Writing a Research Paper Tricks

Ayush Kumar Shah

2021-02-23

Tips

- Include a list of research questions and contributions and make sure it is visible by using bullet points and including in the Introduction.
- Avoid using stock phrases
- Use simple sentences: sentences that you would use to tell someone about your contributions in a conversation or a dialogue.
- Move from general overview to specific points. The reader must know the bigger picture or how the whole system or contributions look like before moving on to the specifics.
- Avoid orphan terms (a single term in a new line). If there is one, try to rewrite the sentences in a shorter simpler way.
- Use word like "include" rather than are when listing items since include means it is not limited to the things included and there may be more. Example: The primary contributions include:
- Don't use the term major contributions, the reader will decide which contributions are major. Use primary contributions or just contributions instead.
- Tell a story using related works. Don't just list the contributions of each paper but link them and form a graph and compare them with each other and how it is related with your paper.
- Never do spell checks and grammar checks until the paper is complete but never forget to do it once the paper is complete.
- Use tekdiff tool (comes with latex installation) to track changes in the latex files
- Use pdfcrop tool (comes with latex installation) to crop the pdf automatically.
- Always use vector graphics as images (pdf works well).
- Use commands like `\trim`, `\scalebox`, `\fbox`, `\mbox`, `\subfigure`