

## How to write an abstract

### Why the abstract is important

Nowadays, the search for scientific publications has moved almost exclusively to the internet. However, on-line publication databases typically contain only abstracts. The abstract serves the function of **'selling' your work**, so it is vital to write a complete but concise description of your work to entice readers into purchasing your article or listening to your presentation.

### Parts of an abstract

Despite the fact that the abstract should be brief it must include the following sections, which are typically single sentences:

#### Motivation:

**Why do we care** about the problem and the results?

This section should include the importance of your work, the difficulties of the research area, and the impact it might have if successful.

#### Problem statement:

**What problem** are you trying to solve?

State here what the scope of your work is (a generalized approach or for a specific situation). However be careful here to not use too much jargon.

#### Approach:

**How** did you go about solving or making progress on the problem?

Describe your methodology (simulation, analytical approach, prototype, experiment, etc) and its most important parameters.

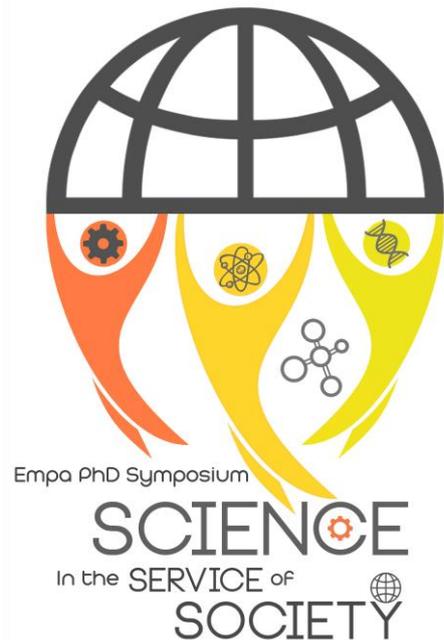
#### Results:

**What is the answer?**

Put the results here in numbers when possible. Avoid vague expressions such as 'very', 'small' or 'significant' using instead orders-of-magnitude, etc.

#### Conclusions:

**What are the implications** of your answer?



Tell to the reader if it is going to change the world, be a significant step forward or simply serve as a road sign indicating that this path is a waste of time (all those results are useful). State also if your results are general or specific to a particular case.

**Important!** According to the motto "*Science in the service of society*", we would like to invite all Empa PhD Students to think about their contribution to the general well-being of the mankind. Take a moment to think how your research is helping the future generations. Let us know, what is a larger perspective of your work, and moreover, how can a society benefit from it now or in the next century.

- Please include a small paragraph explaining the future benefits once your research and knowledge is implemented to the society. (Approx 50 words.)

### Additional tips

- Think about search phrases and **keywords to your work** and use them in your abstract.
- PhD students who just started their projects and do not yet have results may write their abstract based on the first three sections, namely: motivation, problem statement and planned approach
- Count your words! The word limit for the Empa PhD Symposium is **200 words**, which is a commonly used prescription. Please make sure that the abstract does **not exceed the limit**.
- **(Optional)** You are free to add **one picture** along with your abstract if you think it is important for explaining your project. This could include a method or a result.