This document defines implementation rules for the best paper award of the SEM Technical Division (TD) on Data Science:

1) The implementation rules of the Data Science best paper award are consistent with SEM’s standard procedure for all technical division best paper awards. The rules below shall be modified or amended, if necessary, if SEM’s rules change.

2) Given point 1, current officers of the Data Science TD are responsible for implementing a fair and transparent procedure for the best paper award.

3) The best paper award is organized at the yearly International Modal Analysis Conference (IMAC). It could be extended to other SEM meetings in the future. All contributions (not just those of students) are eligible to compete for the best paper award.

4) When submitting their abstract to an IMAC conference, the author selects the best paper button to indicate their desire to enter the competition. The author also provides any additional information requested by SEM and/or the Data Science TD, such as a justification as to why their work should be considered for the award.

5) To be eligible for competition, a full-length manuscript (at least six pages) and a graphical abstract (see point 6) must be submitted. No award shall be awarded to a submission that consists of an abstract, extended abstract, or viewgraph presentation.

6) Graphical abstract should be emailed to DSbestawardpaper@gmail.com when submitting the full paper. We follow Elsevier format as indicated https://www.elsevier.com/authors/tools-and-resources/visual-abstract.

7) The Data Science TD sets up a selection committee comprised of subject-matter experts in disciplines relevant to data science (statistics, machine learning, data analytics, etc.) and/or disciplines relevant to IMAC (health monitoring, noise and vibration, structural dynamics, etc.). The selection committee includes at least one member of the Data Science TD.

8) The selection committee is responsible for implementing a fair and transparent process for submission evaluation, ranking, and award selection. For example, the submissions are evaluated according to their technical soundness, innovation and potential to advance the state-of-the-practice, impact, manuscript clarity, and relevance to disciplines of interest to the IMAC community. The best paper rules are communicated and discussed at the TD’s annual meeting.

9) Conflict-of-interest rules: No member of the best paper selection committee can be co-author of a competing paper. If the award is sponsored by a third-party organization (such as the attribution of a monetary award), persons affiliated with this organization cannot be authors, co-authors, or participate to the best-paper selection.

10) The Data Science TD and, if needed, SEM are the final arbitrators of any conflict or disagreement occurring during the best paper selection.

11) The Data Science TD notifies SEM of the recipient(s) of the best paper award, and SEM notifies the recipient(s), in compliance to SEM’s guidance.