How to write a good term paper?

*scientific paper*

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Structure

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Related work
- Method
- Results and discussion
- Conclusions and future work
The next most promising papers to read are often those referenced in the relevant papers you have already found.

- Look in fields outside your discipline.
- Do not rely on your memory alone → Make notes.
- Look for recent publications on the subject → to ensure that your paper captures the latest communal knowledge in the field.

Good source: Google Scholars.
Introduction

• “What?” and “So what?”
• What is the paper about, and why should the reader care?
  – Addressed Issue/Problem
  – Importance: Why is important to find a solution? If it solved what impact this will have in the field
  – Formulate Research Questions and main Hypothesis
Introduction

• Establish a territory: what is the field/area, why is this important, what has already been done

• Establish a niche: indicate a gap, raise a question, or challenge prior work in this territory, and

• Occupy that niche: outline the purpose and announce the present research; optionally summarize the results).
Related Work

- Summarize your literature research
- Cite most important one with which you will compare your results
Methods

- Material (resources) and Method (theory, experiment, model, design)
- what was done?
- how it was done?
- Justify the Design
- Questions:
  - why was this method chosen?
  - sampling plans and analysis methods used
  - reproducibility and the ability to judge the quality and validity of published results
Results and Discussion

- Presentation of the results obtained
- Results presented in tables and/or graphs
- Discussion is important:
  - clearly designate those results that are new
  - while properly citing results that have been previously published, e.g. draw meaningful comparisons
  - how new results help to answer the research questions posed in the introduction
  - how new results advance the field, or if negative results what lessons are learned
• Inverts the format of the introduction, moving from the specific (the results generated in this work) to the general (how these results demonstrate a general principle that is more widely applicable)

• Any problems or shortcomings encountered during the course of the work should also be discussed, especially if they might influence how results are to be interpreted.
Conclusions

• Brief summary of the results and discussion
  – the implications of the findings should be emphasized
  – explain how the work is significant
  – provide the most general claims that can be supported by the evidence
  – conclusion should concisely
  – provide the key message(s)
  – do not repeat the arguments made in the results and discussion, state only the final and most general conclusions.
Future Research

• Provide a future perspective on the work
• Recommendations to the audience
• A small amount of speculation can be appropriate
• You own ideas
Abstract

1. Background;
2. Aim
3. Approach
4. Results
5. Conclusions

• Is all of the information in the abstract consistent with what is written in the body of the paper?
• Can all of the information found in the abstract also be found in the body of the paper?
• Is the important information of the paper found in the abstract? Are any key words from the paper missing from the abstract?
General Recommendations

• Use scientific language
• Write clear
• Do not make too long sentences
• Cite properly
Good luck!

• Volume about 10 pages
• Deadline: 31.03.2020
• Format PDF, mail as attachments to v.petukhova@lsv.uni-saarland.de
• Thesis topics available! Contact me