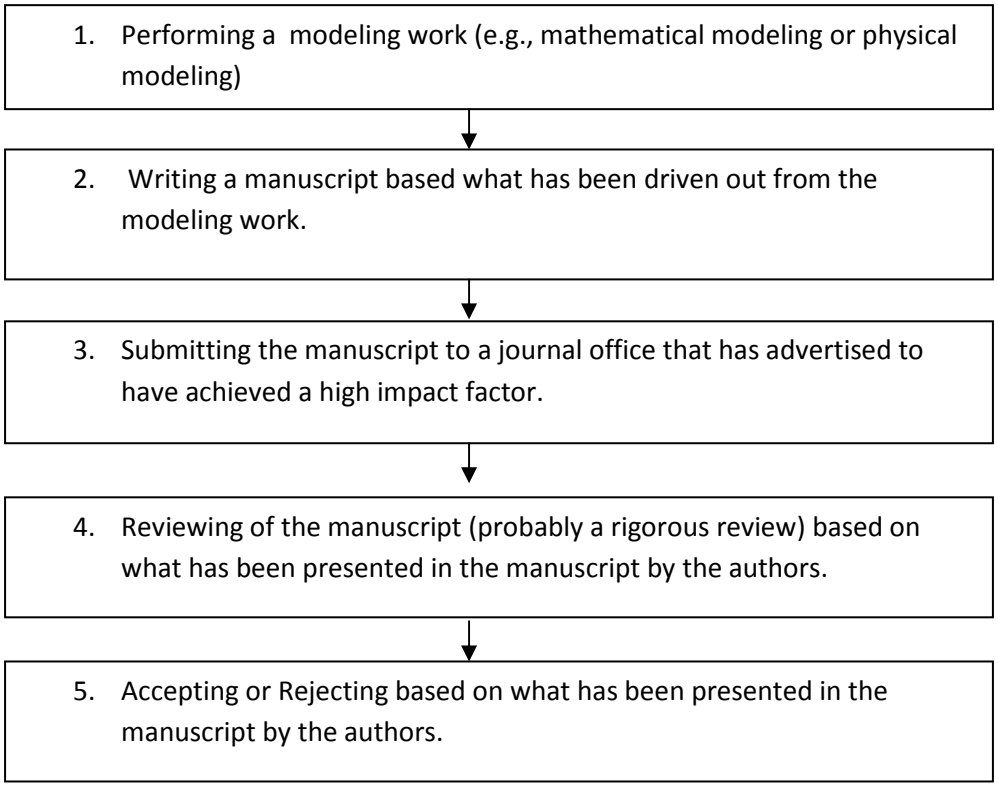
Is the scientific field mired with improper methodologies adopted by journal offices?

Sivarajah Mylevaganam
Alumnus, Spatial Sciences Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, USA.

I presume that the lifecycle of a manuscript goes through the steps outlined in the below diagram.



Does step 4 assert that the authors have done the modeling work correctly? In my opinion, even a seasoned guy with extensive experience and many qualifications may not be able to catch a bug if the authors are smart enough to present the manuscripts in a way to get through the system of processing. The following questions would be pertinent to be asked at this level to understand the methodologies adopted by journal offices.

- Is it possible to assert that there are no PhD students who have not tweaked modeling results or analysis to attain their titles and ambitions? Would we need hypothesis testing on this?
- Is it possible to assert that faculty members who are on the edge of a knife have never tweaked modeling results or analysis to meet their needs?

- Is it possible to assert that faculty members have never tweaked modeling results or analysis to progress in their careers?
- Is it possible to assert that the faculty members who supervise students are conversant with all the nuts and bolts of the work carried out by the students?
- Is it possible to assert that a manuscript accepted by a journal office with a high impact factor has no tweaked modeling results or analysis?

In my opinion, considering this loophole in the methodology adopted by journal offices, neither an advancement in the technologies nor in the scientific theories would yield the best of what is desirable for the betterment of the scientific field.

Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

The author is an alumnus of Texas A&M University, Texas, USA. The views expressed here are solely those of the author in his private capacity and do not in any way represent the views of Texas A&M University, Texas, USA.