



Georg-August-Universität
Göttingen

Faculty of Economic Sciences
Chair of International Economic Policy
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Scientific writing

Preparation

Goals of the seminar

- Learn about a specific subject: deforestation
- Learn how to write a good seminar paper
 - **Formally correct** scientific writing
 - **Report on** existing research
 - Broad literature survey
 - Critical survey of one paper
 - **Describe** it **structurally** & **evaluate critically** the study/methods/findings
 - **Define new research questions** and shows prospective avenues for research

How to start?

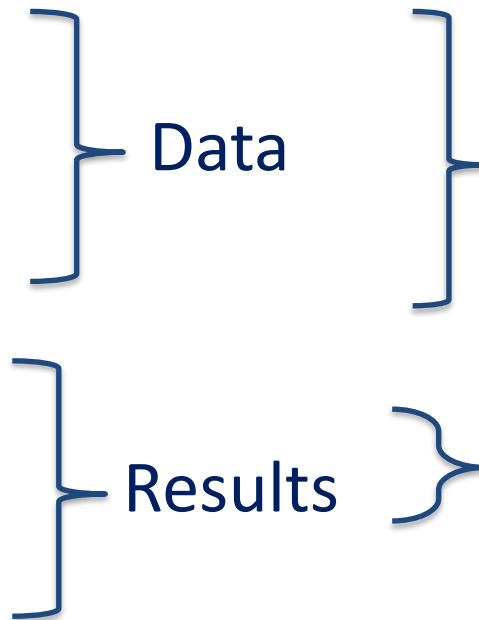
- Read the preliminary paper in detail!
- What are the main statements?
- Which one(s) do I want to analyze?

But how to read empirical papers...

How to read empirical papers (1)

Typical structure of an empirical paper

- Introduction
- Model & theory
- Data sources
- Context of data
- Summary statistics
- Empirical strategy
- Main results
- Other results
- Robustness checks
- Conclusion



How to read empirical papers (2)

- Read paper to answer 4 questions:
 1. What is the main research question?
 2. What ist the main result?
 3. What is the identification strategy / method?
 4. What is the data used?

How to read empirical papers (3)

Skim paper in 5 minutes

1. What is the main research question?
 - Read abstract
2. What is the main result?
 - Find main table or graph (section: results) – outcome and treatment variable
3. What is the identification strategy / method?
 - Find keywords, such as “randomized experiment”, “IV”, etc. (section: empirical strategy)

Stop? Or do you want to know more details?

How to read empirical papers (4)

Continue reading

4. What are the data used?
 - Data sources? Institutional context?
 - How large are the effects in this context?
 - Summary statistics table (section: data)
5. Are you convinced that the main finding is correct?
 - (section: robustness checks)
6. What is the general context?
 - (sections: Introduction & conclusion)
7. What is the theory?
 - How are people behaving? How are policies working?
 - (section: Theory and “literature”)

Defining your topic

1. Develop your research objective

- “What do you want to do in the paper?”

2. Develop your research question

- “Which question(s) do you want to answer?”

Defining your topic

1. I analyze...
2. Because I want to show...
3. In order to...

Define your topic

1. I analyze....

the relation of decentralization and deforestation

2. Because I want to show.....

that shifting responsibilities to the local administrations increases the likelihood of corrupt activities in the forestry sector

3. In order to

raise attention of the potential negative environmental effects during the transition of political systems

What's next?

Literature Research

Where to find research literature?

- Have a look at the cited papers in the preliminary literature
- Search in Journals (EZB)
- Search via research databases
 - Google scholar, Ebscohost, ScienceDirect,...

What are good and reliable sources?

- Books?
- Journal articles?
- Blogs?
- Newspaper articles?
- Working papers...?

Literature research

Good journals:

- American Economic Review
- Quarterly Journal of Economics
- Journal of Political Economy
- Journal of Development Economics
- Review of Economic Studies
- Economic Journal
- Journal of Environmental Economics and Management
- Journal of Economic Literature ...

