

HowTo read a scientific article

Roland Wittler

Fun with Algorithms in English – Summer 2018

Background

Journal article *versus* conference proceedings

- ▶ Timing

 - Journal:** no deadline \Rightarrow published when ready

 - Conf.:** deadline \Rightarrow submitted when due, published during conference

- ▶ Review process

 - Journal:** thorough, iterations/revisions

 - Conf.:** accepted or rejected

- ▶ Consequence

 - Journal:** later but more ripened

 - Conf.:** quicker but sometimes more sloppy

\Rightarrow Conference version often followed by journal version.

Background

Further publication types

- ▶ review articles
- ▶ application notes
- ▶ book chapters
- ▶ short abstracts
- ▶ posters

Background

Instructions to the authors

- ▶ page limits
 - ▶ specifications on formatting, structure, etc.
 - ▶ re-formatting by journal
- ⇒ Do not always blame the author.

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Accessibility

- ▶ Open access (OA): pure OA journals, optional OA (subject to charge), no OA
- ▶ institutional access: universities/institutes pay for “flat rates” for some publishers ⇒ Use university WiFi (or VPN) to access papers.
- ▶ some papers are linked on authors websites etc.
- ▶ Google Scholar

Background

How to get aware of papers

- ▶ referenced by other paper
- ▶ referencing your own paper
- ▶ conference
- ▶ eTOC newsletter (electr. table of contents)
- ▶ article alerts
- ▶ blogs, twitter, etc.
- ▶ seminars, lectures, journal clubs
- ▶ browsing favorite journals
- ▶ literature reviewing to get into a topic

How to read a paper

Depending on why / how deeply you read a paper.

If you want to understand a paper thoroughly:

1. try to understand the abstract
2. do understand the introduction
3. try to understand the background
4. do understand the abstract
5. try to understand the conclusions
6. did you get the story / selling point?
7. read everything

How to read a paper

While reading:

- ▶ take notes
- ▶ mark important terms
- ▶ mark parts that you did not understand yet
- ▶ follow references where necessary
- ▶ look up background where necessary
- ▶ be aware of mistakes
- ▶ be critical