


Writing with references

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Today's lecture

Informationsteknologi

- Goal: To learn how to properly use references when writing.
- We will talk a lot about references and a little about how to write a technical paper.
- Assignment: Write a two page paper on a technical topic of your own choice. You must use (at least) 3 different types of references. Deadline: 20/9.

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Why use references?

Informationsteknologi

- To give credit (to the original discovery)
- To relieve the writer from (some) responsibility
- To lead the reader to a source (for more details)
- To show the evolution in a field

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What is a reference?


Informationsteknologi

Any material where the reader can find more information on the subject.

Two main types of references

- Archival: Books, journals, proceedings ...
- Non-archival: Internet, lecture notes, oral communication ... (instable, no reviewing, etc)

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What is a "good" reference?

Informationsteknologi

- Provides "stable" information on the subject
- Can be easily found (or accessed)

(cf. Handbook of Theoretical Computer Science vs. the Internet)

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How to give references?

Informationsteknologi

- There are many different formats for writing references, often depending on the subject, e.g. medicine, law, ...

Two common formats are given by:

- BibTeX
- Chicago Manual of Style

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Examples (for a book)

> BibTeX

In the text:

TeX [Knu84] is a language for text processing, and is currently the required format for some periodicals. However, not too many people use plain TeX these days, most tend to use LaTeX [Lam86].

In the Bibliography:

[Knu84] Donald E. Knuth. *The TeXbook*. Addison-Wesley, 1984.

[Lam86] Leslie Lamport. *LaTeX: A Document Preparation System*. Addison-Wesley, 1986.

Alternative style for references

In the text:

TeX [1] is a language for text processing, and is currently the required format for some periodicals. However, not too many people use plain TeX these days, most tend to use LaTeX [2].

In the Bibliography:

[1] Donald E. Knuth. *The TeXbook*. Addison-Wesley, 1984.

[2] Leslie Lamport. *LaTeX: A Document Preparation System*. Addison-Wesley, 1986.

(Do you see any disadvantages with this particular style?)

Writing BibTeX entries

```
@BOOK{texbook,
  Author = "Donald E. Knuth",
  Title = "The {\TeX}book",
  Publisher = "Addison-Wesley",
  Year = 1984
}
```

(Did you every wonder how to neatly write "hairy" formulas? Well, have a look at `\cite{texbook}` and look no further!)

Chicago Manual of Style (book example)

In the Text:

The history of the Bahamian people (Craton and Saunders 1992), can lead us to believe that ...

In the Bibliography:

Craton, M. and G. Saunders. 1992. *Islanders in the Stream: A history of the Bahamian people*. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

More examples (journal, proceedings)

> BibTeX-syntax for an article from a journal or a magazine.

```
> @ARTICLE{citation_key,
  required_fields [, optional_fields ] }
```

Required fields: [author](#), [title](#), [journal](#), [year](#)

Optional fields: [volume](#), [number](#), [pages](#), [month](#), [note](#), [key](#)

More examples (journal, proceedings)

> BibTeX-syntax for an article in the proceedings of a conference/workshop/symposium.

```
> @INPROCEEDINGS{citation_key,
  required_fields [, optional_fields ] }
```

Required fields: [author](#), [title](#), [booktitle](#), [year](#)

Optional fields: [editor](#), [pages](#), [organization](#), [publisher](#), [address](#), [month](#), [note](#), [key](#)

...and this is what they look like

- In the text:
 - Higher order logic and the pi-calculus [Mel94, Moh95] ...
- In the Bibliography:
 - [Mel94] T. F. Melham. A mechanized theory of the pi-calculus in HOL. *Nordic Journal of Computing*, 1(1):50–76, 1994.
 - [Moh95] O. A. Mohamed. Mechanizing a pi-calculus equivalence in HOL. In *Proceedings of the 8th International Workshop on Higher Order Logic Theorem Proving and Its Applications*, pages 1–16, London, UK, 1995. Springer-Verlag.

Writing Technical Articles

- The structure:
- Abstract
 - Introduction
 - Body (one or more sections)
 - Conclusion (or Summary)
 - Acknowledgements (sponsors, friends who helped...)
 - References (or Bibliography)
 - Appendices (if needed, e.g. code, proofs, etc.)

The Title

- Be specific
 - (e.g. "Performance measurements for the Flip-Flop Protocol")
- Avoid abbreviations
 - (e.g. "Performance measurements for the FFP")
- Try to be creative!
 - (e.g. "Observations about c " vs. "Faster than the speed of light?")

The Abstract

- Highlight the problem and the results
- Avoid general motivation
 - (there is no room for that!)
- Avoid references (if possible)
 - (allows the abstract to be used in "stand-alone" mode)
- Avoid equations
 - (unless it is a **major** result, e.g. We show that $P = NP$)

The Introduction

- Give relevant background and motivation
- Present the problem and outline the solution
- Related work (may also be given as an own section)
- Outline the rest of the paper

Your Paper

- Write about any **technical** topic of your choice.
- Max 2 full pages.
- Submit as a .pdf file to me and to Yunyun.
- Deadline: September 20.

Peer Evaluation and Final Version

- After you get the paper back (from Yunyun and me): do the suggested changes and give the paper to a friend to read.
- Discuss the paper with your friend.
- Do the suggested changes and send me the final version (as a .pdf file).

About Writing

- Use any tool you like: Word, LaTeX, ... (just make sure that the end result is submitted to me as a .pdf file)
- Do spell-checking! (Remember: the better your paper is written language-wise, the better feedback you can get from your readers.)
- Language and content are **not** independent!

My (main) references ... 😊

- <http://www.rbs0.com/tw.htm>
- <http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~hgs/etc/writing-style.html>

(To get you started: Find out how to write proper references to Internet-publications.)