Have a look at rankings (e.g. <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.journals.simple.html>)

Literature research

Some good interdisciplinary journals:

- Science
- Nature
- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)
- ...
- American Journal of Agricultural Economics
- Land Use Policy
- World Development
- Land Economics
- Ecological Economics

Have a look at rankings (e.g. <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.journals.simple.html>)

Literature research

Good working papers:

- NBER Working Papers (National Bureau of Economic Research)
- CEPR Working Papers (Center for Economic Policy Research)
- IZA Discussion Paper Series
- Working Papers of the IMF, ECB, World Bank(?), etc.
- Working Paper series of good universities

Literature research

Selection of relevant and adequate papers

Iteratively read and reread the papers
with growing attention to detail!

Literature research

Selection of relevant and adequate papers

First reading: be quick:

- Title
- Abstract

Literature research

Selection of relevant and adequate papers

After first reading: decide:

Is the paper of any use for answering my question?

Yes

Is the paper central for answering my question?

No

Can I use a part of it for
a side argument ?

Yes

File it & come back to it

Yes/Don't know

File for a second
reading

Organize your stuff

- Use a reliable filing system!
- Do not lose ideas or references!

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title / reference</u>	<u>Research Question</u>	<u>Intervention/ Model</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>Estimation strategy</u>	<u>Estimation Equation</u>	<u>potential ceavats</u>	<u>Results</u>

- Save all quotes, papers, sources
- Use bibliographic software (citavi, jabref,...)

Exposé

What is an exposé?

Why do we need it?

Content

- What is your exact research question?
- State the problem you are facing.
- Why is it relevant? Motivate!
- How are you going to proceed?

“Preview of what the seminar paper is about”

Content

- 3 pages
 - 1st page: Introduction
 - 2nd page: Outline
 - 3^d page: List of references

Formality

Seminar: Governments Breaking Bad
Prof. Dr. Günther Schulze
Nikita Zakharov M.Sc.

Robert Genthner
Progress-Report
December 3, 2015

**Seminar
Name
Date**

Oil Abundance and Bureaucratic Corruption *Blessing of a Few - Cursing for the Rest*

**Title
Topic**

Over the last 30 years there have been harmonized results claiming that the blessing of resources in a vast majority of cases has turned into a curse. Various empirical studies show that resource abundance tends to slow down economic growth (Sachs and Warner, 1995; Mehlum et al., 2006). However, theoretical reasoning varies significantly. For instance, early research argues that resource exports bring “dutch disease” by increasing the exchange rate and thereby lowering the competitiveness of other sectors (Corden and Neary, 1982; Krugman, 1987). More recent studies emphasize the importance of rent-seeking and political corruption (Leite and Weidmann, 1999; Tornell and Lane, 1999; Torvik, 2001; Robinson et al., 2006).

Text

Robinson, Torvik, and Verdier (2006) argue that oil abundance increases the value of being in power for politicians and state officials. In their model they describe stronger incentives to increase re-election probabilities by rent-sharing, which increases inefficient public sector employment and hereby the extent of misallocation in the economy. In a wider sense, small chances of re-election can also trigger extraction of rents and corruption. To verify this theory, first the results of Vicente (2010) are presented. In his natural experiment setting of two West-African island states he shows that the announcement of oil discoveries causes a rise of perceived clientelism and corruption. His approach, how-

Introduction

What should be included in the introduction?

Introduction

Content of the introduction

- State the problem you are facing
- Why is it relevant?
- What is your research question, exactly?
- How are you going to proceed?

Oil Abundance and Bureaucratic Corruption

Blessing of a Few - Cursing for the Rest

Research Question: If there is evidence for an increased value of being in power and higher political corruption due to oil abundance, to what extent do illegal activities like embezzlement and patronage influence the effect of oil related fiscal windfalls on living standards?

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that municipal revenues from oil admittedly cause higher budgetary spending in various sectors, but finally do not pass through to real improvements. Hence, they argue that the only possible explanation for this “missing money” is embezzlement and patronage. The combination of the results of both studies thus strongly supports the theory of a political resource curse.

