

The Source

by

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A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

B.SC. COMPUTER SCIENCE HONOURS

in

THE IRVING K. BARBER SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

(Computer Science)

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

(Okanagan)

April 2015

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The Source is an interactive simulation model where the user is charged with the task of providing energy to a growing population. The purpose of the simulation is to show the benefits and detriments of each type of energy source. Although the game targets young adults, primarily around high school and College/university students; anyone can play and have a learning experience. Two intended outcomes of the simulation are to demonstrate the ratio of energy output to energy source type, and show the inner workings of each. A third outcome of the simulation is show that each type of energy works in the same way at its most basic level, with the exception of solar power converting kinetic energy into electrical energy.

The user will accomplish the task of providing energy by choosing to invest in different types of energy. The energy types that are at the users' disposal are solar, wind, hydro, coal, oil, gas and nuclear. Users can choose to build any of these power plants, but each type has consequences that others may not have. For example, if a user decided to build a power plant that ran off of coal, environmentalists would be displeased because the burning of coal introduces pollutants into the atmosphere. As well as considering the consequences of their actions, the users must also consider what fuels each power plant and how long each power plant can be sustained for. Fossil fuels and nuclear power are not infinite; the user must find resources to fuel these power plants. Users can choose to invest in renewable resources such as solar, wind and hydro, but the problem the user encounters with these types of resources is that they don't output as much energy as fossil fuels. The users' main objective is to survive for as long as possible and to beat their previous time.

Chapter 2

Energy Today

In our society almost all of our energy that powers our homes and businesses is created in the same way. It could be argued that Michael Faraday, the inventor of the concept of the generator, had the biggest effect on the development of our society. In the early 1800's Michael discovered that a magnet traveling through a coiled wire could generate a current and once a current was generated it could be redirected to wherever it was needed. This concept is at the core of all our power generation.

2.1 Generators

All generators operate in the same fashion, transferring kinetic energy into electrical energy. Some generators perform this transference by having a stationary coil and moving a magnet through the coil as shown below, while other generators have stationary magnets and move the coil through the magnetic field generated between two magnets. It doesn't matter which method is used, the same rules of physics are being applied and both ways achieve the result of a flowing current. The faster the movement of the coil or magnet the more current will be generated. The more current that is generated the more power there is to use. Generators have a couple more components to them including, but not limited to, gas chambers and rotating pistons. These components are all just tools used to convert the potential energy of the power source into kinetic energy and finally into the desired electrical energy. This concept is the heart of all major methods of power production.

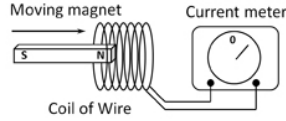


Figure 2.1: Generator Mechanics

2.2 Fossil Fuels

All Fossil fuel plants operate in the same way; they burn a substance to heat water that is turned into steam and that steam is then fed to flow past a turbine. The steam pushes the turbine which is connected to a generator. This motion feeds kinetic energy to the generator which then turns the energy into electrical energy for people to use.

Fossil fuel plants have one specific difference, which is in the substance that they burn and the different protocols and buildings erected to handle the substances. Other than this difference the process is the same for all plants. Once the substance has been burned the heat is transferred into water. In order to obtain as much energy as possible the water is kept under pressure making it able to be heated to temperatures much higher than 100°C . Once the water is at the desired temperature it is fed through a series of pipes from which it enters another chamber. In this chamber the water leaves the pipes at extraordinary speeds and is turned into steam instantaneously as the pressure keeping the water in liquid state is released. The fast moving steam pushes against a turbine causing it to move, and in turn causing the components in the generator to be moved and thus a current is generated. This is shown in figure 2.2 which specifically shows the process of a coal power plant.

