

Article Types

Original Research Paper: Original research papers typically either focus on the development of new statistical methods for analysis of observational data or center on a principled application of existing methods to an observational study. Papers with a primary focus on the development of novel methodology nevertheless benefit from illustration with real data. There is some flexibility in manuscript structure, though there should generally be an introductory section that outlines the objectives in a scientifically accessible way, and a concluding section featuring a discussion of the key points, strengths, limitations, and/or future directions. Organization of methods and results is otherwise largely at the discretion of the author(s). Mathematical derivations, proofs, algorithms, and sample software code should be moved to an appendix when they are not essential to the manuscript or when they would otherwise disrupt its flow. Original research papers vary in length but are typically no longer than 18 pages (not including references, tables, figures, and appendices).

Software Tutorial: Software tutorials are manuscripts aimed specifically at describing and illustrating software functionalities for statistical methods and procedures. Although the methodology must be described thoroughly enough to properly motivate and set the context of the manuscript, software tutorials can be written for readers with some preexisting familiarity with the method(s) being discussed. Development of novel statistical methods is not a requirement for this type of submission. Software implementation must be fully reproducible (source code is published with the article). As is the case with original research papers, software tutorials benefit from illustration with real data, where possible. Software tutorials vary in length but are typically no longer than 18 pages (not including references, tables, figures, and appendices).

Methods Tutorial: Methods tutorials are manuscripts aimed specifically at describing and illustrating current statistical methods for observational data. Development of novel statistical methods is not a requirement for this type of submission. While software-based implementation can be featured in a methods tutorial, computing is not front-and-center as it is in a software tutorial (see above). Rather, methods tutorials should focus on clearly defining key terms and underscoring essential concepts. A methods tutorial should be written so as to serve as an introduction for those not already familiar with the methods described. As is the case with original research papers, methods tutorials benefit from illustration with real data, where possible. However, numerical studies (e.g., simulations and toy examples) can be very effective ways to demonstrate key points. The scope of numerical studies should be “convex” so as not to omit settings that are essential to illustrating the relative strengths and weaknesses of a method, but each simulation scenario presented in the main body of the manuscript should provide new information not covered by other presented simulations. Methods tutorials vary in length but are typically no longer than 25 pages (not including references, tables, figures, and appendices).

Observational Study Protocol: We consider manuscripts that detail protocols for ongoing or proposed observational studies (both retrospective and prospective). Submissions must provide detailed information on the study's specific aims, hypotheses, rationale, and methodology. Specific methodological matters to be detailed in the study protocol can include: study design, sampling scheme, a description of the proposed cohort (including inclusion/exclusion criteria), modeling choices, procedures & algorithms, and considerations regarding sample size and power. Observational study protocols vary in length but are typically no longer than 25 pages (not including references, tables, figures, and appendices).

Special Issue Commentary: *Observational Studies* publishes an annual special issue comprised of commentaries and perspectives from current researchers on a historically important and seminal paper chosen by the Executive Editorial Board. Special issue commentaries vary in length but are typically no longer than 10 pages (excluding references).

ACIC Data Challenge: Manuscript submissions based on the 2022 American Causal Inference Conference (ACIC) Data Challenge are being accepted for a special issue of *Observational Studies*. Submissions are due by November 1, 2022. Manuscripts may not exceed 10 pages in length (including references, tables, and figures).