The structure will be as follows. Chapter two presents a general view of different theoretical approaches to the resource curse. The emphasis hereby lies on the model of Robinson et al. (2006). The theoretical part will be followed by a presentation and critical discussion of the empirical research by Vicente (2010) and Caselli and Michaels (2013) in chapter three and four, respectively. Special focus is put on data, identification, estimation methods and central results. Chapter five presents an interpretation of results and political implications. Chapter six concludes.

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Overview of different theories of the resource curse
 - 2.1. Corden and Neary (1982)
 - 2.2. Krugman (1987) n, 1999; Tornell and Lane,
 - 2.3. Torvik (2001)
3. Oil abundance corrupts: Evidence by Vicente (2010)
 - 3.1. Data
 - 3.2. Identification
 - 3.3. Estimation method by Caselli and Michaels
 - 3.4. Results
4. Interpretation of results and political implications
5. Conclusion
5. Interpretation of results and political implications
6. Conclusion

Oil Abundance and Bureaucratic Corruption
Blessing of a Few - Cursing for the Rest

Topic, title

Research Question: If there is evidence for an increased value of being in power and higher political corruption due to oil abundance, to what extent do illegal activities like embezzlement and patronage influence the effect of oil related fiscal windfalls on living standards?

Research question

Over the last 30 years there have been harmonized results claiming that the blessing of resources in a vast majority of cases has turned into a curse. Various empirical studies show that resource abundance tends to slow down economic growth (Sachs and Warner, 1995; Mehlum et al., 2006). However, theoretical reasoning varies significantly. For instance, early research argues that resource exports bring "dutch disease" by increasing the exchange rate and thereby lowering the competitiveness of other sectors (Corden and Neary, 1982; Krugman, 1987). More recent studies emphasize the importance of rent-seeking and political corruption (Leite and Weidmann, 1999; Tornell and Lane, 1999; Torvik, 2001; Robinson et al., 2006).

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better
include it
in the text

Text, explains:

- the relevance of your topic
- what you are going to do

that municipal revenues from oil admittedly cause higher budgetary spending in various sectors, but finally do not pass through to real improvements. Hence, they argue that the only possible explanation for this "missing money" is embezzlement and patronage. The combination of the results of both studies thus strongly supports the theory of a political resource curse.

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Outline
structure

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Overview of different theories of the resource curse
 - 2.1. Corden and Neary (1982)
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 - 2.3. Torvik (2001)
3. Oil abundance corrupts: Evidence by Vicente (2010)
 - 3.1. Data
 - 3.2. Identification
 - 3.3. Estimation method
 - 3.4. Results
4. Interpretation of results and political implications
5. Conclusion
6. Conclusion

n, 1999; Tornell and Lane,

by Caselli and Michaels

References

- Caselli, F. and Michaels, G. (2013). Do Oil Windfalls Improve Living Standards? Evidence From Brazil. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 5(1):508–538.
- Corden, W. M. and Neary, J. P. (1982). Booming Sector and De-Industrialisation in a Small Open Economy. *The Economic Journal*, 92(368):825–48.
- Krugman, P. (1987). The Narrow Moving Band, the Dutch Disease, and the Competitive Consequences of Mrs. Thatcher. *Journal of Development Economics*, 27:41–55.
- Leite, C. and Weidmann, J. (1999). Does Mother Nature Corrupt? Natural Resources, Corruption, and Economic Growth. *IMF Working Paper*, 99(85):1–34. New York
- Mehlum, H., Moene, K., and Torvik, R. (2006). Institutions and the Resource Curse. *The Economic Journal*, 116:1–20.
- Robinson, J. A., Torvik, R., and Verdier, T. (2006). Political Foundations of the Resource Curse. *Journal of Development Economics*, 79:447–68.
- Sachs, J. D. and Warner, A. M. (1995). Natural Resource Abundance and Economic Growth. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, (No. 5398). Cambridge, MA
- Tornell, A. and Lane, P. R. (1999). The Voracity Effect. *The American Economic Review*, 89(1):22–46.
- Torvik, R. (2001). Natural Resources, Rent Seeking and Welfare. *Journal of Development Economics*, 67:455–70.
- Vicente, P. C. (2010). Does Oil corrupt? Evidence from a Natural Experiment in West Africa. *Journal of Development Economics*, 92:28–38.

