ACL Rolling Review (ARR): History

ACL Rolling Review Proposal

- Created in response to community reviewing needs
- Centralized review system
- ARR launched on May 2021

Founding EiC team:
- Amanda Stent
- Goran Glavaš
- Sebastian Riedel
- Pascale Fung
- Graham Neubig (CTO)

Guest EiCs (NAACL & ACL PCs):
- Marine Carpuat
- Aline Villavicencio
- Smaranda Muresan
- Preslav Nakov
- Ivan Vladimir Meza
- Marie Catherine de Marneffe

Questions? Ask and vote at menti.com using code 8265 2671 or scan this QR code:
ACL Rolling Review (ARR): Early Days

- **ACL 2022 & NAACL 2022**
  - ARR submission exclusively

- **AAACL 2022, EMNLP 2022, EACL 2023, ACL 2023, EMNLP 2023**
  - Hybrid submission system

- **ACL Reviewing Survey in Summer 2022**
  - Results and Analysis
  - ARR
  - improvements
ACL Rolling Review (ARR): Process

1. Submit to ARR
2. Receive reviews
3. Are reviews good?
4. Choose old/new meta-reviewer
5. Choose old/new reviewers
6. Revise paper
7. Commit to a conference
8. Accept/reject
Personnel Updates

- **ARR Board (new)**
  - Smaranda Muresan
  - Julia Hockenmaier
  - Yusuke Miyao
  - Thamar Solorio

- **EiCs**
  - Viviane Moreira
  - Lilja Øvrelid
  - Jun Suzuki
  - Mausam
  - Thamar Solorio

- **Tech Lead**
  - Jonathan Kummerfeld

- **Communications Lead**
  - Shubhra Kanti Karmaker Santu

- **Ethics Chairs**
  - Vinodkumar Prabhakaran
  - Malihe Alikhani
Major Updates to ARR - October Cycle

- Review standards: top conferences
- **Freshdesk** ticketing system
- Two-month cycles
- Introduction of **tracks**
- Guarantee review completion by the 2 month mark
- Author rebuttal
Major Updates to ARR - December Cycle

- Introduction of senior action editors per track
- Integration of tasks into OpenReview infrastructure (checklists)
- Introduction of one non student reviewer constraint
- Only three reviewers per paper
Major Updates to ARR - February Cycle

- Expanded pool of SAEs
- Improved integration of SAE tasks in OR
- Streamlining of ethics reviews
- Improved internal documentation of cycle processes for EiCs
Major Updates to ARR - April Cycle

Added reviewer assignment constraints:
(1) There must be at least one senior reviewer (ie., non-student)
(2) No two reviewers of a paper can be from the same institution
Major Updates to ARR - June Cycle

Better integration of ethics review process

Minor bug fixes; improving minor UI issues (are we stabilizing?)
ARR One Year Plan (proposed circa July'22)

- **July**
  - ✔ dedicated openreview tech team member
  - ✔ immediately - blog post announcing new EiCs
- **August**
  - ✔ blog post responding to survey
  - ✔ Add at least 2-3 new EiCs
- **September**
  - ✔ implement areas (i.e., “tracks”)
  - ✔ consider demographics, seniority & affiliation of reviewers in review assignments
  - ✔ implement mechanism to request individual reviewer (and meta reviewer) change
  - ✔ Blog post announcing changes
  - ✔ Implement author evaluation of reviews
- **October**
  - × arXiv paper on findings from first year of ARR
  - ✔ Extend functionality of the system to require authors to review papers
  - ✔ Blog post announcing changes/stats
- **November**
  - ✔ develop guidelines (tutorial) for meta reviewers
  - ✔ Blog post announcing changes/stats
- **December**
  - ✔ Align cycles with conferences?
  - ✔ Blog post announcing changes/stats
- **January**
  - ✔ Roll out 8 week cycle and commitment to 100% reviews on time
- **February**
  - × mentoring system for junior or new to field reviewers
## Stats on Committed Submissions to *CL Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Papers Committed</th>
<th>Accepted (main conf. + findings)</th>
<th>Withdrawn</th>
<th>% of committed papers that were accepted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMNLP 2022</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>170 (97 + 73)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EACL 2023</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>44 (24 + 20)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACL 2023</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>193 (129 + 64)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More details on the next two slides for ACL and EMNLP (too few papers for EACL,)

Questions? Ask and vote at [menti.com](http://menti.com) using code **8265 2671** or scan this QR code:
ACL Stats

Outcomes for the papers in the Dec 2022 ARR cycle.

This includes 213 of the 305 papers committed to ACL.
Thank you!

- Authors
- Reviewers
- Action Editors
- Senior Action Editors

Feedback:
- Send to editors@aclrollingreview.org

Consider joining the team!
Tech FAQs

How are reviewers assigned?

- For resubmissions, go back to the same reviewers except if (1) requested otherwise, or (2) the reviewer indicated they cannot review resubmissions
- Constraints: (1) require a non-student reviewer, (2) all from different institutions
- Automatic matching: topic similarity, track match

How are Conflicts-of-Interest managed?

OpenReview COI detection code
Tech FAQs

How are reviewer constraints implemented?

- From the overall reviewers \( R \) group, select a subset of reviewers \( r \) by performing a filter operation on the profiles of the reviewers group \( R \) (so for (1), senior reviewers are those who are not students in their most recent career history entry on their OpenReview profile).

- Decide on the condition that will be applied per paper across all members of the subset group \( r \), which is either \( \leq \) or \( \geq \), and an integer bound (for (1), each paper must have at least 1 senior reviewer so the condition passed to the matcher is \( \geq 1 \))

- For each paper, an additional constraint over the sum of the edges from every reviewer in \( r \) to that paper is added to the max flow matching problem
Tech FAQs

What is the technical infrastructure and personnel?

- CTO [volunteer], manages the team, deals with urgent requests
- OR engineer [paid], runs the cycles
  (this has been a BIG help, key to get to 100% on-time cycle completion)
- Tech team [volunteers], working on longer term improvements
EMNLP 2022
Stats

Outcomes for the papers in the April and June 2022 ARR cycles.

This includes 141 of the 274 papers committed to EMNLP.

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