How to Write a Scientific Article

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 | 4:00 p.m. | 702 H.R. Bright Building

ABSTRACT

This presentation is intended to familiarize the graduate students with dos and don'ts of scientific writing, and in particular original research articles. The talk will start with an overview of different types of peer reviewed works. Next, typical organization of an original research article will be discussed in details. The contents of each section of a scientific journal and their primary purpose will also be discussed. Some hints related to “advertising” the research article, by for instance choosing “right” titles will also be presented. Concepts such as “inverted triangle” and “roadmap paragraph” in developing an informative, yet concise and eye-catching introductions will also be presented. Examples from published works will be discussed to further guide the audience. While content-wise, most of the talk is devoted to “what goes in the paper and why”, the talk will include a constructive discussion on how to set one’s mind before starting to write the paper. In this regard, we will also discuss how to prepare the first draft of the paper, to facilitate writing the full version of the paper. The talk will end with a brief discussion on other types of research articles, such as literature review.

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Dr. Mohammad Naraghi received his PhD degree in 2009 from the University Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Department of Aerospace engineering. His PhD research was in the field of nanomechanics and the application of MEMS sensors and actuators to investigate the mechanical behavior of soft nanofibers. His PhD thesis received the “Roger A. Strehlow Memorial Award”, for outstanding research accomplishments. The award is presented annually by the Aerospace engineering department at UIUC to one graduate student in recognition of his/her outstanding research accomplishment. Next, Dr. Naraghi worked as a post-doctorate research fellow at Northwestern University. Since 2012, Dr. Naraghi has been an assistant professor, in Texas A and M university, department of Aerospace engineering. He is also affiliated with the department of Materials Science and Engineering. He is the director of the Multifunctional Nanomaterials lab. Dr. Naraghi’s main field of expertise is high performance light-weight nanocomposites, nanomechanics, mechanical characterization of soft nanostructures, and application of MEMS to nanomechanics. Naraghi is the recipient of several academic and scientific awards including the Sandia National lab award in “Characterization, Reliability and Nanoscale Phenomena” in MEMS in two successive years, 2007 and 2008, and the best paper award in the Continuum Mechanics conference, Cambridge, 2009 and AFOSR young investigator award, 2015. His research is funded by several agencies, including Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Office of Naval Research, National Science Foundation, Army Research Lab and Qatar National Research Funds.