2.3. Nuclear Power

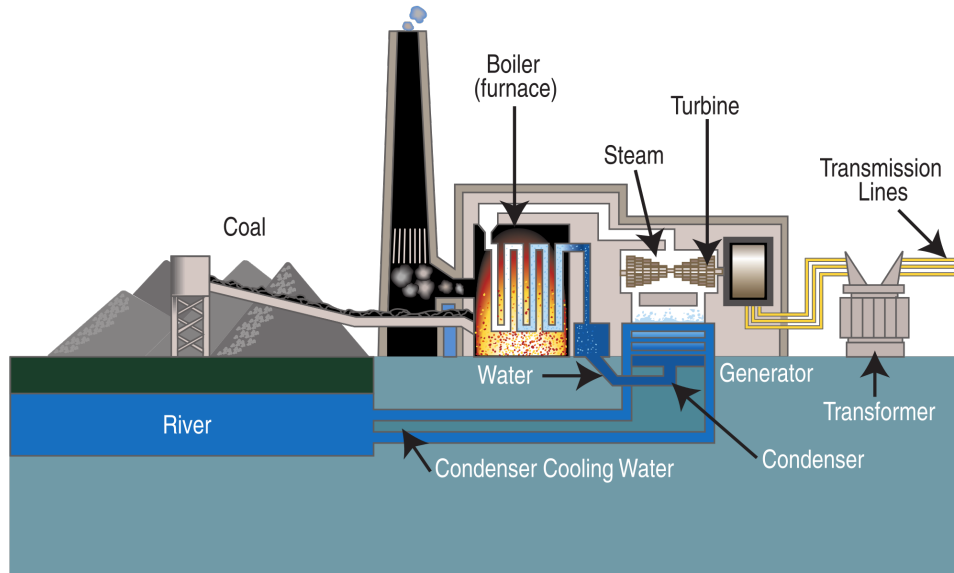


Figure 2.2: Fossil Fuel Cycle

In order to save water the steam is collected and condensed back into water to be used again. Plants are usually built around a water source as water needs to be switched out at times to cool components of the plant and since plants use water to function it is convenient to have a water source close by. When water gets cycled out of the plant and back into the water source it is warm and can have negative effects on wildlife. Imagine if someone cranked the thermostat in your house to 40°C , how would you like it?

Fossil fuel power plants generally produce large amounts of power and the price of fossil fuels is generally cheap, but they have huge environmental consequences such as carbon dioxide. Fossil fuel plants also run on a limited resource and once the resource is depleted they will be useless.

2.3 Nuclear Power

Nuclear power may be the most desired power source on the planet. Nuclear power is capable of producing tremendous amounts of power for doing little work. All nuclear power plants today run off of fission, the process of breaking up atoms into smaller ones. The element that nuclear plants run off of is Uranium. Uranium has nice properties for being broken

2.3. Nuclear Power

apart, one property being that large amounts of energy are released when fission occurs and this energy is given off in the form of heat. Just like fossil fuel power plants nuclear power plants operate by taking this heat, heating water into steam, using the steam to turn a turbine and then the turbine turns a generator.

Of course the process of getting the heat is dramatically different. In the reactor of a nuclear power plant there are uranium rods, these fuel the plant. The rods are bombarded with nuclei that break apart the uranium when they collide. Essentially it's like breaking when playing pool. The cue ball is the nuclei and the triangle of pool balls is the uranium atom. Instead of sound being released when a collision occurs, heat gets released. The uranium rods are surrounded by water and this water absorbs the heat from the fission reaction. Just like in fossil fuel power plants the water is kept under pressure so that it can be heated to higher temperatures. Because this water is in direct contact with the radioactive core it is not turned into steam and is instead sent through a series of pipes away from the reactor. This water never leaves the pipes but is used to heat more water, safe water, that has outside contact with the pipes. From here the process is the same as with fossil fuel power plants. This is shown in Figure 2.3.

