

# Playing “Spot the Difference” with Springer

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Rump Session

# Recalling “Spot the Difference” games



Source: <http://games2rule.com/>

## Setup:

- Take a document (e.g., a picture).
- Introduce  $N$  errors.
- Publish alternate next to the original and tell the player to find the  $N$  differences.

## “Spot the difference” games for LNCS authors

If you want to play:

- write a paper
- get it accepted at a conference with LNCS proceedings
- send your camera-ready paper to Springer’s “Scientific Publishing Services” (SPS).
- wait for the “final” version of your paper and start comparing.

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Features:

- The number of errors  $N$  will be much higher than in any small flash game on your smart phone.
- You won’t know  $N$  in advance.
- You can play several rounds.

## Example

- Players: Dan, Tanja, and I.
- Challenge document: article on **Smaller decoding exponents: ball-collision decoding**

We had the pleasure of playing 3 rounds in which we found **34**, **14**, and **1** errors, respectively.

## Round 1:

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## Round 2:

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My favorites (**spoiler alert**)

## Renaming conferences

- ASIACRYPT 2009 → ASIACRYPT '09.
- CRYPTO'87 → CRYPTO 1987

**Extra fun:** try entering “CRYPTO 1987” and “ASIACRYPT 09” on <http://www.springerlink.com/> and see if you can find the proceedings.

Reversing the order of authors/editors:

- Cohen, G., Wolfmann, J. (eds.): Coding theory and applications. →

[25] Wolfmann, J., Cohen, G. (eds.): Coding Theory 1988. LNCS, vol. 3

Can introduce more errors by copy/paste-ing the whole bibliography from the submitted PDF and editing it (rather than using the submitted LaTeX source code):

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- codewords  $\rightarrow$  code-words.

## All-time favorite

A bib entry which should look like:

Charpin, P. (ed.): EUROCODE '94 – Livre des résumé – EUROCODE '94, Abbaye de la Bussière sur Ouche, France, October 1994 (1994); See [16]

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In conclusion:

- I usually do not play “Spot the Difference” games because I consider my time too valuable to do so.
- Sadly Springer’s SPS doesn’t seem to care.