

**The Rubin Observatory Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST)
Active Galactic Nuclei Science Collaboration (AGN SC) Charter:
Publication Policy**

Reading and agreeing to this policy *is a condition for membership* to the LSST AGN Science Collaboration.

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This Rubin Observatory Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) AGN Science Collaboration (AGN SC) *Publication Policy* described in this document applies to all papers produced by AGN SC members on topics discussed and developed within the AGN SC research environment. This refers to interactions during AGN SC in-person or online meetings, to any communication between AGN SC members that are not otherwise academically connected on topics of relevance to LSST's exploration of the static and changing sky and to the use of AGN SC resources and intellectual output.

There are two primary goals for this policy:

- To protect the intellectual property of AGN SC members and provide a trusted, supportive environment in which they can share ideas and expertise.
- To maximize the quality and ensure the validity of AGN SC publications by taking full advantage of the scientific and technical expertise within the collaboration.

Reading and agreeing to the AGN SC Publication Policy is a condition for membership and the Publication Policy should be reviewed by all applying for membership before submitting their application.

This publication policy covers

- peer-reviewed publications (journal articles),
- white papers,
- conference contributions (oral and posters),
- theses,
- data releases,
- software tools, and
- documentation relating to AGN SC data products and software.

These categories are further specified below.

AGN SC core member's right to co-authorship on AGN SC publications

The AGN SC core members shall be asked if they want to be co-authors on AGN SC publications. The core members should not abuse this right, and evaluate if their contribution to the AGN SC has, in fact, facilitated the publication. With this right comes the responsibility of fully participating in the internal review of publications, generally by committing to read and comment on at least one draft and read/approve the final draft. AGN SC core member status is acquired through a nomination and approval process, as defined in the [AGN SC charter](#) document. A current list of AGN SC core members is maintained with the [LSST AGN SC membership list](#).

The publication authors have the right to object to an individual with core member status co-authoring their paper and the publication panel (see [AGN SC Charter](#)) will review these issues on a case-by-case basis. This [appeal form](#) should be used to appeal a co-authorship request by an AGN SC member holding core status but that the paper's authors do not believe contributed significantly to the paper, either through their service to the AGN SC or intellectually through exchange of ideas happening within the AGN SC. Similarly, full members of a subgroup (generally the *primary subgroup of lead author*, but this could also be another subgroup if it is most relevant to this publication) should be asked and can opt-in to be co-authors on a AGN-led paper that resulted from the AGN SC infrastructure through intellectual exchange or the use of facilities.

The lead author of an AGN SC publication is responsible for contacting **all** members who contributed on that publication to offer them the opportunity to be co-authors. This should be done sufficiently in advance (typically 3 weeks) of the publication being submitted to a journal to allow the members a reasonable period to read the publication and provide meaningful feedback, which the author should consider. In general it is envisaged that this group will include full members of the lead-author's subgroup, but is not limited to that subgroup. Full members of subgroups may opt-in to be co-authors on an AGN-led paper that resulted from the AGN SC infrastructure through intellectual exchange or the use of facilities.

If a full member of your subgroup is opting-in to be a co-author on your publication and you do not believe their contribution was significant enough please use the same [appeal form](#) to appeal the co-authorship policy.

Definition of an AGN SC *publication*

A publication is considered an AGN SC publication and is covered by this policy if both of the following **criteria for AGN SC publications** are satisfied:

- (1) the publication uses AGN SC non-public products or is a result of active collaborative work within the AGN SC subgroups or task forces, and*
- (2) it is primary authored by one or more AGN SC members.*

AGN SC products include:

- data products (real and simulated),
- analysis methods and theory,
- simulations,
- software, and
- publications, presentation slides and other media

developed substantially or entirely within the AGN SC, by AGN SC members, or using or depending on AGN SC resources. Conversely, products wholly developed outside AGN SC, that did not use AGN SC resources or expertise, and are then made available to AGN SC, are not considered AGN SC products.

Publications that do not satisfy both criteria above are considered “external publications” and are outside the purview of this policy. The AGN SC publication board can decide whether a publication is or is not an AGN SC publication in cases of ambiguity.

Below, the publication categories covered by this publication policy are described:

Journal papers:

Journal papers are peer-reviewed publication, or refereed scientific publications. AGN SC journal papers are papers that satisfy both criteria. The AGN SC members who have made a meaningful material and/or intellectual contribution to the publication have the right to be co-authors. The authors of the proposed publication must notify the builders about the intent to submit said publication and circulate a draft at least three weeks prior to submission. *To take advantage of their right to become co-authors, co-authors must read the full content of the proposed publication and serve as internal reviewers by providing comments.* The authors of the paper should value this review and consider addressing the comments. This review process should be documented within the AGN SC. It is the responsibility of the paper’s authors to collect

information about the paper including submission and publication and any information relating to the internal AGN SC review.

White papers:

White papers include publications that are not conceived for peer-review journals and that advocate for scientific resources or strategies. An example of this are white papers that respond to LSST calls to define or redefine the LSST observing strategy. The same rules about authorship as for journal papers apply.

Conference contributions:

This category refers to all materials (figures, tables, results) presented during conference presentations (as posters, talks, proceedings) and scientific seminars (including colloquia) that were developed within the AGN SC and fulfill both criteria for AGN SC publications (see above). The same rules as for journal papers apply (but the three-week review period can be reduced upon application to the publications panel), and core and full subgroup members can request to be explicitly named as a co-author, although in most cases a collective reference to “the Rubin Observatory Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) AGN Science Collaboration” as a collective of authors is expected to be sufficient.

Thesis:

Ph.D. theses are not reviewed by the Publication Board. On the other hand, associated journal papers are subject to the rules applying to journal papers.

Data releases:

The AGN SC data releases consist of material produced within the AGN SC and made available to the community in machine-readable form after submission of the corresponding data release paper (and no later than its publication). This includes processed (or reprocessed) data, data by-products and results of numerical simulations, along with their documentation.

Software tools:

Software tools developed by the AGN SC can be documented in an associated journal paper that should be cited in all publications that make use of the tools, and the criteria for authorship for journal papers (above) apply. They should follow standard reproducible research guidelines and best practises for citing software in the list of references so that the use of software is properly

attributed to its author(s) through the publication metrics. The AGN SC leadership can advocate for the publication of software tool documentation in peer-reviewed journals.

Documentation relating to AGN SC data products and software:

Documentation of the steps followed to obtain the results of an AGN SC investigation, data release, or software tools, constitutes one component of “reproducible research,” as long as the documentation is comprehensive enough that the authors and others can repeat the procedures and obtain the same results. Documentation also serves to justify key choices made in the analysis and allows researchers to verify and build on each other’s work. This documentation may take the form of formal research notes, documented software, wiki pages, and documentation created with emerging tools.

Documentation supporting each AGN SC journal paper shall be made available to members of the AGN SC that are offered the opportunity to be co-authors and to the publication board in case of appeal to co-authorship requests for the publication review purposes. Authors are expected to provide sufficient documentation that the analysis (including any steps not described in the paper) can be reviewed efficiently by their collaborators. Research notes may be posted to a public web site (and possibly the arXiv as well) following the same criteria for publication as for journal papers. Public research notes can be cited in AGN SC journal papers.

All AGN SC publications, following under any of these categories, should be listed on the AGN website.