

DATA 689: Capstone in Data Analytics



Session II– The Structure of a Paper

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Using Research Questions to Arrive at Research Design

- So you have done your literature review and found a feasible and significant research question
- Now it is time to design your research strategy
- Your research strategy includes all the activities you will do from TODAY until you write your paper, which contribute to closing the loop on your research question





The Structure of a Paper

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Research Methodology
- Case Study (if applicable)
- Discussion of Findings, Recommendations, Limitations and Conclusion
- References/Bibliography
- Appendices



Abstract

- Short summary of the research problem and its importance, what you do and what you find
- A person reading your abstract should get a good sense of what problem you addressed and how you addressed it without having to look at the rest of the paper





Introduction

- What is the general area? What is the exact problem you are addressing?
- Why is it important? (why should I be interested as a reader?)
- What are the objectives of the research? What are your hypotheses?
- How is the paper structured?



Research Methodology

- What research methodology do you use and why? (why is it appropriate)?
- How do you use the research methodology (what do you do exactly?)
- How do you validate the results?



Case Study

- What is the case study? (Background etc.)
- Why is it important? Why do you choose it?
- How does it illustrate your contribution?
- How do you apply your methodology to the case study? (the meat of your case study)



Discussion of Findings

- What does the case study tell you about your hypotheses? How does it support your research question and what do you learn from it?
- What are the implications of your findings for the research question, for the area of study, and for the field and discipline?
- What is the validity of the results?



Conclusion and Summary

- Recap briefly what you do in the paper
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your research and provide recommendations (if applicable)
- Make sure that all of the questions raised in the introduction and the literature review have been addressed
- Compare the final results against the original aims and objectives
- Identify any shortcomings and future research



Bibliography and Appendices

- Standard in most cases
- Have to choose which style (IEEE)
- Use Endnotes or similar software