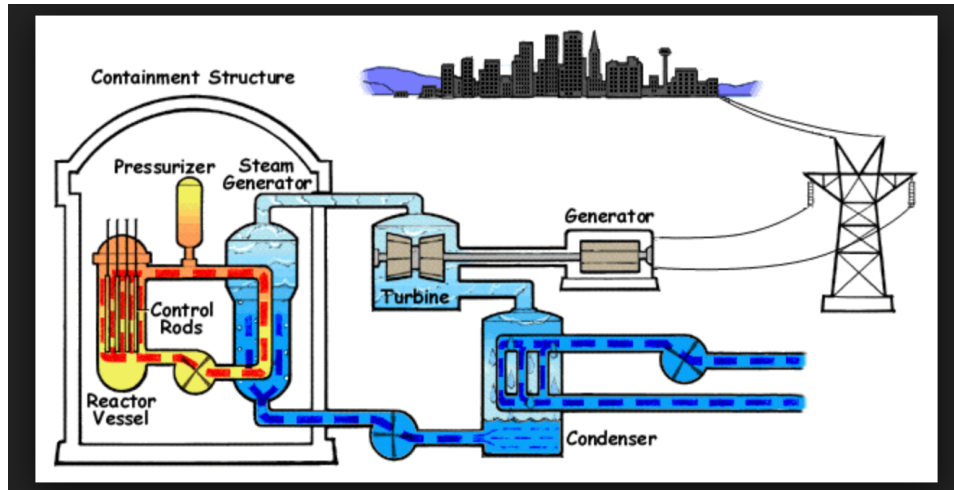


Figure 2.3: Nuclear Cycle

Nuclear power plants need this extra step because the water that has direct contact with the core is radioactive and needs to be handled delicately. As a consequence it can't be in direct contact with other parts of the plant.

2.3. *Nuclear Power*

Nuclear power plants have little waste compared to fossil fuel plants but they do produce radio active waste (left overs from the fission reaction) and it takes energy to mine the uranium, refine it and transport it to the plant.

Like fossil fuels, uranium is a element found in the Earth's crust and there is a finite amount of it. There is far more uranium than all the fossil fuels combined and we are using it up at a slower rate but one day we will run out and science will have to find a new kind of power source for fission.

2.4 Hydro Power

Hydro power, arguably, can be the cleanest source of power because it has almost no environmental effects once the plant is built. Like fossil fuels and nuclear power plants, hydro power plants work by turning a turbine that is connected to a generator to produce power. The difference between the two previously mentioned plant and hydro plants is that hydro plants, instead of using steam to push turbines, use liquid running water.

The rule of thumb for hydro power is that the faster the water flows the more power you can generate. This creates a desire for big dams. The idea is that you dam a river causing the area above the dam to flood and this flood water is held at bay by the dam. Within the dam there is a generator and turbines and the turbines are located in a shaft where water will flow. Once the shafts have been opened the water runs through the turbines using gravity and the water pressure from the lake. The bigger the dam is, the bigger the lake created will be, the more water pressure there will be, the faster the water will flow, and the more power will be generated. Figure 2.4 shows this process. Dams don't burn any kind of resource for fuel so there are no harmful environmental emissions once the dam is running. One downside of dams is that their construction usually requires large areas of land to be destroyed. This destruction wipes out any wildlife living there at the time and causes environmental shifts to natural eco-systems.

There are some rare cases, such as Niagara Falls, where hydro generators can be placed beneath the falls and naturally falling water does the job with no assistance and no dams need to be built. Finding a big enough waterfall that can generate enough power near a populated area is rare so this is not the usual option when creating a hydro-electric dam.

