

29:225 Annotated Bibliography Assignment

Due at the beginning of class Tuesday, November 27, 2012.

The intent of this assignment is to get you started on the final project by producing an annotated bibliography of 10 references to be used in your final project.

1. First, choose the topic of your final project. A wise choice is to pick the topic of your Ph.D. thesis research.
2. Second, compile a list of at least 10 important references that provide the scientific background and cover important recent developments relevant to your chosen topic. For those of you who have already begun your thesis research, you may already know of a number of important references to include, and may even have already read through them.
3. Please feel free to consult your thesis advisor, or anyone else, to compile the list of references you will include in your literature review. Finding the references on your own is not part of this assignment. The goal is to identify the most important references relevant to your research so that you produce the most helpful literature review on the topic.
4. On the class website, I have provided a template for the annotated bibliography and for the use of BibTeX to create your reference list. You do not need to include the level of detail included in my example annotated bibliography—these are my notes for the class discussions. Focus on the science question, methods and approximations, and citeable results. In constructing the annotated bibliography, you should consider that you are writing notes to *yourself*. Include the information that is pertinent for your own recollection of the science topic, methods, and primary results. The long-term aim of this annotated bibliography is to enable you to recall the important details of the paper later in your scientific career, even years after having read the paper.
5. Since there is no class next week, due to the American Physical Society Division of Plasma Physics Meeting, I hope you will all take advantage of the week off from this class to get a jump start on this assignment, preferably compiling the list of 10 references during that week. This will give you ample time over the next month to read through each of the references, making notes on each to put into the annotated bibliography.