

# How to write a PhD thesis abstract for 4OR?

## A few guidelines

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CNRS-LAMSADE

23 November 2006, Revised: 16 March 2007

**Abstract** This text gives a few guidelines on how to write a PhD thesis abstract for *4OR*, *A Quarterly Journal of Operations Research*.

**Keywords:** Guidelines, PhD.

**MSC classification:** N/A

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## 1 Who can submit a PhD thesis abstract?

*4OR* 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.

## 2 How to submit a PhD thesis abstract?

Abstracts should be sent by email to Denis Bouyssou ([4OR@lamsade.dauphine.fr](mailto:4OR@lamsade.dauphine.fr)). Always use a (compressed) pdf format.

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 to Denis Bouyssou ([4OR@lamsade.dauphine.fr](mailto:4OR@lamsade.dauphine.fr)) saying that he/she approves the text.

Please always use English in all correspondence.

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### 3 How PhD thesis abstracts are processed?

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

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

### 4 How to prepare the text?

#### 4.1 The title

Please always spell out your first name. Hence in this text, I write “Denis Bouyssou” and *not* “D. Bouyssou”.

#### 4.2 The abstract

The journal has a standard abstract for this kind of paper. It should be something like:

This is a summary of the author’s PhD thesis supervised by [name of the supervisor] and defended on [23 November 2006] at the [Université Paris Dauphine]. The thesis is written in [whatever language] and is available [from the author upon request / from <http://www.xxx.xx/~xxx/>]. This work deals with . . . .

Please note that for the name of your supervisor, we do not use titles (“Pr.” 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.

#### 4.3 Keywords and MSC codes

All texts should contain keywords plus one or several MSC codes (see <http://www.ams.org/msc/>). Note that Keywords and MSC codes are not indented in the text.

#### 4.4 How to prepare the manuscript?

You are asked to make use of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X template for the journal available from <http://homepages.vub.ac.be/~fouror/>. Never use the “referee” option from the template. In case you do not use L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, please keep in mind that it is the present standard for scientific publishing. Spending some time learning L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is a highly profitable investment.

#### 4.5 Length of the text

Abstracts should be at most 4-pages long. We *never* publish longer abstracts. Please use space optimally and do not start a page that would be a few lines long. Do not use dirty tricks (e.g., `\enlargethispage{1cm}`) to stay within this limit and always keep some free space on the last page (because the final typesetting of the paper may result in a slightly longer text than what is obtained with the template).

#### 4.6 Content of the text

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.

#### 4.7 References

The journal uses the `natbib` package together with `plainnat.bst`. Make sure to differentiate parenthetical citations like: (see Garey and Johnson, 1979, Chap. 3) (for them use: `\citep[see][Chap.\_3]{GJ79}`) from non-parenthetical ones like: Nemhauser and Wolsey (1988, Chap. 2) (for them use: `\citet[Chap.\_2]{N88}`).

Your dissertation should not be part of the list of references.

#### References

- M. Garey and D. Johnson. *Computers and Intractability*. Freeman, New York, 1979.  
G. L. Nemhauser and L. A. Wolsey. *Integer and Combinatorial Optimization*. Wiley, New York, 1988.

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```

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  author      = "M. Garey and D. Johnson",
  title       = "Computers and Intractability",
  publisher    = "Freeman",
  address     = "New York",
  year        = "1979",
}
@BOOK{N88,
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  title       = "Integer and Combinatorial Optimization",
  publisher    = "Wiley",
  address     = "New York",
  year        = "1988",
}
\end{filecontents*}
%
\documentclass[4or]{svjour}
% Never use the referee option
%
\usepackage{latexsym}
\usepackage{graphicx}
\usepackage{url} % always use this to specify url's
\usepackage{lineno} % useful to have line numbers on your text. This facilitates the work
% of the referee
%
\begin{document}
%
%\linenumbers % Uncomment to obtain line numbers
%
\title{How to write a PhD thesis abstract for \emph{4OR}??}
%
\subtitle{A few guidelines}
%
\author{Denis Bouyssou% \and Dummy Author}
\thanks{CNRS--LAMSADE, Universit\`{e} Paris Dauphine, F-75775 Paris Cedex 16,
\protect\url{bouyssou@lamsade.dauphine.fr}.}
}
%
\institute{CNRS--LAMSADE}
%
\date{23 November 2006, Revised: 16 March 2007}
% Always leave the date field blank in your text

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%
\maketitle
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\bibliographystyle{plainnat}
\bibliography{biblio}
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