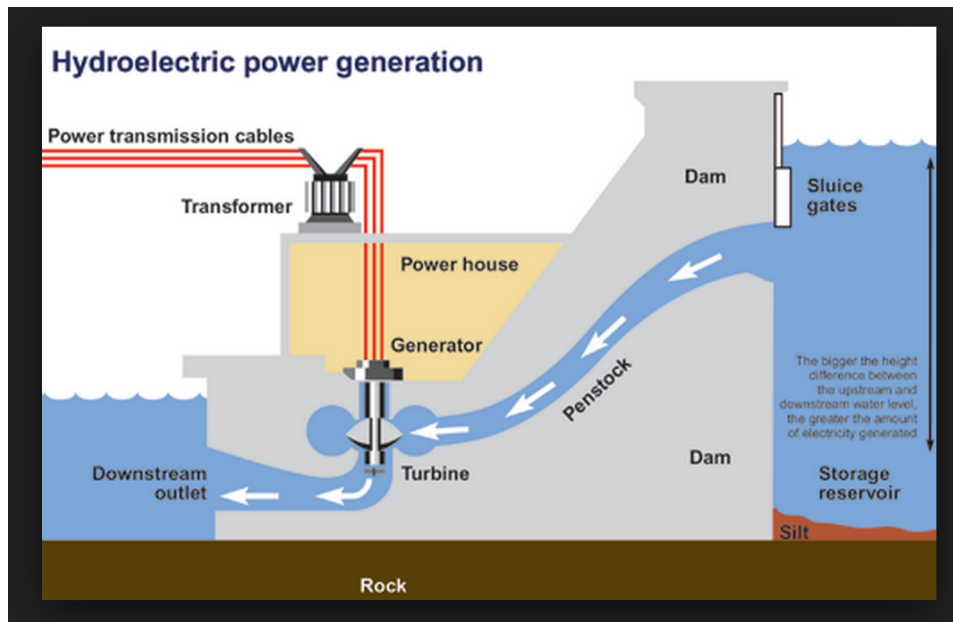


Figure 2.4: Hydro Cycle

2.5 Wind Power

Wind power has maybe the least environmental impact out of all of the power sources. They use wind currents to rotate giant blades that are connected by a series of levers and gears to the generator. Figure 2.5 shows this process. The current is then fed down the shaft of the windmill and off to a population. Once constructed windmills essentially have no maintenance cost and are practically self-sustaining except for when breakdowns occur and maintenance is performed.

Although windmills have minimal environmental effects they have five noticeable drawbacks. The first drawback is that they do not produce a large amount of power. The second drawback is that they take up large amounts of space. Third, windmills have been known to be a cause of death to birds. Fourth, humans that live around windmills are generally displeased with the appearance, noise and frequent shadows that they create. Finally, windmills are also costly to build and can only be placed in windy locations to make them worth building.

