



## Scientific Writing, Integrity and Ethics IV

Thesis Writing and Review Response

Guoqiang Li  
School of Software



SHANGHAI JIAO TONG  
UNIVERSITY

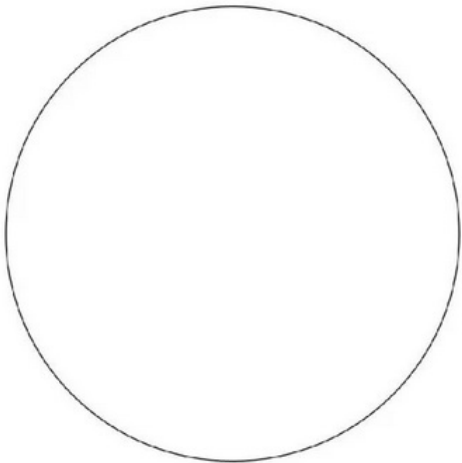
*Kim Kastens, Stephanie Pfirman, Martin Stute, Bill Hahn, Dallas Abbott, and Chris Scholz. How to Write Your Thesis. [https://www.ideo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen\\_sem/thesis\\_org.html](https://www.ideo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen_sem/thesis_org.html)*

*Stefan Ruger. How to write a good PhD thesis and survive the viva. <http://people.kmi.open.ac.uk/stefan/thesis-writing.pdf>*

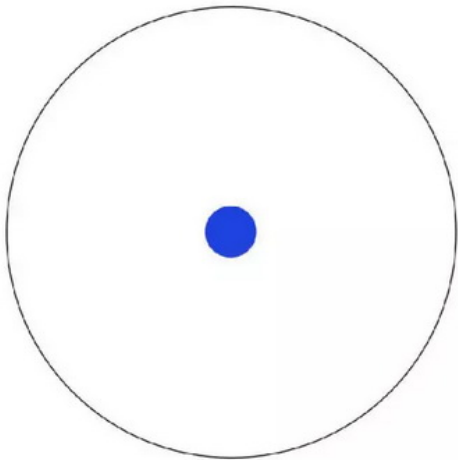
*Calcagno V, Demoinet E, Gollner K, Guidi L, Ruths D, de Mazancourt C. Flows of research manuscripts among scientific journals reveal hidden submission patterns. *Science*. Vol. 338(6110), 1065–1069, 2012*

## What is a PhD./Master

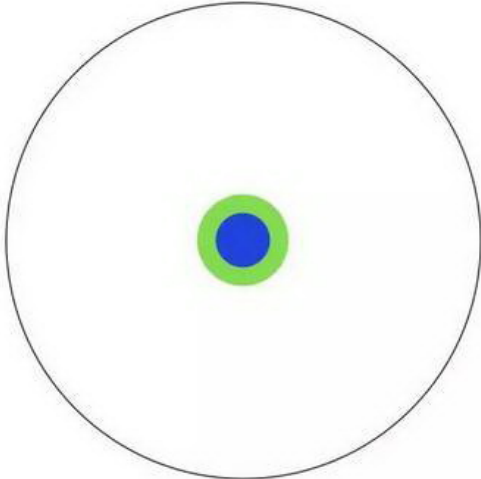
# Knowledge of PhD.



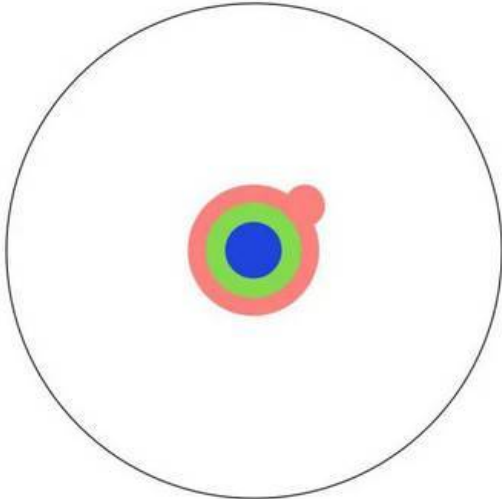
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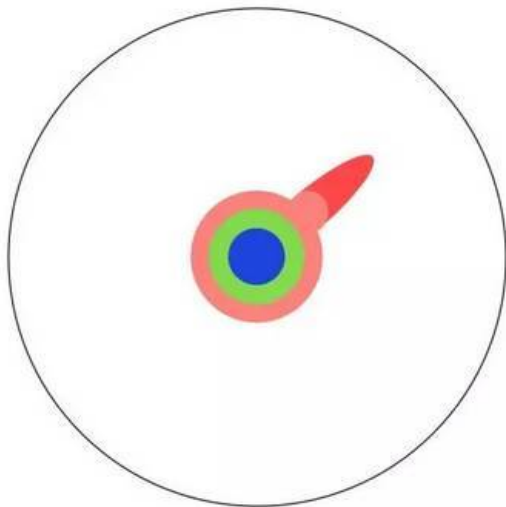


