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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

Literature search

- 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

Results and Discussion

- 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