

IT'S MY THESIS
AND I'LL CRY IF I WANT TO

A THESIS PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN
COMPUTER SCIENCE
AT MASSEY UNIVERSITY, PALMERSTON NORTH,
NEW ZEALAND.

Poor Forgotten Student

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Abstract

The abstract should be no more than 350 words long. It should present an overview of your thesis in accessible language.

Remember that the purpose of an abstract is to help the potential reader decide whether or not they want to read your thesis. You should therefore mention the important features: motivation, statement of the problem, your approach, the quality of your results, and what conclusions you drew.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank...

Chapter 1

Introduction

This is the start of your thesis. If you need \LaTeX help, there are lots of books and websites that can help. The ‘Not-so-Short Introduction to \LaTeX ’ at <http://tobi.oetiker.ch/lshort/lshort.pdf> is a good place to start.

1.1 Writing Guides

There are also lots of resources for writing theses on the internet, and our library website (<http://www.massey.ac.nz/~wwlib/learnit/presentationoftheses.htm>) has some useful links at the bottom. There is also the Massey Online Writing and Learning Link (OWLL) <http://owll.massey.ac.nz/>. Another website that you might find useful is <http://www.learnerassociates.net/dissthes/>.

If you are reasonably confident in your writing, but want to check on the grammar rules, then the book by Strunk Jr. (1918) available at <http://www.bartleby.com/141/> is very useful.

1.2 Some Filler

At the end of your degree you will need to submit a thesis or research report. This is a substantial piece of written work describing what you have done. It will be examined by a number of experienced examiners (your supervisor, an internal examiner, and an external examiner for a Masters degree, an internal examiner, a New Zealand-based examiner not at Massey, and an international examiner for a PhD). It is these examiners that will decide whether or not you have passed your degree, and an appropriate mark for a Masters. For a PhD you will also have an oral examination: the *vive voce*.

There are specific guidelines for the presentation of theses, and if yours does not meet them, then it will not be accepted by the University. The library has a ‘Guide to the Presentation of Theses’ on its website. However, we have also made Word

and Latex templates that you can use for your thesis writing. These already match the guidelines. There are copies of many previous theses held in the Massey library, and also in the SEAT office, and you should have a look at some so that you get some idea of the standards that are required. There is also lots of help for writing-up available on the internet, and the Online Writing and Learning Link (OWLL) <http://owll.massey.ac.nz/> is Massey University's Student Learning Centre gateway to a wide range of study skills resources. All students, whether internal or extramural, undergraduate or postgraduate, can access the resources to develop their academic skills.

1.2.1 SLC

The Student Learning Centre offers assistance to postgraduate students who require additional help with writing, reading, listening and speaking, particularly if English is your second language, although this service does not include proof-reading of theses.

Once you have completed your thesis, you need to submit soft-bound copies of it (the library can arrange for these to be bound for you). For a PhD, four copies are submitted to the DRC, for others three are submitted to Kathy Hamilton. If your thesis is industrially funded then it may be necessary for the publication of the thesis to be embargoed, to protect information that the company wishes to exploit. There are forms to arrange this. Your supervisors will nominate examiners (and while you can suggest people to them, the final decision is up to them, and they are not allowed to tell you who they have selected). It can take a substantial amount of time for examiners to read and report on your thesis, so do not expect to hear in less than 2 months, and often it is longer. The examiners may well ask you to make changes to your thesis. Once you have done this, you need to lodge hard-bound copies of the thesis with the University.

Appendix A

A Typical Appendix...

...consists of all the junk that you couldn't fit into the main part of the thesis, like more tables of data.

Bibliography

William Strunk Jr. *The Elements of Style*. Bartleby, 1918.