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How to Write Your Conference Rebuttal: A Reviewer's Perspective

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- **Why Reviewer Needs Rebuttal**
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The General Reviewing Processing



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1. Paper bidding.
2. PCs write their reviews.
3. SPC writes his/her comments and make Phase 1 recommendations.
4. Notification of Phase 1 decisions.
5. PC members write their reviews.
6. Release pre-rebuttal comments.
7. Authors write their rebuttal.
8. Reviewer discussion.
9. SPC writes his/her meta-comment and make paper recommendations.
10. AC makes final paper recommendations.

Why Reviewer Needs Rebuttal



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To Address Their **Concerns**

Concerns \neq Questions



The Empirical Classification of Reviewers



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Att de { **Positive**
Negative

Confdae { **Conf dth**
Not Conf dth

Ably { **Epøt**
Søør
Jøør

What Does the Review Scores Mean?



Pre-rebuttal Scores

- Two Reviewer Types:
 1. The scores are given based on the current status.
 2. The scores are given based on reviewer's expectation of rebuttal.
- Comments are more meaningful than scores.
- 'Borderline/Weak Reject' may imply a positive attitude.

Post-rebuttal Scores & Meta Comments

- Usually meaningless, especially when the score is not changed and there are no post-rebuttal comments.
- Meta comments may differ from post-rebuttal scores and final results.

Some Suggestions of Writing A Rebuttal



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1. Do remember, you want your paper to be accepted.
2. Be polite even when you are angry about some comments.
3. Address the reviewer's concerns instead of simply the questions.
4. Let the rebuttal be self-contained.
5. Do at least part of the suggested experiments.
6. Address main problems at first.
7. Write confidential comments to SPC politely and only when necessary.
8. Format your rebuttal.
9. Highlight positive comments at the beginning.

We sincerely thank all reviewers for their valuable time and comments. We are encouraged by the positive comments on the **novelties (R1-4)**, **adequate evaluations (R1-4)**, **good performance (R2&4)**, and **good paper quality (R1-4)**.

Response to Reviewer #1

Q1.1: What is the meaning of ‘ (x, y) contains feature f ’?

R1.1: The ‘contains’ means ‘has’ here. This sentence indicates that the sample pair (x, y) has the feature f . For example, f could be the ‘sky’ background if (x, y) is the sample of ‘cloud’. We will add more details in Section 4.2.

Q1.2: What is the hypothesis testing process in the p-value?

R1.2: We use the standard single-side pair-wise T-test to calculate the p-value of the null hypothesis introduced in definition 2. We will provide more details in the appendix.

Q1.3: Some definitions are not clear enough for readers without specific expertise. **R1.3:** Thank you for pointing it out. We are willing to provide more details and explanations in our revision if you can kindly point out those definitions.

Response to Reviewer #2

Q2.1: Why use gradients to train the meta-classifier?

R2.1: Thank you for this insightful question! We use the gradients of weights (*w.r.t.* transformed images) since the learning of external features is mainly based on them. We will add more discussion in Section 4.3 of our revision.

Q2.2: Show the impact of transformation rate on the training results. **R2.2:** Thank you for this constructive suggestion! We do understand your concerns that the transformed images may hinder model performance. However, as shown in the following table, the model will still have a high accuracy even when the transformation rate is relatively high. This is mainly because we *do not change the label* of transformed images and therefore the transformation can be treated as data augmentation, which is mostly harmless.

Transformation Rate	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%
Accuracy (%)	91.79	91.80	91.99	92.00	91.29



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Thanks