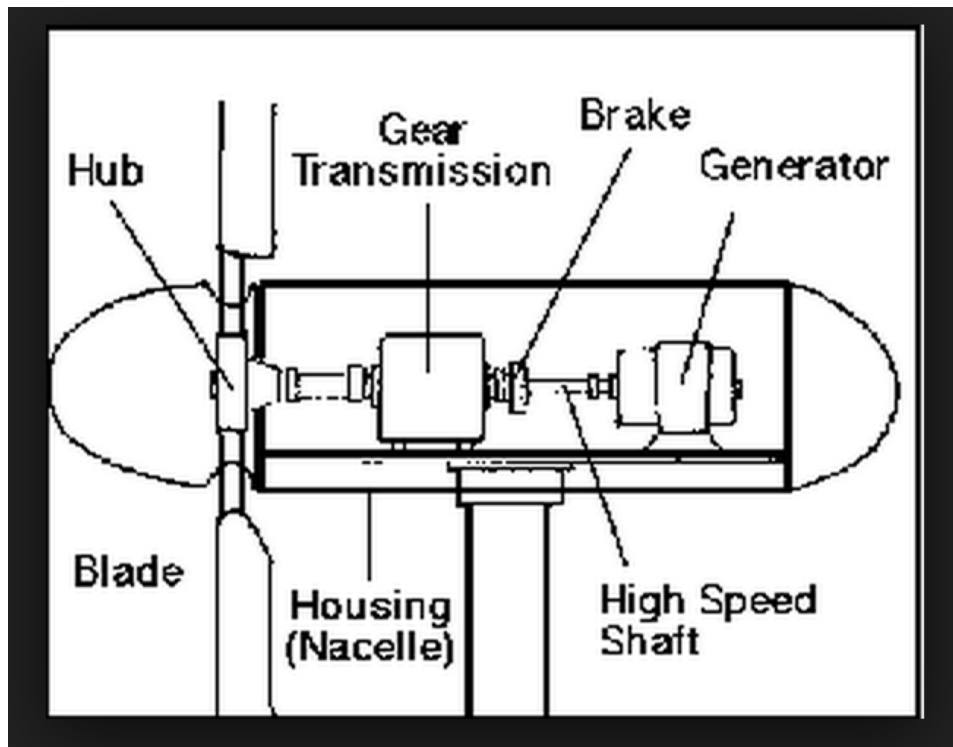


Figure 2.5: Windmill Workings

2.6 Solar Power

Solar power is the one power source that works in a completely different fashion from all of the others. When most objects are struck with rays of light, they absorb the incoming rays and convert this energy into heat. Solar panels are made from a special substance, primarily silicon, and when this substance is struck with light it tends to react differently than most objects. When the electrons in solar panels are struck with light they become excited and they raise the energy level. When enough electrons are at high enough energy levels they become loose and are able to move around. Solar panels are specially built so that part of the panel holds a positive charge and the other part holds a negative charge. This polarization makes the loose electrons in the negative part of the panel want to move to the positive section. This motion forms a current in the cell and then the current can be redirected to where ever it is needed. Figure 2.6 shows this process.

2.6. Solar Power

Solar panels have little to no maintenance cost, they fit nicely on rooftops, and they have hardly no environmental impacts. Unfortunately, solar panels are the least efficient form of generating power, transforming only about 20 percent of the sunlight that hits them into usable electricity. Solar panels are also expensive to build and in order to generate any significant amount of usable power from them, say enough to power amoderately sized population, farms of solar panels need to be built which take up huge amounts of space. Another drawback of solar panels is that they can only function during the day while the sun is up, which means that another source of power is required for night time activities.

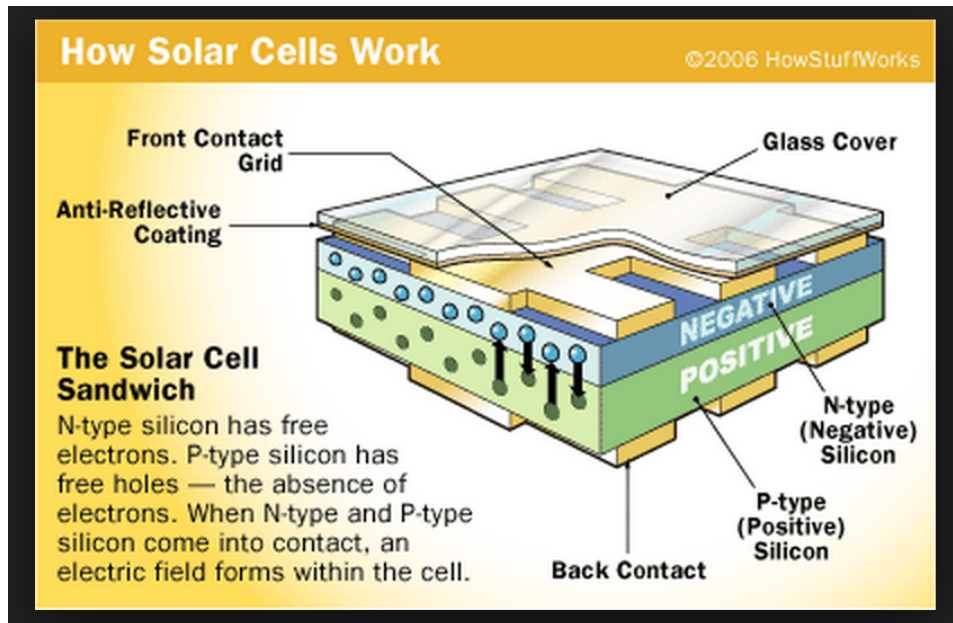


Figure 2.6: Solar Cell Workigns

Chapter 3

The Source

The design of the system, as illustrated in figure 3.1 below, is straightforward. The user interacts with the system by purchasing power plants. This is done on a designated screen when there is land for the user to build on. Once the user has picked a type of power he/she must then provide the resources necessary for the power plant to function. The user can obtain fossil fuels by mining for them on the screen designated to represent the land that is currently available for the user to excavate. Once resources have been obtained and a power plant is built, energy can then be created and supplied to the population.