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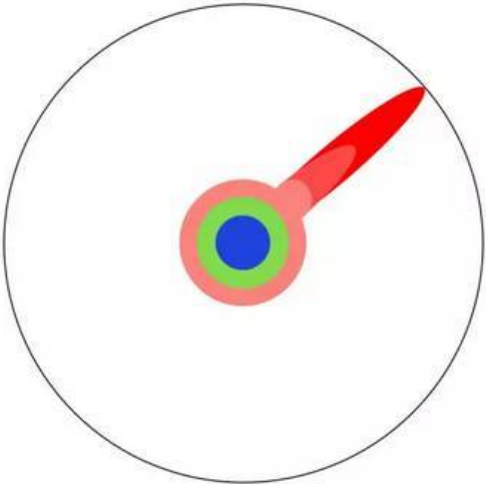
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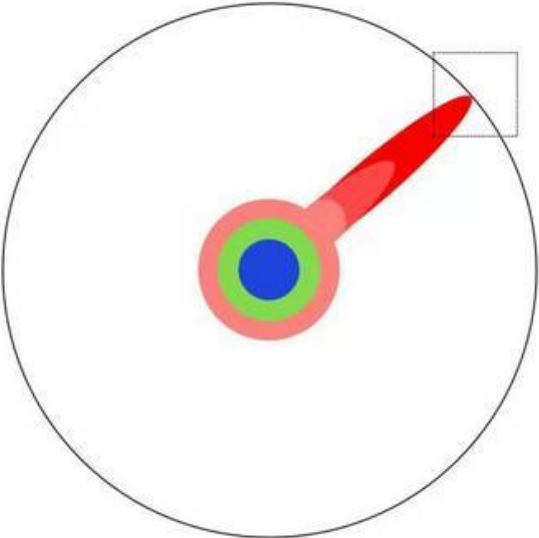




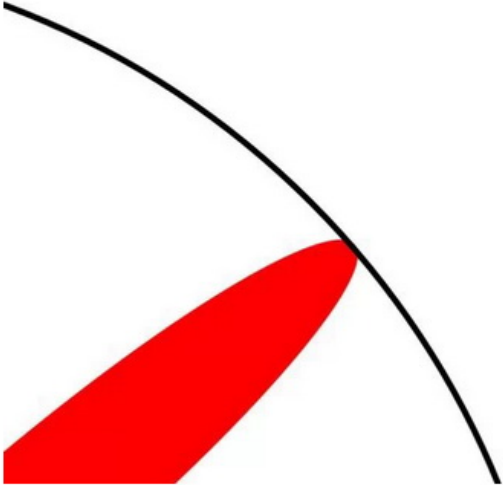
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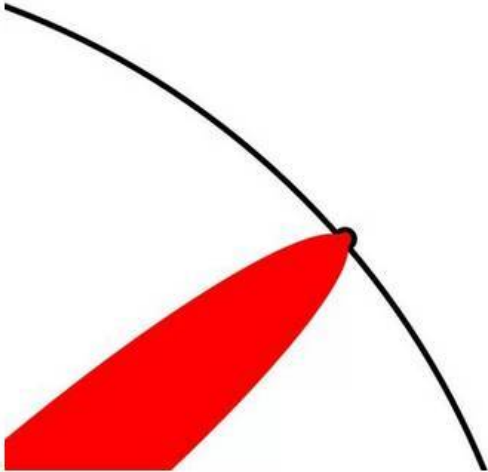
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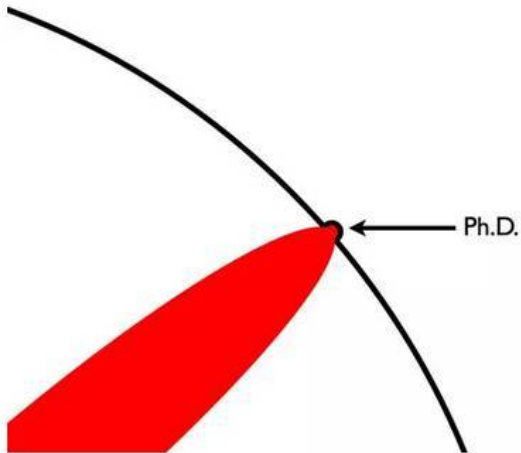
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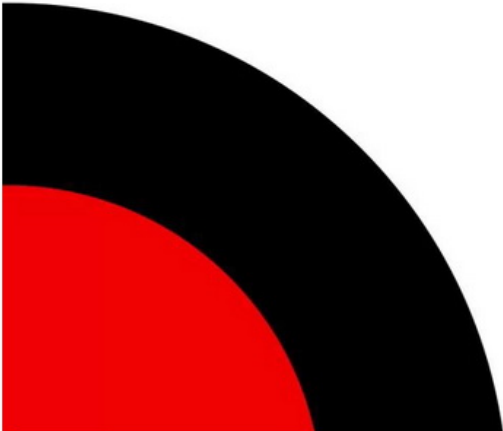
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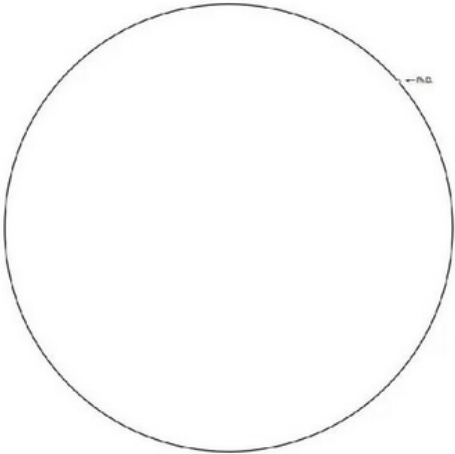
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## Preparing A Thesis

