

How to Compose a Scientific Paper

Peter Hertel

University of Osnabrück, Germany

Lecture presented at APS, Nankai University, China

<http://www.home.uni-osnabrueck.de/phertel>

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Peter Hertel

Overview

The paper is
the goal

The paper is a
project

Collect
references,
pictures,
tables

Writing text

Checklist

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- Collect references, pictures, tables
- Write text snippets

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- Use spell checker, dictionary and a thesaurus

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- Write Abstract, Keywords, Conclusions, Title

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- Read and re-read the Instruction for authors
- Write Abstract, Keywords, Conclusions, Title
- Submit the paper

The paper is the goal

- Once you know the subject of your research:
think about the paper .

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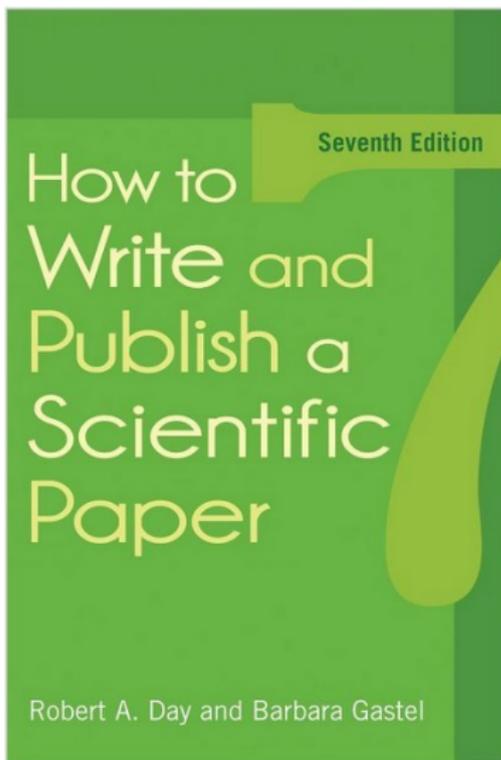
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- . . . by the paper
- For encouragement - always have a current version



This Swiss Army knife is good for many things, but not for digging



For writing letters or a business report, use MS-Word



For writing a scientific paper, use LaTeX

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Your Research - a Project

- Try to write down a plan for your research

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- step by step ...

- Try to write down a plan for your research
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- LaTeX - a document preparation system
- Specially good for easy and consistent modifications
- Your paper grows from a to-do list to the final version
- step by step . . .
- as in following example

```
1 % this file is zfy.tex
2 \documentclass[preprint]{elsarticle}
3 \input{zfy.sty}
4
5 \begin{document}
6
7 \input{zfy-frm.tex} % front matter
8 \input{zfy-int.tex} % introduction
9 \input{zfy-exp.tex} % experimental setup
10 \input{zfy-res.tex} % results
11 \input{zfy-dis.tex} % discussion
12 \input{zfy-cnc.tex} % conclusion
13
14 \section*{Acknowledgement}
15 \noindent T0-D0
16
17 \section*{References}
18 \bibliographystyle{elsarticle-num}
19 \bibliography{zfy}
20
21 \end{document}
22 % end of file zfy.tex
```

```
1 % this file is zfy-frm.tex
2 \title{Optical isolator based on photonic
3 crystals}
4 \author[moe]{Zongfu Yu}
5 \author[moe,uvp]{Romano A. Rupp}
6 \author[moe]{Xingzheng Zhang\corref{cor}}
7 \address[moe]{The MOE Key Laboratory of Weak-Light
8 Nonlinear Photonics, TEDA Applied Physics School
9 and School of Physics,
10 Nankai University, Tianjin, 300457, China}
11 \address[uvp]{Faculty of Physics, Vienna
12 University, Boltzmanngasse~5, A-1090 Wien, Austria}
13 \cortext[cor]{corresponding author,
14 zxz@nankai.edu.cn}
15 \begin{abstract}
16 TO-DO
17 \end{abstract}
18 \begin{keyword}
19 optical isolator, photonic crystal, TO-DO
20 \end{keyword}
21 \maketitle
22 % end of file zfy-frm.tex
```


