

Guidelines for the publication policy of the OSB

This is a reference text which reflects the basic spirit of ET publication policy. The publication policy will be formalized when the general collaboration policy will be finalized.

The principles that inspire the publication policy of the OSB are, on the one hand, to guarantee the complete freedom needed for theoretical work (intended in a broad sense as work leading to papers without real ET data) and, on the other hand, to foster a spirit of collaboration within the OSB. The following guidelines will be applied in the current phase of development of ET, and are expected to be reconsidered as and when the need arises.

1. Members of the OSB are free to work and publish separately their original results according to their standard procedures. The members (or research group) of the OSB are highly encouraged (but not obliged) to share on-going projects well in advance with respect to the paper circulation (see point 2), and to make use of the pool of expertise within the OSB. This is meant to strengthen and stimulate collaborations and contribute to the development of the ET community. The OSB chairs and division coordinators will take care of creating and maintaining an environment where the members of the OSB feel protected on sharing ideas without being scooped by others.

2. When common tools developed within ET are used, the authors are requested to cite the corresponding public repositories, publications and/or technical reports. The OSB wiki page will indicate what needs to be cited when using a specific public tool. For recognition of work under development (e.g. use of codes, simulations, population catalogs) not yet published, the authors of the paper should ask the owners (single members or groups) to indicate how they have to be cited as a small group of authors and/or with a link to private repositories.

3. Upon termination of a project leading to a publication relevant for ET (i.e., a work that makes predictions or develop tools for ET), OSB members have to circulate their draft within the ET Collaboration, at least one week before posting it to the arXiv (or submitting to a journal, whichever comes first). The circulation of drafts will be performed by uploading the paper on the ET Documentation System (whose access is restricted to collaboration members), which will produce a daily alert to the ET collaboration members, with the list (authors-title) of the papers uploaded. This procedure is meant first of all as an opportunity for the authors to directly reach an audience of interested readers and obtaining feedback, and will make everybody more aware of the activities going on within the OSB.

In some cases, it could also be a way to resolve internal controversies, so that the ET OSB does not speak to external communities (including funding agencies) with contradictory voices. However, it is acknowledged that controversies are also part

of the normal scientific debate and might require discussions within the broader scientific community.

It is also understood that, in situations that involve different groups, possibly in competition for the same project (which is a legitimate situation for groups within the OSB), a group could ask to restrict the broad circulation for sensitive papers. The OSB chairs and/or division coordinators have to be informed of it, and this should be a motivated exception, and not the rule.

4. Again one week before posting the paper to the arXiv (or submitting to a journal, whichever comes first), the authors are also required to provide the draft to the coordinators of their division. This will allow the division coordinators to be aware of results that could be selected and inserted in the Blue Book. The division coordinators are asked to perform a check that there are no sensitive collaboration issues that might be harmful to the ET project (in particular in the delicate phases leading to its approval), for instance by significantly misrepresenting some aspects of its scientific case, or providing incorrect information on ET (e.g., use of wrong or old sensitivity curves, etc.), and verifying that there is the right recognition of work done by others within the OSB. This step is meant as a rapid check to avoid particularly flagrant situations. It is not the role of the division coordinator to referee the paper. The rapid check is expected to be done within a few days, and at most one week. The authors could be asked to postpone the paper submission in case of significant conflicts recognized by the division coordinators and the OSB chairs.

5. The papers that have gone through the broad circulation at point 2 and the rapid check at point 3 will have an ET preprint number (given by the code of the ET Documentation System), that qualifies them as 'official' papers of the ET-OSB. Besides being uploaded to the ET Documentation System (whose access is restricted to ET members), after submission to the arXiv they will also be added (in the form of authors, title, and a link to the arXiv) to a publicly accessible database that will be maintained on the ET-OSB Wiki page, organized according to the OSB divisions. This is meant to increase the visibility of the papers and to provide to the community a readily accessible and complete database of ET-OSB papers.

In the acknowledgements (when appropriate) the sentence "the research leading to these results has been conceived and developed within the ET Observational Science Board" should be added.

6. All the members are strictly requested to follow the code of conduct under penalty of exclusion from the OSB. In case of conflicts or incorrect behavior, the members of the OSB are encouraged to contact the DIV coordinators and/or the OSB chairs

7. For any special situation that might arise, and is not covered by the above guidelines, the division coordinators and the OSB members are invited to contact the OSB chairs.