

## Advice on writing your paper

Information on the specific **format** for your paper, together with appropriate **templates** and details of the **procedure** for paper and model submission can be found by following the links under the `Assignment` tab on the left hand panel of the CS405 webpage.

Reminder re evaluation procedure and advice:

*"In evaluating your written/modelling contribution, the editorial committee will consider issues such as quality of analysis and insight, originality, scholarship, technical accomplishment, organisation and presentation of ideas. Your paper should have a theme to be set out in a brief abstract of not more than 300 words and illustrated with reference to your modelling study. Discussion of your modelling study in your paper should focus on the key features that are relevant to your theme and give the reader a high-level understanding of how far you have achieved your objectives whether or not they are familiar with your modelling activity in detail. You should assume that readers are familiar with EM principles and concepts, so that a detailed introduction to EM is not necessary. By way of illustration, suitable themes for your contribution might include:*

- *the discussion of an original model to illustrate how EM might be used in an application*
- *a comparison of how EM principles and conventional approaches address a particular application*
- *an analysis of how EM tools could be improved with reference to a particular area of application*
- *a detailed evaluation of how well an existing EM model is adapted to its application*
- *a critical assessment of the advantages claimed for EM in application in previous EM publications*
- *a study of what is entailed in extending and/or combining existing models, and the implications."*

## General principles

- focus on clarifying the theme of your paper, to include:
  - statement - set out your theme
  - elaboration - develop your theme
  - argument - defend any claims you make, discuss interconnection to other ideas, discuss the counterpositions
  - illustration - introduce models / pictures that illuminate your theme / exposition
  - evaluation- assess how satisfactorily you've addressed your theme, identify unresolved issues
- choose a title that is informative about the content and theme, if possible a title that is distinctive and not too long
- abstract to include introduction of theme, discussion of how it is supported by your model-building and how you plan to organise your discussion of the theme
- good to practice 'thinking with computers' in relation to EM
- explain strategy adopted in tackling your theme
- plan to organise your ideas into sections: introduction, 2-3 principal sections, conclusion / summary
- conclusion/summary typically to include a review of what you've discussed and include some discussion of outstanding problems and future work
- be sensitive to the kind of statements you make in a paper: e.g. factual background, orienting observations, claims, arguments, illustrative examples, description of evidence, quotations
- try to see your writing from the perspective of the reader, especially when you are reviewing it
- use illustration from the model - include pictures / diagrams
- direct your model-building at the issues you identify in the emerging paper: look for ways to illustrate features as succinctly as possible
- as you come to finalise the paper, think about how you would deliver it in (say) a 20 minute presentation. (Even preparing such a presentation - either in Powerpoint or as an adjunct to the tkeden model - may be worth considering, and could add value to both your written and model-building contribution.)
- try to assess the quality of your paper yourself, as if from the perspective of someone who cannot read your mind and is sensitive to what is worthy of credit
- check for misprints and poor layout in the text

## Background research and application

- search for relevant background writings and models both within EM literature and outside

- take notes on what you read, paying especial attention to points that chime well with / give insight into your theme
- look for useful quotations in support of or counter to your own thinking / conclusions
  - if you find quotes that endorse your position, explore the connections, and see how you can relate them to your own thinking
  - if you find contrasts between EM and other approaches, rehearse the arguments that account for their difference
  - if you find problems with the argument, look for examples / analogies to clarify the issues
- keep a track of useful references as your paper develops, and identify places where you can most usefully cite them in the text
- when you cite other people's work be sure to give as much context as you can about who is writing, what their authority is, and what they are writing about

### **Mode of work**

- make notes about points of interest in your modelling as you proceed
- try to find diagrammatic ways to express relationships / structures you want to describe
- work top-down (emerging structure of paper) and bottom-up (accumulation of ideas, targetting specific sections or paragraphs) in parallel
- try different modes, times and locations for writing
- as it reaches completion, think of the paper in conjunction with a presentation, perhaps sketch some slides, and talk your ideas through with anyone who'll listen
- take breaks