

Dealing with Reviewer Feedback and Rebuttals?

Jo Van Bulck

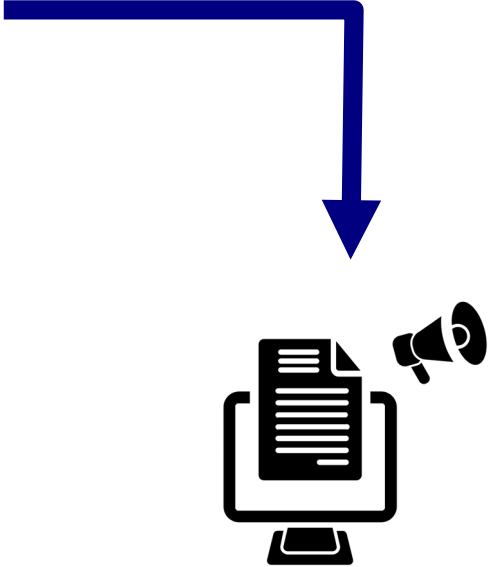
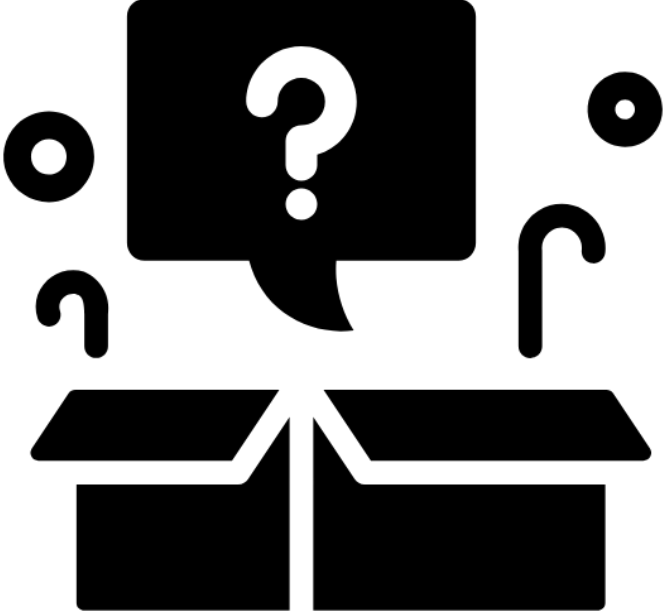
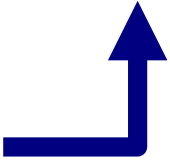
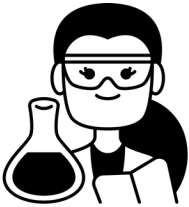
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The Life Cycle of a Paper

