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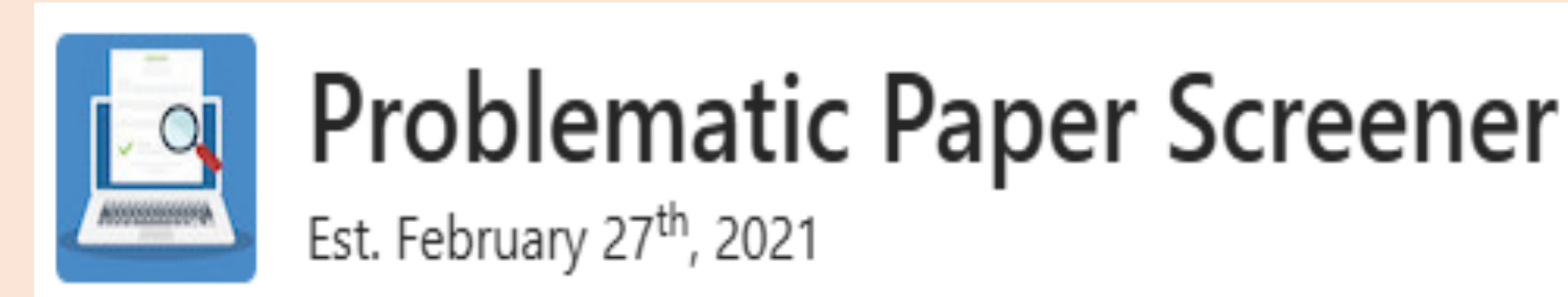
Tortured Phrases as a Sign of Possible Misconduct in Proceedings from an Engineering Conference

Wendeline Swart¹, Guillaume Cabanac^{1,2}, Ophélie Fraisier-Vannier¹
¹IRIT, University of Toulouse, ²Institut Universitaire de France

Tortured Phrases (found)	Established Phrases (expected)
Synthetic intelligence (AI)	Artificial intelligence (AI)
Fake superb	False positive
Amino corrosive	Amino acid
Squared blunder	(mean) Squared error
Uncooked scientific picture	Raw medical image





Design

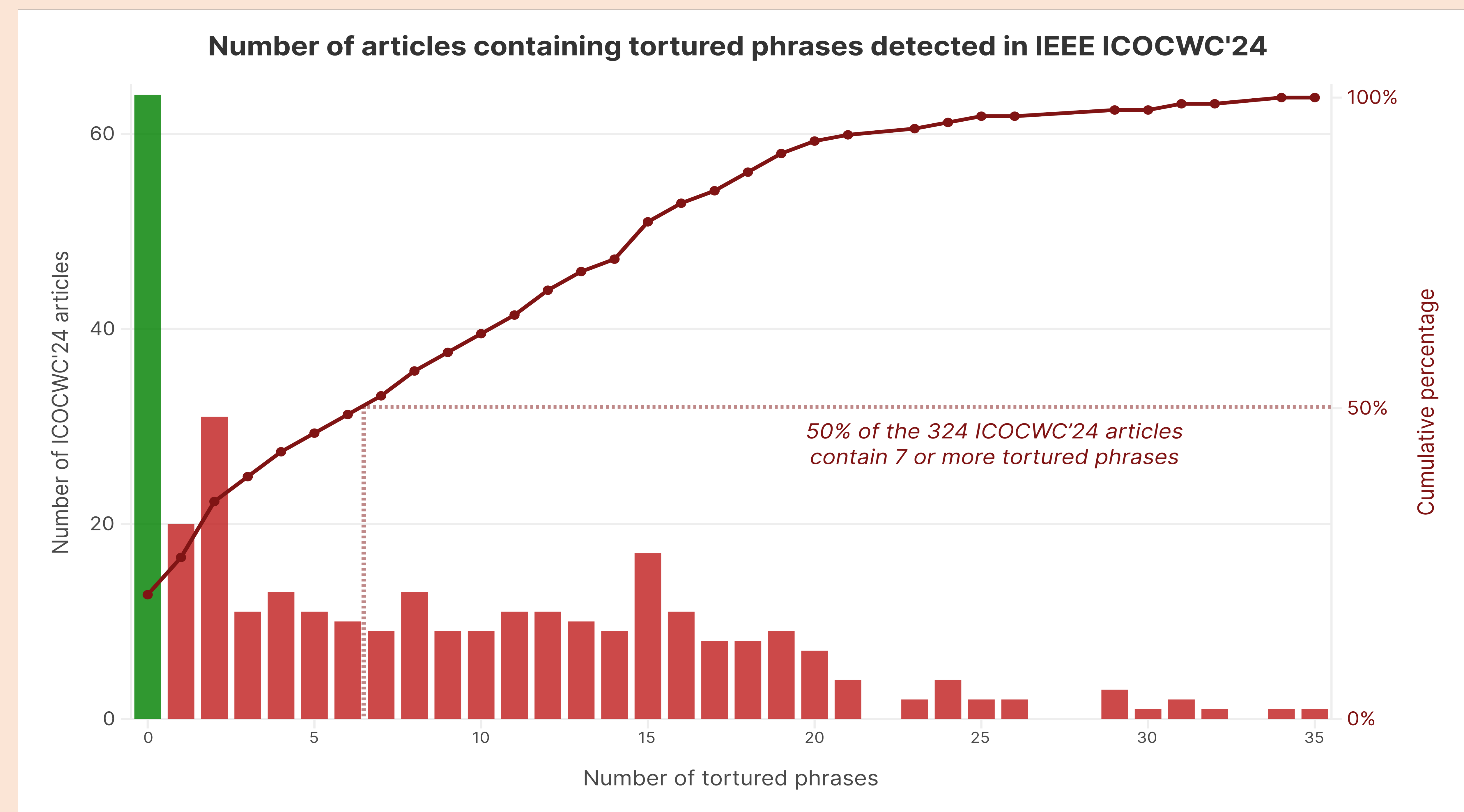
We used the [Problematic Paper Screener](#) (PPS) [1] to identify conference proceedings containing tortured articles: with 5+ tortured phrases, or <5 and assessed by a human.



We selected the conference ICOCWC'24 with the largest number of tortured articles. We probed the production of the experts listed in its proceedings with the bibliometric platform [Dimensions](#) and the post-publication peer review platform [PubPeer](#).



Conference	Year	Tortured articles	Publisher
AIP Conference Proceedings	2024	223	
ICOCWC'24	2024	191	
Materials Today Proceedings	2021	177	ELSEVIER
Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems	2022	168	
International Journal of Engineering & Technology	2018	112	



Flagged Articles	Organizing Committee (34 individuals)	Reviewers (134 individuals)
Articles with expressions of concerns	31 articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tortured phrases, suspicion of authorship for sale purchase of an authorship position, plagiarized sections, nonsensical equations, irrelevant references. 	67 articles commented upon on PubPeer for integrity issues, 8 have an expression of concern
Retracted articles	21 articles	9 articles

Conclusion

- IEEE tagged with an expression of concern 15 of 260 (6%) of articles flagged by the PPS (with a mean of 4 tortured phrases per article).
- Human reassessment should be considered for many of the 20,066 PPS-flagged articles.

Reference

[1] Cabanac G, Labbé C, Magazinov A. *The 'Problematic Paper Screener' automatically selects suspect publications for post-publication (re)assessment*. Abstract presented at WCRI 2022: 7th World Conference on Research Integrity; 29 May – 1 June 2022; Cape Town, South Africa. (2022). <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2210.04895>