

The final paper

Final paper guidelines

- About 8 pages, single spaced, including figures, tables, bibliography, etc. Do not go much shorter or longer.
 - Submit as a single PDF; create via any software you like
 - Follow the standard structure of scientific writing (more below) unless you have a **very** good reason to deviate
 - Content matters more than form or elegance, but **everything** matters at some level
 - When in doubt, consult existing papers you like for ideas on presentation, structure, style, and so on
-

Due 5/14 @ noon

Upload a single PDF for the group to Gradescope.

The University Registrar set this due date. It cannot be changed.

Getting it published

INFO 4940

Five types of publication

- Book
 - Journal article
 - Conference paper
 - Preprint
 - Blog and popular
-

Book

- Standard format in many humanities disciplines
 - Long! (50,000-150,000 words = 200-600 pages)
 - Slow (to write and to publish)
 - Typically one book every 5-10 years
 - Often takes 1-2 years from acceptance to publication
 - Advance contract -> manuscript -> readers -> revisions
-> editorial board -> production -> bookstores
 - Main buyers are libraries
 - Academic authors don't usually make money
 - *Textbooks are different*
-

Journal article

- Most common academic format
 - Some humanities, most social and natural sciences, medicine, etc.
 - Typically 4,000-10,000 words (10-40 manuscript pages)
 - Faster writing and publication
 - Journals vary widely in prestige and acceptance rate
 - Like colleges; top ones accept c. 5% of submissions
 - Manuscript -> readers -> revisions -> production -> print
 - Peer review is kinda BS
 - Someone has to pay
 - Libraries (\$\$\$), authors (APCs), volunteers (labor and prestige)
-

Conference papers

- Every field has conferences, but they're biggest in CS
 - Archival vs. nonarchival conferences
 - Professional, grad, undergrad
 - Humanities: abstract -> acceptance -> New Orleans
 - CS: manuscript -> area chair -> readers -> revisions and rebuttal -> area chair -> program committee -> poster in subbasement in Singapore -> proceedings (or findings)
 - Usually 3-6 mo. from submission to conference
 - In the meantime, preprint on arXiv
-

Attending a conference

How to attend a conference

- **Poster**, findings poster, **oral**, panel, workshop, plenary
 - You or your PI pays costs. Typically \$3-5k/person.
 - Main point is to meet people
 - If the conference is archival, you *already* have the publication
 - The reason to go to the conference is to talk to people
 - Senior people should be looking out for you (esp. your PI)
 - Find a friend/guide who knows people. Go to dinners.
 - Make yourself talk to strangers (but don't be an ass)
 - Current students are future colleagues. Do not overlook them.
 - Prepare for 16-hour days.
 - Do not hide in your hotel. Do not go sightseeing.
-

—

Back to our story

Preprints

- Anyone can post a paper in arXiv with minimal review
 - Often takes days to a few weeks for moderation
 - Formerly for true preprints, i.e., papers forthcoming in journals
 - Now still that, plus stuff you just want to get out in the world
 - “Just to put it out there” is especially common in industry
 - No peer review, no editing, no problem?
-

Blogs and popular media

- Blogs and websites are common in all fields
 - Surprising amount of high-profile CS work, especially from industry, exists only as blog posts (GPT4 and monosemanticity work, for example)
 - Good for visibility (i.c.w. social media posting)
 - No real prestige, but not automatically disregarded
 - Very fast moving; finish today, publish today, get attention today
 - Full control of formatting, interactivity, etc.
-

Course feedback

Thoughts and suggestions

- Likes (and dislikes)
 - What to retain, what to cut
 - What to expand or contract
 - Format, structure, and sequencing
 - Balance of instruction and project work
 - Anything you'd wish to add to a future version
-