... and of course your references,
nicely formatted

**Write a first sketch of your
introduction !**

Outline

Typical outline:

1. Introduction
2. Theoretical background/ related literature/ stylized facts
3. Empirical evidence based on primary literature
4. Discussion
5. Conclusion

Outline

Keep title simple:

1. Introduction
2. Theoretical background
3. Empirical evidence (based on Krugman 2003)
 - 3.1 Data
 - 3.2 Empirical model
 - 3.3 Results
4. Discussion and policy implications
5. Conclusion

Outline

Example:

Title: “Terrorism and Foreign Aid; Empirical Evidence”

1. Introduction

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Main driving mechanisms

2.2 Empirical Hypotheses

3. General effects of foreign aid in a cross-country setting (X and Y, 2003)

5. Comparison and critical evaluation of the two empirical approaches

6. Conclusion

List of references

How to list...?

List of references: Journal articles

Author -year of publication – title - *name of journal* – volume (issue) – pages.

Atkin, David (2016): “Endogenous skill acquisition and export manufacturing in Mexico.” *American Economic Review*, 106(8): 2046-2085.

Autor, D. H., Dorn, D., Hanson, G. H. and Song, J., 2014. Trade adjustment: Worker-level evidence. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129(4), p. 1799-1860.

Davis, L. W. and Kahn, M. E. (2010): International trade in used vehicles: The environmental consequences of NAFTA. In *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2(4), p. 58-82.

List of references: Working paper

**Author – year of publication – title – *type* – paper nr –
name of institution – location of institution**

Nordhaus, W. D. (2006): The „Stern Review“ on the Economics of Climate Change, *NBER Working Paper* 12741, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge.

Duggan, V., Rahardja, S., and Varela, G. (2013). Service Sector Reform and Manufacturing Productivity: Evidence from Indonesia. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper*, 6349, The World Bank, Washington D.C.

List of references: Books

Author -year of publication – *title* - publisher - edition

Grossman, G. M. and Helpman, E. (1991). *Innovation and Growth in the Global Economy*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Coleman, James S.; Coleman, James Samuel (1994): *Foundations of social theory*: Harvard University Press.

Ito, Sanae (1999): *The Grameen Bank: rhetoric and reality*: University of Sussex.

List of references: Articles in anthology

Author -year of publication – title – (author/publisher of anthology)- *anthology* - pages

Kanbur, Ravi (2006): The economics of international aid. In *Handbook of the Economics of Giving, Altruism and Reciprocity* 2, pp. 1559–1588.

Duflo, E., Glennerster, R., Kremer, M. (2007). Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit. In: Schultz, T.P., Strauss, J.A. (Eds.), *Handbook of Development Economics*, Chapter 61. North-Holland, Elsevier Science Pub. Co., Amsterdam, 38953962.

List of references: Electronic sources articles

Author -year of publication – title - hyperlink – date of availability

Nuñez, David, Carmen Fernandez-Gago et al. “D: C-5.1 Metrics for Accountability.” Accessed May 9, 2014.

<http://a4cloud.atc.gr/sites/default/files/D35.1%20Metrics%20for%20accountability.pdf>.

Bharadwaj, P., and Vogl, T. (2015): Crisis and Human Biology, available at http://www.princeton.edu/~tvogl/bharadwaj_vogl_crisis.pdf, 17.02.2016.

Dasgupta, P. S. (2007): Discounting Climate Change, Discussion Paper, University of Cambridge. Download unter:

http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/faculty/dasgupta/pub07/stavins_june07.pdf
(aufgerufen am 01. Juli 2012)

List of references: 3 rules

1st rule

Be consistent!

Choose one citation style and stick to it!

