

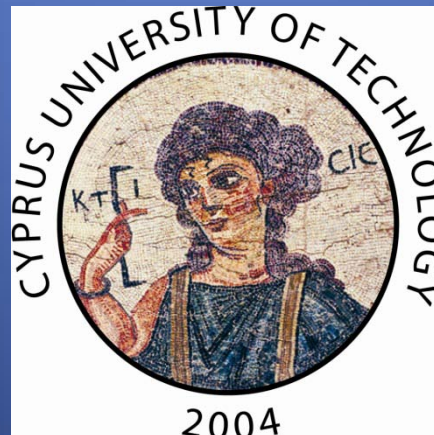
Practical guidelines on how to write a good scientific paper

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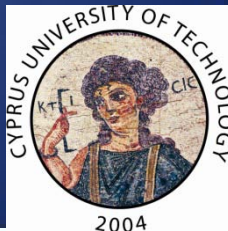
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Purpose

- General guidelines on how to write a good scientific paper.
- Scientific – keyword
 - Paper for a scientific journal not for a newspaper or magazine
- Poorly presented papers even if they passed through the review system and published will be ignored by the scientific community (no citations) or may even get negative reviews.
- Do not leave cloud areas or uncertainties.
 - The clearer the paper the more understandable and more citations will get.



Main sections of the paper

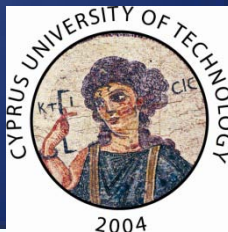
- Abstract
 - Introduction
 - Main sections of the paper
 - Including subsections
 - Conclusions
 - Acknowledgements
 - References
- These are examined in the following slides....
together with various other issues.

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Abstract

- Abstract should be a short summary/overview of the work presented.
- Briefly describe the work done, give main conclusions and typical numerical findings.
- Use present tense.
- Keep short and obey number of words if specified.
- Very important part of the paper as from abstract it may depend if someone will download/read your paper.



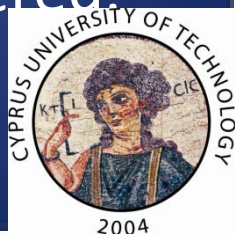
Introduction

- Short introduction into the subject-why the subject is important.
- Literature review of similar papers
 - Write a short paragraph for each paper reviewed with a short description and main findings.
 - Use only related literature.
 - Do not group references together (e.g. this type of work is analyzed in [2-15]).
- Final paragraph of introduction
 - Write how the present paper differs from the ones presented in literature review.
 - Very important.



Main sections of the paper

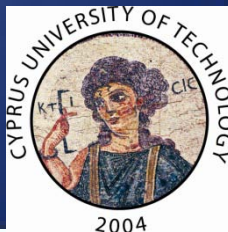
- Present equipment set up, measurements set up, procedures, results, etc. in a clear and understandable way.
 - Stand back and read your paper as a new reader – make sure everything is clear (very difficult)
 - Give your paper to a colleague to read it (easier).
- Use clear diagrams well drawn and descriptive.
- Discussion of results/findings – very important.
 - Discuss peculiar numbers, peculiar graphs, etc. that will raise questions by the reviewers.
 - Do not leave doubtful statements/results unanswered.



Language problem

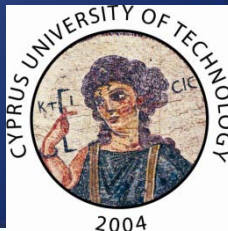
- Use of language – very important.
- Reviewers have an excessive load so if your paper is not understandable may be rejected more easily.
 - Sometime we see papers that present innovative research but poorly presented (hardly understandable).
- Use a person who has a very good knowledge of the language to read/correct the paper.
- Spell check your paper.
- This is the most frequent reason for rejection even before the paper is send for review (initial screening).
- Journal pages are valuable so be to the point without unnecessary details or too much jabber.

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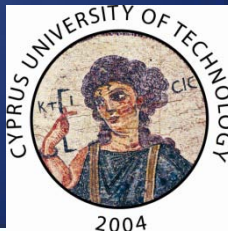
Conclusions

- Discuss main findings and the contribution of the paper.
 - Clearly indicate innovative findings.
 - Do not repeat extensively what is written in the paper, just the main findings.
- Do not claim/conclude findings not proven in the paper.
- Keep the section short and comprehensive.



Figures and Tables

- Figures and Tables legends must be as descriptive as possible and as short as possible.
- Figures and Tables must stand alone.
 - Should not require reading the manuscript to understand them)
- In Figures do not forget the x- and y-axis titles and units.
- In Tables do not forget the units in various columns.
 - Some journals require Tables to have only horizontal lines.



Other important items

- Do not copy parts from other papers.
 - Plagiarism is a criminal act.
 - Similarity is now checked as part of the initial screening and papers are rejected automatically because of that.
- Cite properly material taken from other papers.
- Cite equations taken from other sources not derived by the authors.
 - This does not apply to standard well-known relations.
- If equations are derived show basic steps.
- If a number of equations are solved concurrently specify the solution method employed.

Submission

- Follow submission format as pointed out in author instructions:
 - Use double spacing (ease reviewing)
 - Include all items requested, like keywords
 - Include a list of figures and tables
 - Figures and tables at the end of paper on separate pages.
 - If requested choose document classifications. This will lead to the selection of the correct reviewers.



The review process

- If the paper is accepted with changes
 - Address all reviewer's comments thoroughly
 - Do not be selective and do ignore anybody
 - Prepare report on the comments explaining how each one is addressed
 - You need to provide two documents
 - A marked document (showing in colour all corrections)
 - The final unmarked document
 - Depending on your replies your paper may be accepted, require more corrections or rejected.

Thank you for your attention

I will be happy to answer questions

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