

4OR manuscript No. (will be inserted by the editor)

How to write a PhD thesis abstract for 4OR?

A few guidelines

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Who can submit a PhD thesis abstract?

4OR - A Quarterly Journal of Operations Research publishes abstracts of PhD theses in Operations Research defended in a Belgian, French or Italian institution or of PhD theses defended by Belgian, French or Italian citizens.

How to submit a PhD thesis abstract?

Abstracts should be submitted online at <http://www.editorialmanager.com/forj>, selecting Michel Grabisch as handling Editor.

Abstracts are published under the responsibility of the supervisor of the work. Therefore at the time you submit your text, you should also ask your supervisor (one of them, in case of multiple supervisors) to send an email, from an academic email address, to Michel Grabisch (michel.grabisch@univ-paris1.fr) saying that he/she approves the text.

Write the abstract in good English. In case of doubts have it checked by an English or American native. Always use English in all correspondence.

How are PhD thesis abstracts processed?

PhD thesis abstracts are not refereed. They are nevertheless processed by one of the editors of the journal (presently Michel Grabisch) who makes sure that the text conforms to these guidelines and may ask for a revision.

Note that the journal is not committed to publish all abstracts that are received.

How to prepare the text?

Author. Always spell out your first name. Hence in this text, I write Silvano Martello and not S. Martello. Do not give your affiliation, since the first paragraph of the abstract mentions where the thesis was defended (see below, *Contents of the text*). To this end, use the statements:

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\author{Silvano Martello\inst{}}
\institute{}
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Abstract, Keywords and MSC codes. PhD thesis abstracts do not have Abstract, Keywords or MSC codes.

How to prepare the manuscript? You are asked to make use of the L^AT_EX template for the journal, available at www.4or.be. Never use the “referee” option from the template. In case you do not use L^AT_EX, please keep in mind that it is the present standard for scientific publishing. Spending some time learning L^AT_EX is a highly profitable investment.

Length of the text. Published abstracts must be at most 2 pages long. Since the final typesetting of the paper may result in a slightly longer text than what is obtained with the template, we suggest you leave some free space (at least 15 lines) on the second page.

Contents of the text. The journal has a standard beginning for this kind of contribution. It should be something like:

This is a summary of the authors PhD thesis supervised by [name of the supervisor] and defended on [date] at the University [University name]. The thesis is written in [whatever language] and is available from the author upon request at xxx@yyy.zz [and from <http://www.xxx.xx/xxx/>]. This work deals with . . .

Please note that for the name of your supervisor, we do not use titles (“Prof.” or “Dr.”). The name of the institution should be its original name and not its translation into English. Always mention the city in which the University is located, unless this is obvious from its name. Note that we expect all of our readers to know that Brussels is in Belgium, Bologna is in Italy and Paris is in France. Hence when mentioning the name of the city, do not specify the country explicitly unless there is a risk of ambiguity.

Do not subdivide your PhD thesis abstract into sections.

Do not use a “chapter by chapter” style of writing (all readers expect a dissertation to contain several chapters). Do not try to be exhaustive but concentrate on the core findings of your work. The main aim of the abstract is to give readers enough information to be in position to decide if they should read your entire dissertation. Readers of *4OR* are much likely to be quite familiar with Operations Research. You should keep this point in

mind when preparing your text. On the contrary, do not hesitate to mention computational experiments and/or applications.

References. PhD thesis abstracts do not have a Bibliography. Few relevant references can be given within the text, in sentences like, e.g.,

“... (see H.W. Kuhn, “The Hungarian method for the assignment problem”, *Naval Res. Log. Quart.* 2, 83-97, 1955.)”.

The number of such references is limited to a maximum of two.

Acknowledgements. It is acceptable (but not mandatory) to thank, within the text, the agency or the company that funded the research. Thanking your supervisor, your parents or your pet is not accepted.