

EDITORIAL

REVIEW OF THE AIMS AND SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL

In my first editorial as new editor, I have decided to discuss the revised Aims and Scope of DYNA which is posted in our website and in the paper version of the journal as follows:

“DYNA is an international journal published by the Facultad de Minas, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellín Campus since 1933. DYNA publishes peer-reviewed scientific articles covering all aspects of engineering. Our objective is the dissemination of original, useful and relevant research presenting new knowledge about theoretical or practical aspects of methodologies and methods used in engineering or leading to improvements in professional practices. All conclusions presented in the articles must be based on the current state-of-the-art and supported by a rigorous analysis and a balanced appraisal. The journal publishes scientific and technological research articles, review articles and case studies.”

The new Aims and Scope has a clear and explicit focus on original, useful and relevant research in engineering. By the word “original”, I mean that the journal only accepts original research that not has been previously published, except as a thesis in a university or as a short abstract in conference proceedings. Here, the editorial team follows a common rule in many scientific journals. As a consequence, manuscripts based on previously published work with unsubstantial new original contributions will be rejected directly by the Editor; examples of unsubstantial contributions include rewritten manuscripts with the same conclusions of previous published works but varying the data or adding new cases. By the word “original”, I also mean that theoretical or practical results and conclusions cannot be derived from current knowledge in a straightforward, direct or trivial way.

The words “useful” and “relevant” are used to mean that conclusions describe important and interesting contributions that will be potentially usable for the readers in their future professional or research activities. As a consequence, the originality is a necessary but not sufficient condition for accepting a manuscript.

By “rigorous analysis” must be understood that authors followed well-accepted and well-applied methodologies for obtained and supporting their conclusions. For example, some manuscripts in

engineering education state in their conclusions that the participants are “happier and more motivated” but without a rigorous experimental design demonstrating the advantage of the proposed practice or method in the learning process; as a result, this type of manuscripts are not suitable for publication.

As many other research journals, DYNA is focused on publishing original scientific or technological research articles in engineering. In addition, review articles are considered for publishing, but in this case, it is required the use of at least fifty references, and a in-depth discussion focused in the findings obtained when the literature is analyzed as a whole. Review articles should clearly and explicitly justify the necessity of review in their introduction and explain carefully the objectives of the work. Further, it is mandatory that the discussion and conclusions presented cannot be derived from the isolated reading of the manuscript’s references.

DYNA accepts case studies for publishing; however, the case considered must be non trivial, possibly unique, and interesting for the community; the manuscript must present new knowledge to improve the understanding of the case or novel methods for tackling it. Authors should clearly and explicitly justify how the work meets previous conditions for publishing. In this sense, technical reports or case studies describing the use of well-known methods or techniques applied in typical cases are not suitable for publishing.

With the new Aims and Scope, authors are encouraged to explicitly discuss how their work impacts the current state of the art of engineering or how to improve current practices. The editor and the reviewers will look for this discussion in the manuscript.

Finally, the objective and contributions of the work must be clearly stated in the abstract. This point is of special importance because of it allows to the editor and reviewers to accelerate the publishing decision.

Juan D. Velásquez, MSc, PhD

Professor

Departamento de Ciencias de la Computación

y de la Decisión

Facultad de Minas

Universidad Nacional de Colombia