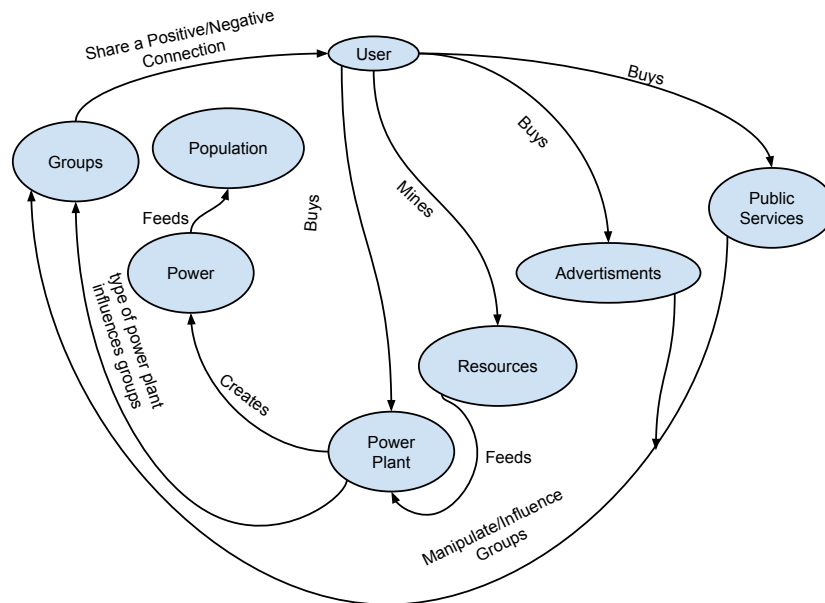


Figure 3.1:

Another option that the user has is that he/she can purchase advertisements or public services to help him/her flourish in the simulation. For example, a user could purchase an advertisement that educates the population to not waste power. This advertisement would reduce the usage of power and allow the user to more easily meet the demand. Users can also buy public services. An example would be a geologist that would survey the land and tell the user where to mine for a specific resource. Both of these purchases can influence groups within the game, such as environmentalists or public opinion.

Users choices in the game affect groups as well, for example if a user invested in coal fueled power plants then the environmentalists group would not be displeased. Groups provide small perks or punishments to the user, usually in the form of grants or fines, which are dependent on the users play style and choices within the simulation.

3.1 Screen Layout

The Source is composed of 8 different screen. The first five mentioned below are know as the five core screens. You can get to any of these screens from any other screen in the game.

The Business Screen (one of the five core screens):

In this screen the user is able to purchase advertisements and public services to help him/her progress through the simulation. Here the user is also able to see their progress throughout the game. The user will be able to see data like, money and energy made over time.

The City Screen (one of the five core screens):

Here the user is able to see how the population is doing, the amount of power currently demanded and the amount supplied. This screens purpose is to purely display information.

The Power Plant Screen (one of the five core screens):

This screen, possibly the most education screen shows the workings of each type of energy as well as the inner workings of a generator. As well as seeing this information this screen allows the user to see specifics on the current power plants that he/she has built. Specifics being information such as amount of power produced, cost to maintain, resources required to maintain and more.

The Land Screen (one of the five core screens):

From this screen the user can build power power plants that run off of fossil fuels and uranium. The user will have some designated land to start but he/she also has the option to buy more land to build on if the starting land is all used up.

The Resource Screen (one of the five core screens):

The purpose of this screen is to act like a map for the resources at the users disposal. From this screen the user can see all the resource that will be needed and the user can get at the three resource screens that will allow the user to extract the resources.

The Hydro Screen:

From here the user can view numerous rives that could be damned in order to generate power. Once a river is damned it will be shown on the screen. Rivers can only be damed once.

Solar/wind Power Screen:

This screen shows land in the form of a grid that the user has at his/her to build windmills on or solar canals. Building will have a cost. Once something is built it can be dismantled to open the land to have something else built.

The Fossil Fuels Screen:

Here land that the user can mine will be shown. This will be one large grid that will hold all the fossil fuels and uranium. The user can mine a section by selecting it and he or she will have a chance of discovering any one of the four resources. The resource discovered will go towards fueling the built power plants. Once a section is mined it can not be reused.