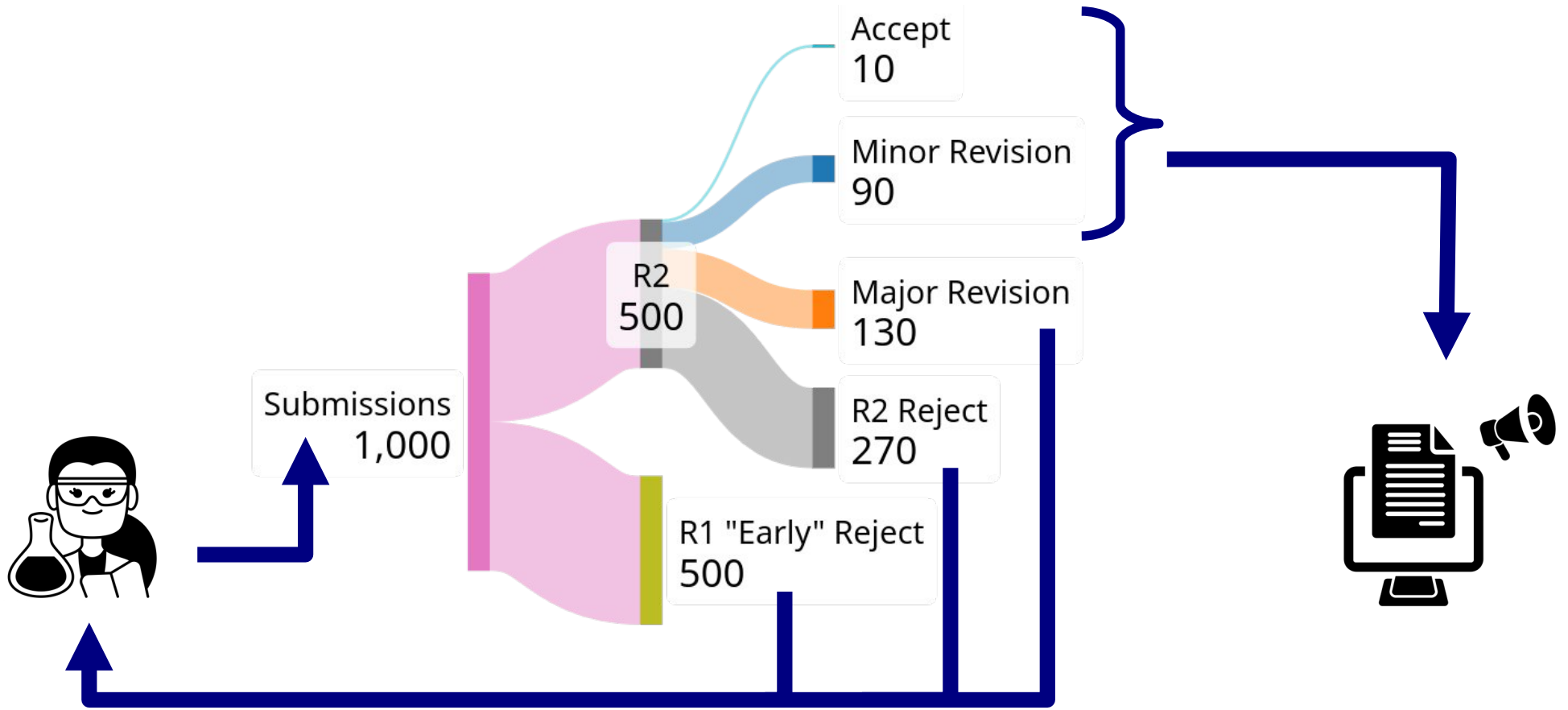


STEP 1: DO RESEARCH

STEP 2: ????

STEP 3: PROFIT

The Life Cycle of a Paper

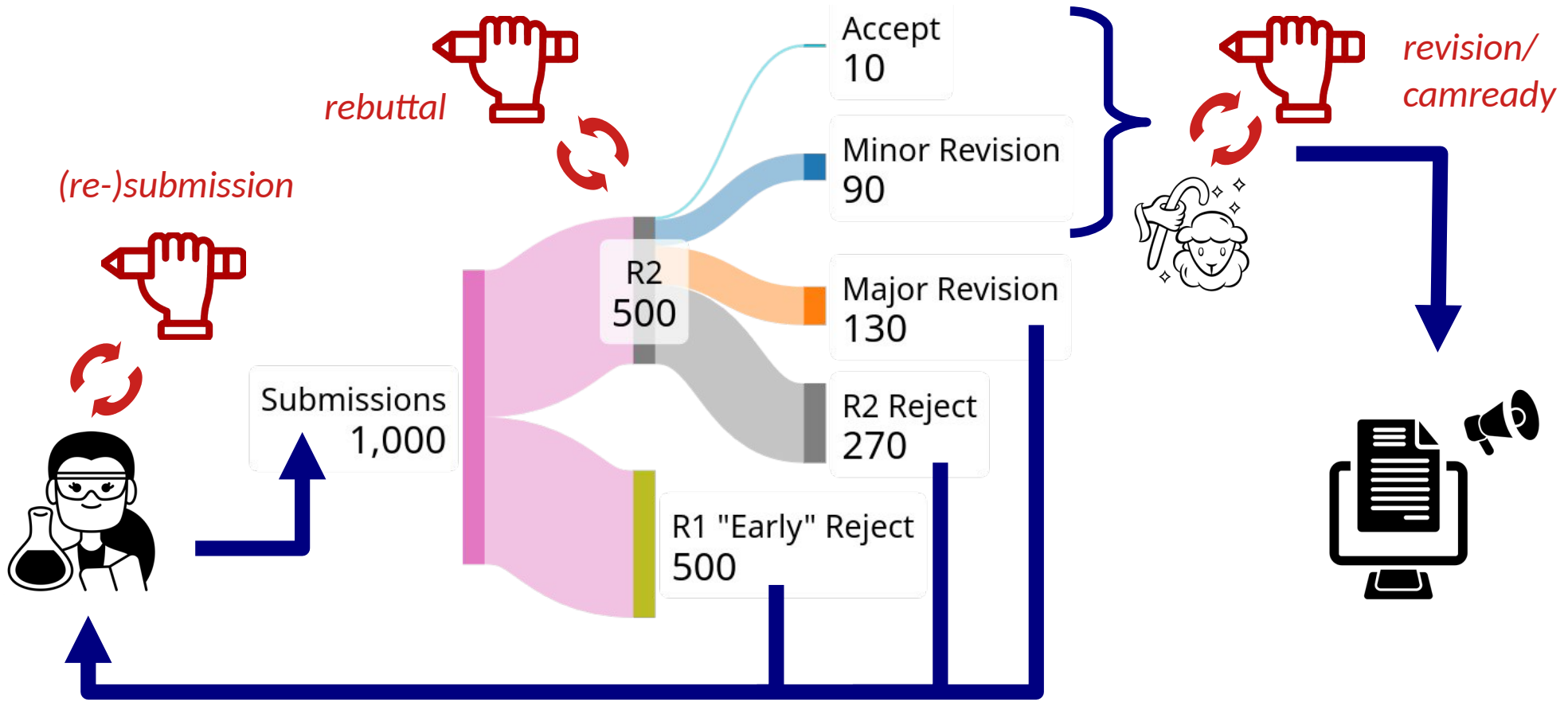


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The Life Cycle of a Paper



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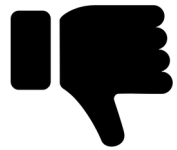


“Reviewers are always right”...

