

How to write a scientific paper

General

- Write a summary of bullet points of what you want to say – then ‘flesh out’ these points
- No apostrophes, e.g. “can’t, won’t”
- If you used equations then state them
- The equations you give should make it reproducible
- Check: for each paragraph think: what is the point I’m making? & is it made clearly?

Abstract

- Very short
- No adjectives

Introduction

- Non-technical
- Funnels from very general statement about the literature to what was done
- Ends with overview of what the paper contains

Background

- The non-novel stuff, e.g. from literature
- The notation used can be introduced here

Method

- What you did that was new

Results

- Plots and descriptions of what they mean
- Figures: one sentence to describe what it is (like a title) and one other comment if you need to say that certain parameters were used

Discussion

- Complements the Introduction
- You can be very technical here
- Assume that the reader has read up until this point so you can refer to equations and graphs
- A chance to pre-empt attacks
- You can defend yourself against subject-specialist critics here

Acknowledgements

References