permissions are uploaded with the manuscript files.

PREPARING THE MANUSCRIPT

General

Length — The maximum length for technical papers and case studies is 30 double-spaced manuscript pages including references, figures, tables, and captions. The editor may waive these restrictions to encourage manuscripts on topics that cannot be treated within these limitations, however grossly overlength papers may be returned prior to review.

General Flow of the Paper - Sections of the article should not be numbered and use word headings only. Article sections should appear in the following order:

- Title page (includes title, author byline, affiliation(s), and abstract)
- Introduction
- Main text sections
- Conclusion
- Appendix(es)
- Acknowledgments (to include any funders)
- Disclaimer
- Notation
- References

Title

Title — The title of a paper is the first "description" of a paper found via search engines. Authors should take care to ensure that the title is specific and accurately reflects the final, post–peer reviewed version of the paper. Authors should try to include relevant search terms in the title of the paper to maximize discoverability online.

Author bylines — Under the title of the manuscript, the full name of each author, his or her affiliation and an academic or professional designation as well as email addresses, if applicable, must be included.

Authors are not permitted to change the byline of their paper once the manuscript has been accepted for publication. Changing the author byline during review is possible, but is subject to the following requirements:

- If the author's order is changing from the initial submission, the corresponding author must provide evidence of approval by all the authors.
- If an author is being added after the initial submission, the corresponding author must provide an explanation of the addition as well as approval by all the initial authors and approval by the author being added.
- If any authors are being deleted who were included in the initial submission, the corresponding author must provide approval from all remaining author(s) and written permission from the author(s) being deleted. Without explicit permission to remove them, those names will remain in the byline.

If the corresponding author is changing from the initial submission, permission for this change must be obtained from both the previous corresponding author and the new corresponding author.

Abstract

Abstract — The abstract should be a single paragraph (150–175 words long) written in plain language that includes a summary of the key conclusions of the manuscript. It should clearly state the purpose of the work, the scope of the effort, the procedures used to execute the work, and major findings. The abstract is the second most important online search discovery element, after the title. Authors should review the abstract to ensure that it accurately reflects the revised paper and should strive to include any applicable keywords that would likely be used during an online search.

SI Units — The use of Système International (SI) units as the primary units of measure is mandatory. Other units of measurement may be given in parentheses after the SI unit if the author desires.

Conclusions

Conclusions — At the end of the manuscript text, authors must include a set of conclusions, or summary, and conclusion, in which the significant implications of the information presented in the body of the text are reviewed. Authors are encouraged to explicitly state in the conclusions how the work presented contributes to the overall body of knowledge for the profession.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments — Acknowledgments are encouraged as a way to thank those who have contributed to the research or project but did not merit being listed as an author. The Acknowledgments should indicate what each person did to contribute to the project.

Authors can include an Acknowledgments section to recognize any advisory or financial help received. This section should appear after the Data Availability Statement and before the References. Authors are responsible for ensuring that funding declarations match what was provided in the manuscript submission system as part of the funder tool. Discrepancies may result in delays in publication.

Notation List

Notation List — Notation lists are optional; however, authors choosing to include one should follow these guidelines:

- List all items alphabetically.
- Capital letters should precede lowercase letters.
- The Greek alphabet begins after the last letter of the English alphabet.
- Nonalphabetical symbols follow the Greek alphabet.
- Subscript numerals follow subscript letters.

References

References — **JICTECH** uses the numbered reference style method for in-text references citation, whereby the citation reads appeared as number in square bracket. A References section must be included that lists all references by the appearance order in the text. References must be published works only. Exceptions to this rule are theses, dissertations, and "forthcoming" articles, all of which are allowed in the References list. References cited in text that are not found in the reference list will be deleted but queried by the copyeditor. Likewise, all references included in the References section must be cited in the text. Examples of reference formatting follow:

Books — If a whole book is used (or pages here and there throughout the book), page numbers need not be given. If no author is listed, titles should be alphabetized. If a specific chapter is being used, the chapter title and inclusive page numbers should be included. Reports must include the full institution name and location.