Reviewer Communication: Some Lessons Learned (IMHO)



- Do polish *pitch*: title + abstract → bidding process!
- Do stick to *1 paper, 1 point* → less can be more...
- Do formulate clear *claims* → delivered && novel?
- Do embed in *prior work* → comparable conf level?
- Do partake in *rebuttal!* → it does matter!

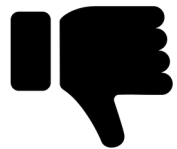


- Don't blind-stare on *amount of engineering work...*
- Don't ignore *prior reviews!*

A Practical Guide to Writing Rebuttals (*IMHO*)

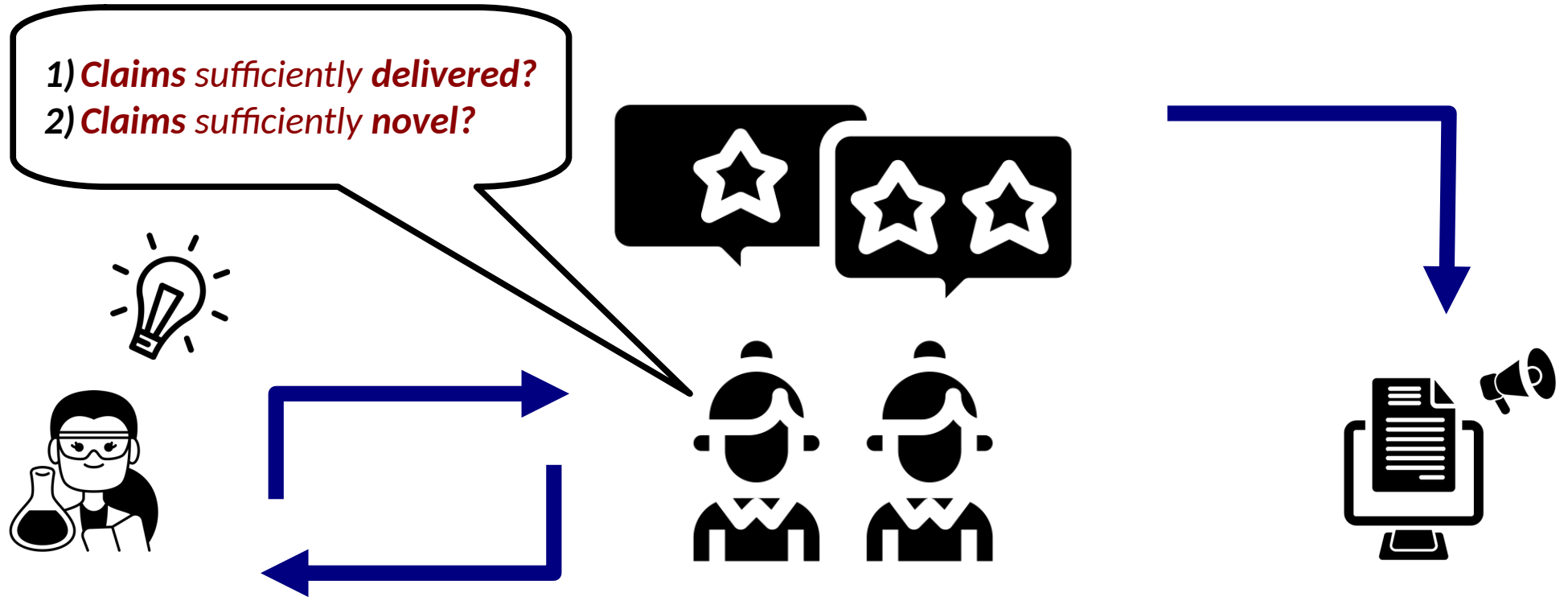


- **Do** address *all reviewers* → make overview table + label answers
- **Do** point out *factual mistakes* → remain objective
- **Do** outline a *concrete path* → Aim accept vs. major/minor rev?
- **Do** re-read and *polish* → rationally time best spent!



- **Don't** *argue* with reviewers! → avoid overly defensive
- **Don't** expect *symmetric* 2-way communication...
- **Don't** blind-stare on *word count* → contents first; reduce later...

Peer Review: The Big Picture



Further Reading

- <https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3624722>
- <https://deviparikh.substack.com/p/how-we-write-rebuttals-dc84742fece1>
- <https://principiae.be/pdfs/Nature-papers.zip>
- <http://gernot-heiser.org/style-guide.html>
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