The Static Screen:

The static screen is not really a screen at all but a combination of static images that remain on top of all other screens for the entire duration of the game. This serves as the means of navigation between the five core screens. As well as displaying some information such as money and time.

Chapter 4

Sample Content Using Mathematical Notations

4.1 Facts and theorems

If we use a well established fact or theorem

Fact 4.1. *[HUL93, Theorem IV.2.4.2] Define the marginal function γ associated with $g : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ by $z \mapsto \gamma(z) := \inf_x g(x, z)$. If g is a proper convex function and is bounded below on the set $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{z\}$ for all z , then γ is convex.*

4.2 Propositions and lemmas

Here is a lemma followed by its proof.

$$D = \left\{ (x, \lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^+ : \frac{x}{\lambda} \in C \right\}.$$

Lemma 4.2. *Assume C is a nonempty closed convex set. Then the set D is a nonempty closed convex cone.*

Proof. The fact that D is nonempty and closed follows from C being nonempty and closed. One can check directly that D is a cone....

Hence D is convex. □

Make sure that the qed symbol is always on the last line of the proof. If the last line is an equation, you can enforce the qed on the same line with the `qedhere` command.

For citations, please use BibTeX. A sample article to verify formatting and style is [BGLW08]. Use the bibliography style `ubco`, which is basic `alphaur1` style with inline links enabled. Please compile multiple times when generating the references. The last entry in a reference

are the back references to the pages with the citation. They need an additional compilation, once the bibtex entries are generated.

Note that the bibliography style is discipline dependent so feel free to use the style adopted by your discipline, for example `siam` for mathematics.

Chapter 5

Landscape Mode

The landscape mode allows you to rotate a page through 90 degrees. It is generally not a good idea to make the chapter heading landscape, but it can be useful for long tables etc.

This text should appear rotated, allowing for formatting of very wide tables etc. Note that this might only work after you convert the `dvi` file to a postscript (`ps`) or `pdf` file using `dvips` or `dvipdf` etc.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

Here comes the conclusion.

Table 6.1: A publication quality table. Very very very very very very very very very very long title.

Item		
Animal	Description	Price (\$)
Gnat	per gram	13.65
	each	0.01
Gnu	stuffed	92.50
Emu	stuffed	33.33
Armadillo	frozen	8.99

Your conclusion can go on for several pages.

Bibliography

- [BGLW08] Heinz H. Bauschke, Rafal Goebel, Yves Lucet, and Xianfu Wang. The proximal average: Basic theory. *SIAM J. Optim.*, 19(2):768–785, 2008. → pages 14
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- [HUL93] Jean-Baptiste Hiriart-Urruty and Claude Lemaréchal. *Convex Analysis and Minimization Algorithms*, volume 305–306 of *Grundlehren der Mathematischen Wissenschaften*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1993. → pages 14

Appendix

Appendix A

Tables

Here you can have additional tables. Table captions are always on top.

In order to use publication quality tables, one should use the guidelines in [Fea05]. In short, do not use vertical rules or double rules, units in the column heading (not in the body of the table), precede decimals with a digit, and do not use ditto signs. Table A.1 is according to the guidelines.

For tables, the caption goes on top, for figures, the caption goes on the bottom. If possible, always position tables and figures at the top of a page.¹ Use the option `tbph` for the placement.

Table A.1: A publication quality table. Very very very very very very very very very very long title.

Item		
Animal	Description	Price (\$)
Gnat	per gram	13.65
	each	0.01
Gnu	stuffed	92.50
Emu	stuffed	33.33
Armadillo	frozen	8.99

¹In this case, the chapter heading prevents the table from being at the top.

Appendix A. Tables

Table A.2: Another table

Table A.3: Another table

And other table materials (I needed to generate two pages for that appendix to test the formatting of the table of content).

Table A.4: Another table

Table A.5: Another table

Table A.6: Another table

Table A.7: Another table

Table A.8: Another table

Table A.9: Another table

Table A.10: Another table

Table A.11: Another table

Appendix B

Figures

Here you can have additional figures. Figure captions are always at the bottom.

Appendix B. Figures

And other additional figures (again I needed to generate two pages :-).