Evans, G. M., and J. C. Furlong. 2003. Environmental biotechnology: Theory and applications. Chichester, UK: Wiley.

Moody's municipal and government manual. 1988. New York: Moody's Investors Service.

Building Codes and Provisions — Building codes, provisions, and standards should be listed alphabetically by the abbreviated name of the promulgating institution.

ACI (American Concrete Institute). 1989. Building code requirement for reinforced concrete. ACI 318-89. Farmington Hills, MI: ACI.

BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators International). 1993. The BOCA national building code. Country Club Hills, IL: BOCA.

CEN (European Committee for Standardization). 1992. Design of steel structures, part 1.1. Eurocode 3, Brussels, Belgium: CEN.

Website—The following elements should be included: author's name or owner of the website (if known); year of publication or last revision (if available; use "n.d." if no date is available); full title of the specific page, in quotation marks; title of website (if applicable), in italics; the date of access, and the full web address.

Arizona Dept. of Commerce. 2005. "Community profile: Hualapai Indian Reservation." Accessed March 17, 2014. http://www.azcommerce.com/doclib/commune/hualapai.pdf.

Foucher, J. 2017. "The role of construction companies before, during, and after disaster." Construct Connect (blog). Accessed October 11, 2017. https://www.constructconnect.com/blog/operating-insights/role-construction-companies-disaster/.

Journal Articles — The standard format for a paper published in a US journal is as follows:

Beskos, D. E. 1987. "Boundary element methods in dynamic analysis." Appl. Mech. Rev., 40 (1), 1–23. https://doi.org/10.1115/1.3149529.

Forthcoming Articles — Articles that are "forthcoming" (i.e., those that have been accepted but have not yet been published, sometimes known as "in press") may be included in the References list. Authors will be asked to review any "forthcoming" references during page proofs to make sure they are updated. Do not include a date.

Smith, D. O., J. E. Lee, and E. M. Kim. Forthcoming. "Influence of the geometric and material characteristics on the strength of chestnut timber joints." Mater. Des.

Han, C.-Y., J.-H. Wang, X.-H. Xia, and J.-J. Chen. Forthcoming. "Limit analysis for local and overall stability of slurry trench in cohesive soil." Int. J. Geomech. https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)GM.1943-5622.0000268.

Figures

Figure Captions

Brief figure captions (which serve as identifying labels) must be double-spaced and placed at the end of the manuscript (before the tables) or uploaded as a separate file. Figure captions should be short and to the point; they need not include a complete explanation of the figure. Each caption should begin with the abbreviation "Figure" followed by an Arabic number, followed by a period:

- Figure 1. Plan view.
- Figure 2. Percentage breakdown of practitioner responses: Year 1 and Year 2.

Figure Files

Figures should be uploaded as separate files in JPG, BMP, EPS, PDF, PS, or TIF/TIFF formats. Every figure must have a figure number and be cited sequentially in the text.

Color Figures

Figures submitted in color will be published in color in the online journal at no cost. Color figures provided must be suitable for printing in black and white. Color figures that are ambiguous in black and white will be returned to the author for revision and will delay publication. Authors wishing to have figures printed in color must indicate this in the submission questions. There is a fee for publishing color figures in print.

Quick Guide to Figures

The three most common types of figures that will be reproduced in **JICTECH** journals are line art, halftone, and photos:

LINE ART

This type of figure contains only lines and text, with no pictures. Further, all lines should be set in black-colors, including gray, which are not allowed in a line art figure.

HALFTONE

A halftone figure contains color or black-and-white gradients, which produce a continuous color tone within the image. Halftone images are usually computer-generated.

PHOTOS

Photos can be in color or black and white.

Authors are encouraged to submit all images in separate jpeg file with a resolution minimum of 600 DPI.