

## Homework Assignment #4, Proper Referencing

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The purpose of this assignment is to give you practice in recognizing what kinds of statements must be referenced in scholarly work. References serve a variety of purposes in scientific writing:

- To place your results within the context of prior work, thus making clear what is new and what you have contributed.
- To make your premises and assumptions explicit; to identify the starting point for your logical exposition.
- To add authority to your arguments, by showing how others' observations and interpretations support your own.
- To establish your expertise; to show that you understand the problem and are familiar with the relevant literature.
- To allow readers to easily check sources for themselves, so they can make their own informed decisions.

For this assignment, download the “Proximity Effect in Topological Superconductors” introduction section from a former student’s senior thesis [used with permission]. All references have been removed from this document. (The original thesis contained >30 references in this section.)

Next, do the following:

1. Using the “highlight” tool of your preferred word processor, mark up every statement in the text that should be referenced. Pay attention to boundary conditions, i.e., where the material being referenced starts and ends in the text. For example, the statement “*A number of methods have been proposed for desalination of seawater, including thermal desalination, membrane desalination, freezing, solar dehumidification, and membrane distillation*” would probably require five separate references—one authoritative paper for each method. You would indicate the references thus: *A number of methods have been proposed for desalination of seawater, including thermal desalination,<sup>1</sup> membrane desalination,<sup>2</sup> freezing,<sup>3</sup> solar dehumidification,<sup>4</sup> and membrane distillation.<sup>5</sup>* [Note that superscript callout numbers go *outside* the punctuation.] Use the “comment” tool to ask questions or make observations. Note that references are always called out in consecutive order.
2. Find suitable references for **five** of the statements that you identify as requiring a reference. References must be to the published, peer-reviewed literature—Wikipedia® articles do not count. Insert the reference callout (either a superscript number,<sup>1</sup> or an inline bracketed number [2]) at the appropriate place in the text and provide **complete** bibliographic citations for your references at the end of the document. [Note that superscript callouts go *outside* of punctuation marks, and bracketed callouts go *inside*, as shown in the previous sentence.]

Here’s an example of what you should do (example taken from another student’s thesis):

“Apart from the threat of depletion, **fossil fuels pose numerous health<sup>1,2</sup>** and **environmental risks<sup>3</sup>**, which have been well documented in the literature. Considering the limitations and concerns fossil fuels present, clean and renewable energy sources must be implemented to a larger degree.”

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<sup>1</sup> M. Kampa and E. Castanas, “Human health effects of air pollution,” *Environ. Pollution* **151**, 362–367 (2008).

<sup>2</sup> B. Ostro, *Outdoor air pollution: Assessing the environmental burden of disease at national and local levels* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004) (WHO Environmental Burden of Disease Series, No. 5).

<sup>3</sup> J. Michel et al. *Spills of Emulsified Fuels* (Washington DC, National Academy Press, 2002), pp. 44–65.

Submit your marked-up text and the five new references in a single file.

Due: **Friday, September 25, 9:00 p.m.** Email copies to [phys496@physics.illinois.edu](mailto:phys496@physics.illinois.edu).

Assignments submitted after the deadline will have points deducted and will be ineligible for rewrite points.

Total—50 points