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## Finding Audiences

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in your field area, but with different techniques.



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all other researchers using the same technique you have used.

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potential reviewers of your manuscript or your thesis committee.

## Skimming vs. Reading



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The text fills out the details for the more interested reader.

## Structure of a Thesis

**All the opinions in this section is only for Computer Sciences and Software Engineering!**

Title

Abstract

Chapter 1. Introduction

- background
- related work both domestic and international
- the contribution
- thesis origination

Chapter 2. Related Techniques

Chapter 3. Main Body I.

Chapter 4. Main Body II.

Chapter 5. Main Body III.

Chapter 6. Conclusion and Future Work

# Basic Requirements

Consistent and coherent narrative



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Select publishable material

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Consistent and coherent narrative

Select publishable material

Make headlines informative

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Avoid isolated subsections

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- contains an explicit walk through the thesis structure.

Signposting on each **chapter**:

- a small signposting exercise at the beginning of each chapter, and
- a chapter conclusion at the end of each chapter.

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Figures should be oriented vertically, in portrait mode, wherever possible.

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If the data are fit by a curve, indicate the goodness of fit.



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Does the figure caption guide the reader's eye to the "take-home lesson" of the figure?



## Order of Writing

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- 5 **begin** writing, choosing options in the following hierarchy: paragraphs, sentences, and words.

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- 7 Write the abstract last.

## Response to Reviewers, Ten Suggestions

## 0. Identify Types of Reviewers

## Different Types of Reviewers

First of all, there are **several** types of reviewers, try to identify them...

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serious,

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serious, wise,

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Begin with a **summary** of changes, pointing out new data and new analyses performed in response to the most essential criticisms.

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If a criticism is raised by multiple reviewers, it can also be pointed out in the summary.

The response letter should contain **the complete set of reviews** with your responses interleaved.

## 2. Be Polite and Respectful of All Reviewers



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If you believe that the reviewer is a competitor, communicate your concerns to the editors.

### 3. Accept the Blame

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Even if the requested change seems unnecessary, go ahead and **revise** with the goal of showing the reviewer that they were listened and understood.

## 4. Make the Response Self-Contained

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The only exception is when a large chunk of modified text is too long to quote. Such changes can simply be alluded to explicitly in the response.

## 5. Respond to Every Point

## Consideration

Even though the reviewer may disagree with the response, Do not try to avoid a difficult point by simply ignoring it.



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If the reviewer may raise 2 separate issues within 1 bullet, be sure to respond explicitly to both critiques.

## 6. Use Typography to Navigate

Use changes of typeface, color, and indenting to discriminate between three different elements:

- the review itself,
- the responses to the review, and
- the changes that have made to the manuscript.

It can be explained in the introduction to response.

## 7. Begin Response with a Direct Answer

## Direct Answer

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The goal is to show the reviewer that you took their comments seriously, and you should quickly convey what you did in response to their critique.



## 8. Do What the Reviewer Asks

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If the reviewer makes detailed or very insightful suggestions, add to the Acknowledgments section an explicit “thank you” to the reviewer.

If reviewers ask for too much, it is acceptable to say that the requests go beyond what you perceive to be the scope of the current work. However...

## 9. Be Clear About the Changes

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Refer explicitly to the previous and revised versions of your manuscript and explain what changes have been made.

## 10. Write the Response Twice

## The Initial/Venting Draft

Aim to **analyze** what the reviewer meant while considering different avenues of response and the cost–benefit tradeoff of performing additional experiments.

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**Vent** your frustration with what you perceive to be unfair or rude reviews.

## The Letter to the Editor

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Point out when the reviewers' requests conflict with one another or with journal policies.



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The manuscript that comes out of the review process is improved relative to the original version.