


# Scientific Writing in English: Techniques and Tools



## Reading Scientific Publications Part III

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# Strategies for Reading Scientific Publications

- **GOAL**
  - “Sift” through text
  - Identify publications that are of interest to you

# Suggested Strategy: Order

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- **Examine, in this order**

- 1. Title**

- 2. Abstract**

- 3. Conclusions**

- 4. Introduction**

- 5. Section headings, figures, captions**

- 6. References**

# Examine: Title

- Read Title carefully
- Is it of interest to you?
  - NO? >> Discard
  - YES? >> Proceed

# Examine: Abstract (1)

- A good abstract should explain
  - what paper is all about
  - what problems it deals with
  - what contributions it offers to field

# Examine: Abstract (2)

- Many abstracts begin with
  - background of problem to be discussed
- Most abstracts refer specifically to paper itself about
  - one-half to two-thirds into text

# Examine: Abstract (3)

- Search for first sentence with
  - “in this paper ...”
  - “this paper ...”
  - “we ...”
- Begin reading there
  - Soon, you will find paper’s contribution

# Examine: Conclusions

- Find conclusions section
- Most conclusions provide
  - summary of paper
  - emphasize paper's contributions and results
  - may outline
    - what is missing and future work



# Examine: Introduction

- May follow similar pattern of abstract
  - longer and more detailed.
- Having read abstract and conclusion
  - Focus on last part
    - Find outline remaining parts of paper

# Go on?

- Relevant?
- Interesting?
- >> ... continue

# Examine: Sections, Figures, Captions

- **Examine**
  - **section headers**
  - **figures and captions**
  - **tables and their captions**
- **Any mathematical content (and interesting to you)**
  - **Examine formulae, expressions**

# Examine: References (1)

- Finally, examine bibliographic references
- Look for references and authors familiar to you
- When you find any, go back to text and search where they cited

# Examine: References (2)

- You may find explanation about difference between this paper and earlier
- If you are well familiar with previous work, it may be easy to understand what this paper is offering
  - new and original

# Wrapping-up (1)

- Repeat strategy with every scientific publication
- Book?
  - Begin with Table of Contents
  - Pick the chapter(s) that seem interesting
  - Repeat for each chapter/section

# Wrapping-up (2)

- Journal?
- Same...
  - Read table of contents
  - Follow with relevant parts

# Advantages

- ┌ • Thus, if follow strategy
  - Will discover that
  - + content:
    - can cover more material
  - time:
    - less time than before



# Contact Information



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