List of references: 3 rules

2nd rule

Organize your list alphabetically!

by the family name of the first author

+

by the year of publication

List of references: 3 rules

3^d rule

A reference is a full sentence!

It starts with a CAPITAL letter

+

Ends with a point.

List of references: Example

- Frankenberg, E., Mckee, D., and Thomas, D. (2005). Health consequences of forest fires in Indonesia. *Demography*, 42(1):109–129.
- Fredriksson, P. G., Matschke, X., and Minier, J. (2010). Environmental policy in majoritarian systems. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 59(2):177 – 191.
- Gatto, M., Wollni, M., Asnawi, R., and Qaim, M. (2017). Oil palm boom, contract farming, and rural economic development: Village-level evidence from Indonesia. *World Development*, 95:127 – 140.
- Geist, H. J. and Lambin, E. F. (2001). What drives tropical deforestation. *LUCC Report series*, 4:116.
- GISPEDIA (2018). SHP Indonesia level kota dan kabupaten. <http://www.gispedia.com/2016/06/download-shp-indonesia-level-kota-kabupaten.html> (last accessed 06/04/2018).
- Global Forest Watch (2018). Spatial boundaries of oil palm, wood fiber and logging concession in Indonesia. www.globalforestwatch.org. Accessed through Global Forest Watch on 17.11.2018.

**Check your list of references.
Is everything correct?**

Seminar paper

Discussing

1. Introduction
2. Main part of the paper
3. Discussion
4. Conclusion
5. References

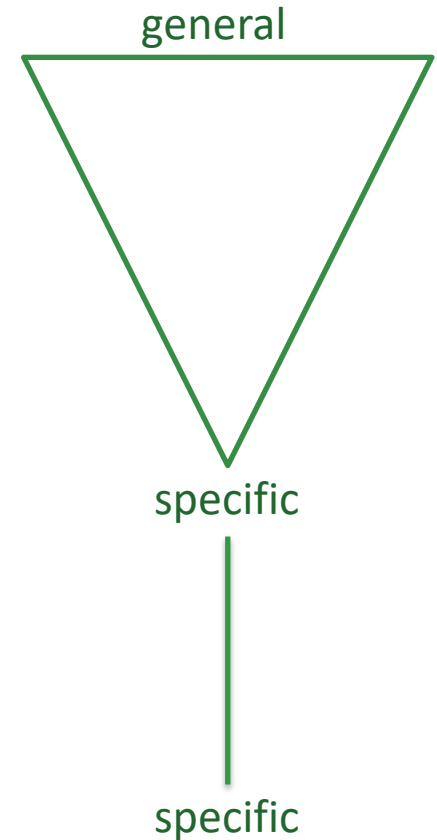
6. Structuring arguments
7. Style

Introduction

- Why do we need an introduction?
- What is the content of a good intro?
- Does an intro have a structure?
- When shall I write the introduction?

Introduction: Structure of an introduction

- Introduction into the topic
- General background info
- Topic of the paper and its relevance
- Short literature review + gap
- Research objective / question
- Methodology
- Contribution (hint to the results)
- Outline



Introduction: Content of an introduction

- What is the topic?
- Why is it relevant?
- What is the research question / objective?
- How does the paper proceed to answer the question?
- Contribution of the paper
- Outline of the structure

Don't know how to start?



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GÖTTINGEN

Introduction: Take-off

- Formulate the research question
- State the aim of the analysis
- Tell a story
- Use a quote
- Link the topic to a present occasion

Introduction: Take off

Formulate the research question:

Is conditionality necessary in conditional cash transfer programs to improve forest conservation or is it actually that only the financial restrictions hinder households to invest in forest-benign land uses so that handing out cash automatically reduces deforestation rates? This is an important question for designing such programs....

Introduction: Take-off

State the aim of the analysis:

This paper compares the effects of conditional and unconditional cash transfers on deforestation rates in order to improve the design of such programs.

