

Scientific Communication for Physicists

Homework 1 — due 16/04/2025

1) Academese and word choice

Pick any published astro/phys paper (could be something you have read recently, a recent paper from arXiv, etc.) and find at least three examples of “academese” and poor word choice we discussed in Lecture 2. Provide editing suggestions.

2) Subject — Verb — Object placement

Rewrite the following sentences such that the subject is followed immediately by the verb and interruptions between the verb and object are avoided. Place the subject early in the sentence if possible.

1. To date, more than 1,000 exoplanets, some of them with orbits of just a few hours, others with orbits of more than 1,000 years, have been confirmed.
2. Onchocerciasis, with approximately 18 million infected cases worldwide and 80 million more people at risk of infection, is not recognized as one of the major public health and socioeconomic problems in many tropical countries (Murdoch et al., 1996; OEPA, 1998).
3. Aside from protein X, protein Y, with a sequence very similar to a DNA-binding kinase, has been found to be able to bind RNA.
4. Earth’s primordial atmosphere, consisting of high levels of helium and neon, which are now only present in high quantities in the innermost mantle and core of the Earth, was blown off several times after catastrophic impacts with other space bodies.
5. Recent reports show that digital disease detection systems, which use big data sources for information and can lead to early predictions of disease outbreaks, health behaviour, and attitudes (4, 7, 8), heavily draw on mobile devices and online sharing platforms.