- references which might go into the paper

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- included in your text by `\cite{...}`
- appearance governed by `\bibliographystyle`

```
1 % this file is zfy.bib for BibTeX
2
3 @ARTICLE{Baruffa10,
4 AUTHOR = {F. Baruffa and P. Stano and J. Fabian},
5 TITLE = {Theory of anisotropic exchange in
6 laterally coupled quantum dots},
7 JOURNAL = {Phys. Rev. Lett.},
8 YEAR = {2010},
9 volume = {104},
10 pages = {126401},
11 }
12
13 @BOOK{Michler09,
14 AUTHOR = {P. Michler},
15 TITLE = {Single semiconductor quantum dots},
16 PUBLISHER = {Springer},
17 YEAR = {2009},
18 address = {Berlin},
19 }
20
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- `\FG{zyf-fig12.pdf}{70mm}`
`{Optical isolation (dB) vs. probe`
`temperature (degrees Celsius).}`

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`temperature (degrees Celsius).}`
- ... is plotted in `\FR{zyf-fig12.pdf}`

```
1 % this file is zyf.sty
2
3 ...
4
5 \newcommand{\FG}[3]{
6   \begin{figure}[!hbt]
7     \begin{center}
8       \includegraphics[width=#2]{#1}\[3mm]
9       \caption{#3}
10      \label{#1}
11     \end{center}
12   \end{figure}
13 }
14
15 \newcommand{\FR}[1]{Figure~\ref{#1}}
16
17 ...
18
```

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- use a Thesaurus



m-w.com



Quiz

Test Your Vocabulary

Take Our 10-Question Quiz

AdChoices



High-Res NIR Analysis

Measure NIR Lasers
with sub-nanometer
resolution accuracy
www.oceanoptics.com

Level measurement

High precision sensors
for continuous level
measurement
www.vega.com

Chinese Flashcards

"Learn 2289
Characters in 90
Days" All New Chinese
Flashcard Program.
www.ChineseCharacterFlash-

Word Games | Word of the Day | New Words & Slang | Video |

Dictionary | **Thesaurus** | Spanish-English | Medical | Encyclo.

put



put

17 ENTRIES FOUND:

put (verb)
put away (verb)
put by (verb)

Ads by Google

Instant Grammar Checker

Correct All Grammar Errors And Enhance Your Writing. Try Now!
www.Grammarly.com

put

verb

1 to arrange something in a certain spot or position
<you can *put* this box next to the bookshelf>

Synonyms depose, deposit, dispose, emplace, fix, lay, position, put, set, set up, situate, stick

Related Words move, rearrange, reorder, shift; orient; establish, locate, plant, settle; clap, flop, plank, plop, plump, plunk (or plonk), plunk down, slap; ensconce, niche; assemble, collect; carry; berth, park; affix, anchor, look today, wedge, army, lay out, line up, square, walk

The Merriam-Webster dictionary and thesaurus at
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/>

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No Chinese word grouping

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- Avoid Chinese-style grouping of words

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- *cleverest son's wife knife super sharp*

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- *cleverest son's wive knife super sharp*
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- *the extraordinary refractive index of the lithium niobate probe*

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- *cleverest son's wife knife super sharp*
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- but *a 633 nm helium-neon laser*

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- *cleverest son's wife knife super sharp*
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- *lithium niobate probe extraordinary refractive index*
- *the extraordinary refractive index of the lithium niobate probe*
- but *a 633 nm helium-neon laser*
- instead of *a helium-neon laser with a wavelength of 633 nm*

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Active, not passive

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, ...*

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, ...*
- *the gap, 1.24 mm wide, ...*

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, . . .*
- *the gap, 1.24 mm wide, . . .*
- *The luminescent light was analyzed*

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, ...*
- *the gap, 1.24 mm wide, ...*
- *The luminescent light was analyzed*
- *We analyzed the luminescent light*

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, . . .*
- *the gap, 1.24 mm wide, . . .*
- *The luminescent light was analyzed*
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- Note *luminescent light* first is subject, then object

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, ...*
- *the gap, 1.24 mm wide, ...*
- *The luminescent light was analyzed*
- *We analyzed the luminescent light*
- Note *luminescent light* first is subject, then object
- *The material has been found to be suitable for*

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, ...*
- *the gap, 1.24 mm wide, ...*
- *The luminescent light was analyzed*
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- Note *luminescent light* first is subject, then object
- *The material has been found to be suitable for*
- *The material is suitable for*

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, ...*
- *the gap, 1.24 mm wide, ...*
- *The luminescent light was analyzed*
- *We analyzed the luminescent light*
- Note *luminescent light* first is subject, then object
- *The material has been found to be suitable for*
- *The material is suitable for*
- *The probe underwent the following processing procedure.*

- *the gap, the width of which which was determined to be 1.24 mm, ...*