Introduction: Take-off

Tell a story:

“Chico Mendes was a Brazilian rubber tapper and forest conservation activists defending the human rights of small holders and indigenous people. On December 22, 1988, he was murdered after receiving death threats form land owners. “

As the story of Chico Mendes shows, how forest conservation is embedded into the distribution and enforcement of of land rights in the Amazon.

Introduction: Take-off

Use a quote:

“At first I thought I was fighting to save rubber trees, then I thought I was fighting to save the Amazon rainforest. Now I realize I am fighting for humanity”

Chico Mendes

The tragedy of Chico Mendes, a conservation activist who was shot for helping indigenous people defending their traditional land rights, is still emblematic for the insufficient level of law enforcement in the rural parts of the Amazon.

Introduction: Take-off

Link the topic to a present occasion:

Mexico's Payments for Hydrological Services Program is an environmental conditional cash transfer program to farmers for conserving standing forest on private land. The program was very successful in reducing deforestation rates while it raised the welfare of non-poor households. It is a perfect example that conditional cash transfers cannot fulfill two goals at the same time.

Main part

- What should be in the main part of the paper?
- What is its structure?

Main part: Structure

- Background information/Framework
Theories, definitions, literature review
 - Classification and explanation of the single parts
- Analysis of your paper
- Discussion
 - bring the unique parts together

Main part: Structure

Example:

2. Theory of change

- Forest conservation
- Income

3. Empirical evidence from xy

- The program
- Estimation strategy
- Results

4. The efficiency trade of between forest conservation and poverty alleviation



Main part: Structure

Example

- 2. Literature Review
- 3. Empirical evidence from xy
 - The program
 - Estimation strategy
 - Results
- 4. Discussion

Main part: Report on literature

- **Who** has done the study?
- **What** has been done in the study?
- **Where** did the study have taken place?
- **Which** methods have been used?
- **What** did they find?

Main part: Report on literature

Nolte et al. (2013) investigate the effect of protected areas on forest losses in the Brazilian Amazon. Using a spatial matching approach, they come to the conclusion that on average deforestation rates decrease within protected areas, with higher effects for strictly protected reserves. Likewise the Herrera et al. (2019) study the role of governmental agencies for the efficiency of protected areas, they affirms....

Main part: Report on literature

- Structure and link them together
- Use conjunctive adverbs like:
 - Moreover, additionally, ...
 - Likewise, similarly, also, in the same way...
 - In contrast to, contrary, compared to, despite...
- Use verbs like:
 - Affirm, support, confirm, justify...
 - Rebut, relatives...

Empirical evidence

Analysis of your paper



Main part: Empirical evidence

1st step:

- Describe the intervention/program/study
 - What do they do?
 - Where do they do it?
 - How do they do it?

Main part: Empirical evidence

2nd step:

- State the estimation strategy
- Describe the estimation equation
- Why did they use this strategy?
 - Pro, cons

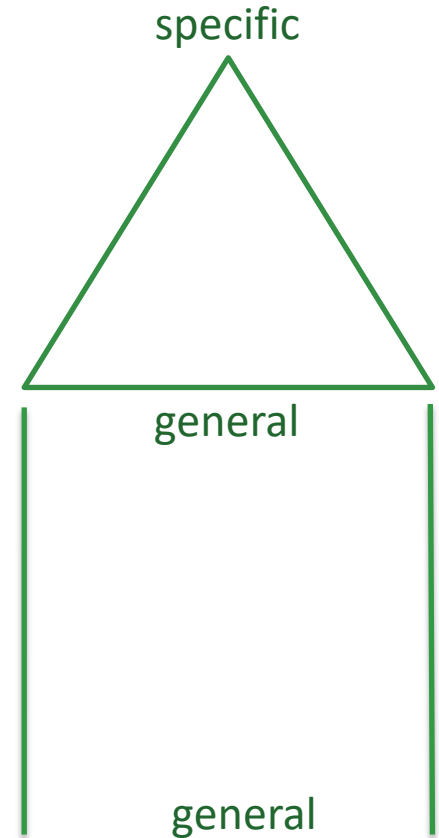
Main part: Empirical evidence

3rd step:

- Show the main table of results and describe the coefficients
- Interpret the results and its limitations
 - Significance
 - Magnitude

Discussion

- Summarize the results
- Validate your results
- Create a context for your research
 - compare it with other studies
 - explain in the framework of a theory
 - what can we learn out of it
 - external validity
 - Everything taken into account:
what is the answer to your research question?
- Outlook



Conclusion

- Why do we need a conclusion?
- What is the content of a good conclusion?
- Does a conclusion follow a structure?
- When should I write the conclusion?

