How to write a good paper

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How to write a paper

- Don Geman's advice: A paper has four parts
  1. Title
  2. Abstract
  3. Introduction
  4. Rest of the paper

Spend equal time on all four of these!

On the title

- It should capture what is special about the paper.
- From the title you should have a guess of the content of the paper, and recalling the title should help recall the paper.
- If every other paper in the field could use the same title, it is a bad title
- Spend some time inventing terms-memorable and specific are best

Opening lines

- Way too many computer vision papers begin with " Object recognition is an important problem in vision" .

- Compare with Literature

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair,
we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way

As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into an enormous insect.

Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins. My sin, my soul.

Call me Ishmael.

Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way

He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish

Introduction section

- The most important section of a paper. For me, once I have finished reading the introduction, I have formed an opinion of whether to accept or reject the paper

- Multiple styles possible

1. Historical style

2. What did you do (Fig. 1), How did you do it? (Fig. 2)

Figures, Tables

- If you pull out all the figures and tables and put them into a slide deck you should have a good talk ready
- The best way to write a paper is to first give a talk on it.