- *the gap, 1.24 mm wide, ...*
- *The luminescent light was analyzed*
- *We analyzed the luminescent light*
- Note *luminescent light* first is subject, then object
- *The material has been found to be suitable for*
- *The material is suitable for*
- *The probe underwent the following processing procedure.*
- *We processed the probe as follows.*

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Split long sentences

- *too long*: For that reason we aim at computing the relevant energy states (eigenvalues) and the corresponding wave functions (eigenvectors) of three-dimensional (3D) semiconductor pyramidal quantum dots (QDs) for electrons in a non-parabolic conduction band to test and explain the eigen-energy scanning method, at the same time analyzing the coupling effect between array quantum dots.

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- *better*: Therefore we compute the relevant energy levels (eigenvalues) and the corresponding wave functions (eigenvectors) of a regular three-dimensional array of such quantum dots.

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- *better*: Therefore we compute the relevant energy levels (eigenvalues) and the corresponding wave functions (eigenvectors) of a regular three-dimensional array of such quantum dots.
- We explain and test our computational scheme for electrons in a non-parabolic conduction band.

- *too long*: For that reason we aim at computing the relevant energy states (eigenvalues) and the corresponding wave functions (eigenvectors) of three-dimensional (3D) semiconductor pyramidal quantum dots (QDs) for electrons in a non-parabolic conduction band to test and explain the eigen-energy scanning method, at the same time analyzing the coupling effect between array quantum dots.
- *better*: Therefore we compute the relevant energy levels (eigenvalues) and the corresponding wave functions (eigenvectors) of a regular three-dimensional array of such quantum dots.
- We explain and test our computational scheme for electrons in a non-parabolic conduction band.
- Thereby the coupling between neighboring quantum dots can be analyzed as well.

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- *carry out an investigation*

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- *carry out an investigation*
- *investigate*

- *carry out an investigation*
- *investigate*
- *perform a measurement*

- *carry out an investigation*
- *investigate*
- *perform a measurement*
- *measure*

- *carry out an investigation*
- *investigate*
- *perform a measurement*
- *measure*
- *conduct a numerical simulation*

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- *numerically simulate*
- *Our understanding of the microphysical processes involved has increased tremendously*

- *carry out an investigation*
- *investigate*
- *perform a measurement*
- *measure*
- *conduct a numerical simulation*
- *numerically simulate*
- *Our understanding of the microphysical processes involved has increased tremendously*
- *Now we better understand why*

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Do not exaggerate

- *Our understanding of the microphysical processes involved has increased tremendously*

- *Our understanding of the microphysical processes involved has increased tremendously*
- *Now we better understand why*

- *Our understanding of the microphysical processes involved has increased tremendously*
- *Now we better understand why*
- *dramatic reduction of CPU time*

- *Our understanding of the microphysical processes involved has increased tremendously*
- *Now we better understand why*
- *dramatic reduction of CPU time*
- *substantial reduction of CPU time*

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- *demonstrate for the first time . . . novel*

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- *demonstrate for the first time . . . novel*
- *hitherto new, up to now new*

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Mind the difference

- access - asses - assess - assert

- access - asses - assess - assert
- capacity - capacitance - capacitor

- access - asses - assess - assert
- capacity - capacitance - capacitor
- effect - affect

- access - asses - assess - assert
- capacity - capacitance - capacitor
- effect - affect
- insulate - insult

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- isolator - isolate - insulate

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- lie (lied, lied) - lie (lay, layn) - lay (laid, laid)
- surface - interface

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- isolator - isolate - insulate
- lie (lied, lied) - lie (lay, layn) - lay (laid, laid)
- surface - interface
- V - volt - Volta or T - tesla - Tesla

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- μm - μm

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1 read and reread instructions for authors

- 1 read and reread instructions for authors
- 2 write the skeleton paper

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- 2 write the skeleton paper
- 3 collect references in .bib database

- 1 read and reread instructions for authors
- 2 write the skeleton paper
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- 4 collect figures, either .jpg or .pdf

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- 7 coarse structure it with TO DO s

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We wish all the best for your forthcoming paper!