Conclusion: Structure

- Short summary of the main results
- Importance of the analysis
- Directly answer the research question
- Future prospects

List of references

All papers you used & cited

No additional papers

You will need a perfect **1:1** match between
the papers cited in your text



and your list of references

Style

Structure your arguments

- Build a clear line of arguments!
Tell a story!

The pearl string



Structure your arguments

Each paragraph should contain a logically self-contained piece of argumentation

1 st sentence :	Statement
Next few :	Argument
Last sentence :	Leads over to the next paragraph

Structure your arguments: Example

Hypothesis: Payments for environmental services effect deforestation rates in various ways.

Argument: First, they relieve the cash constrained of rural farmers, facilitating new investments into potentially forest-benign activities. Secondly, they set up a monitoring mechanism, by which the detection probability of illicit activities increases (X et al. XXX). ...

Link: But not it not only changes the incentives of participating farmers, it also changes



Structure of arguments: Old Example

Hypothesis : On average, migrants are better educated.

Argument : This is because human capital is often the only asset they can take with them when they migrate. Therefore, migrants invest more into human capital accumulation (X et al. 2014).

Link : However, causality may also run in the opposite direction as better educated migrants are more likely to select into the migration stream.

Structure of arguments: Editing trick

Read only the **first sentences of each paragraph** of the final draft of your paper

Are they still understandable? Do they tell everything you wanted to tell? Is there a red line of arguments?

Style: Select your audience well

- Avoid being too colloquial
Do not use expressions of oral speech (e.g. “Don’t” “can’t”)
- Avoid journalist style
 - No figurative speech, metaphors, ...
- Do not explain general knowledge
- Explain intuition very carefully, go beyond derivations

**Be precise
and
Keep it simple!**



Style: A few suggestions for a good (scientific) style

- Use most of the time the active voice
- Write complete sentences
- Keep one tense
- Be dispassionate and precise

Style: Active vs. passive voice

Active voice

- An agent (SUBJECT) is doing s.th.
 - “The researchers argued that the Earth is flat.”

Passive voice

- Something is BEING DONE
 - “It has been argued that the Earth is flat.”
BY WHOM?
“It has been argued (by the researchers) that the Earth is flat.”

Style: Active vs. passive voice

Use the active voice

- In order to make clearer, more direct statements

In most cases

Use the passive voice

- For stylistic reasons—
If the agent is rel. unimportant:
 - “Rules are made to be broken.”
 - “A new discovery has been made...”

Style: Avoid sentence fragments

Make sure every sentence has a main verb and a subject!

Consider the following examples:

- “The authors have several findings. On wages, employment duration and working conditions.”
- “A very important question.”

Style: Keep one tense

1. Establish the main tense for your paper (preferably present) and keep it consistently

e.g. this paper argues, the results show, we find, our regressions take twenty minutes to run, X and Y argue that, Z finds, W concludes...

AND NOT

X and Y ran a regression, Z argued, W modelled this as...

Style: Keep one tense

2. Deviate from this rule only when there is a logical shift in the time frame

e.g., eventually in the conclusion: this paper argued, the results emphasized, etc.

or when referring to earlier strands of literature (shift to past tense), etc.

