

# IACR Policy on Irregular Submissions

April 2012\*

**Scope.** Simultaneous submission of substantially similar papers to multiple venues, resubmission of previously published work, and plagiarism of content, are a serious breach of authors' ethical obligations to IACR and to the community — just like other kinds of academic dishonesty or fraud. Such papers not only gain unfair advantage, they waste reviewers' time and divert attention from other, original, submissions. Virtually all scientific and technical conferences, workshops, and journals prohibit these practices. Violations can have serious consequences for authors of fraudulently submitted papers.

**Definition.** Irregular submissions typically fall in two categories: *parallel submissions* and *plagiarism*.

**Parallel submissions:** A *parallel* or *double submission* occurs when an author or a group of authors submits essentially the same material to one or more other publication venues with overlapping reviewing periods. This may be identified at any time during the reviewing process. Such submissions should be rejected. The persons responsible for the other publication venues should be notified as soon as the double submission is identified, however.

The simultaneous submission of the same material to a conference or workshop with proceedings and a journal is a special case that may not qualify as a double submission under circumstances described in this document.

**Plagiarism:** Submitting substantial parts of existing publications virtually unchanged and without the addition of new material, by other “author(s)” without proper attribution of the source, constitutes *plagiarism*. In such cases harsher action against the submitters than rejecting the submission can be appropriate. However, great care should be taken before such steps are taken.

**Policy.** IACR does not tolerate plagiarism and parallel submissions among the submissions to its scientific publications. Any submission that violates this policy must be rejected. The IACR primarily relies on the honesty of authors. Sometimes its editors, program chairs, and program committees may share information about submitted papers with other conference chairs and editors to help ensure the integrity of papers under consideration.

---

\*The most recent version of this document can be obtained from <http://www.iacr.org/docs/>.  
Editors of this document: Kevin McCurley (2005), Christian Cachin (2011–2012).

Simultaneous submission of the same material to a conference or workshop with proceedings and a journal is prohibited as well, except in the case where the program chair(s) of the conference or workshop and the editor-in-chief of the journal explicitly authorize this.

**Taking action.** The IACR may, on the recommendation of an editor or a program chair, take action against an irregular paper and its authors, especially when the paper has been submitted outside the guidelines of the IACR, is submitted in parallel, or contains plagiarized content. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, revocation of authors membership of IACR, barring the authors from submitting to, or participating in, events of the IACR for a period of time, contacting the authors' institution(s), and publication of the details of such cases.

**Further information.** The following documents of the IACR give further information on procedures specific to the IACR:

- the Rules and Guidelines for Program Chairs;
- the Guidelines for Reviewers;
- the Policy for the Ethics Committee.

These are available from <http://www.iacr.org/docs/>.

The policies of the ACM regarding plagiarism and regarding prior publication and simultaneous submissions contain more information that mostly applies also to IACR; see the ACM website under <http://www.acm.org/publications/policies/>.