Citations are needed

1. When making general statements
2. When referring to numbers
3. When referring to ideas or work of others

Citations: Example 1

A good deal has been written about exchange rate crises, in general, and the Asian crisis, in particular, from a macroeconomic perspective.¹ Much less is known about the impact of these crises at the micro-level.² However, it is important to know how the

¹ See, for example, [Corsetti et al. \(1999\)](#), [Radelet and Sachs \(2000\)](#) and the materials produced by the NBER Project on Exchange Rate Crises in Emerging Market Countries. [Ahuja et al. \(1997\)](#) and [Cameron \(1999\)](#) provide a description of the Asian crisis in the context of the Indonesian economy.

² [Fallon and Lucas \(2002\)](#) provide an excellent summary of the evidence on the effect of economic shocks on household well-being. [Frankenberg et al. \(1999\)](#) provide a broad overview of the immediate effect of the Indonesian crisis on an array of indicators of individual and family well-being. Those, and other results, are summarized in [Poppele et al. \(1999\)](#). [Levinsohn et al. \(2003\)](#) explore the likely effects of the crisis using household budget data collected prior to the crisis.

Citations: Example 2

The majority of the literature on risk in low-income settings has focused on farmer response to weather risk and the adoption of mechanisms to provide insurance in the face of that risk. (See, for example, [Rosenzweig, 1988](#); [Rosenzweig and Wolpin, 1993](#); [Udry, 1994](#); [Fafchamps et al., 1998](#); [Townsend, 1994](#); [Platteau, 1991](#)). The effects of financial crises are likely to be different for several reasons. First, the immediate effect of the crisis is likely to be felt not by relatively low-income farmers, many of whom are isolated from market economies, but by those active in the modern or commercial economy—people who tend to be urban and relatively high income. Second, exchange rate crises typically translate into relative price shocks which are transmitted more efficiently where markets are more fully developed. Subsistence farmers are likely to be largely protected from the effects of exchange rate risk. Indeed, it is precisely because markets are poorly developed in rural economies that there are likely to be limited mechanisms to insure oneself against weather risk. Third, the effects of weather shocks are typically more spatially concentrated than those of exchange rate shocks.

These insights suggest that the effects of the Indonesian crisis were likely to be felt primarily by the urban elites (as suggested by [Poppele et al., 1999](#), for example). If,

Citations: Direct quote

- used only for really exceptionally perfect statements

Example

“[...] payments for environmental services (PES) can be defined as: (1) voluntary transactions, (2) between service users, (3) and service providers, (4) that are conditional on agreed rules of natural resource management, (5) for generating offsite services” (Wunder 2015, p.421).

Citations: Indirect quote

- Be used a lot

Examples

- Moreover, there is a broad consensus that agricultural growth is pro-poor and pro-growth (Thirtle et al. 2001).
- Evidence based policy making has a long tradition in medical research where experimental trials are intensively used since the 1970ies (cf. Cochrane, 1972).

Citations: Indirect quote

Be cautious!

- Indirect quotes are quotes said in your own words. Slightly changing the ordering of the sentence is not enough!

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Citations: Plagiarism example

Since the exact date of construction is unknown, Dröes and Koster (2016) consider the first year after construction the starting date. Thus, they apply the following DID model:

$$\log p_{it} = \alpha w_{it-1} + \gamma v_i + \theta_t + \epsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

In the model, p_{it} captures the price of property i in year t . The average treatment effect is denoted as α . w_{it-1} is a dummy variable indicating, whether a first wind turbine has already been constructed within d km of property i .¹ Since wind turbines are mostly placed in rural areas with lower house prices, Dröes and Koster (2016) further incorporate an indicator variable to control for possible selection effects. This treatment group indicator is denoted as v_i and equals one if property i is treated at least once between 1982 and 2012². Note that there is no change in v_i over time. According to the authors, w_{it-1} moreover accounts for the interaction of v_i and a before/after treatment indicator as the latter is absorbed by θ_t , which denotes the year (and month) fixed effects. Lastly, ϵ_{it} constitutes an identically and independently distributed error term.

Formal requirements

- Include time for formatting
- Titel page, correct margins, typeface...
- Please see section 2 of “*Guideline for writing a bachelor or master thesis at the Chair of International Economic Policy.docx*” on StudIP

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