

Homework Assignment #3, Abstracts and Titles

Select a paper from https://courses.physics.illinois.edu/Phys496/course_materials.html for this assignment. The homework consists of **three parts**:

1. **Read and understand the paper** (not a bad assignment in itself). If you have trouble understanding the paper, discuss it with your classmates, look for supplementary online material, talk to Professor Gammie. Don't wait until midnight Thursday to start.
2. **Write** an appropriate abstract for the paper, following the lessons from the February 13 lecture.
3. Analyze the title of the paper, using the criteria presented in the February 6 lecture. Is the paper's title concise and descriptive? Will it capture a busy reader's attention and interest? **Write** a one-paragraph evaluation of the title and how it might be improved.

Although you could easily find the real paper, please do not look at it prior to writing your abstract. In fact, consider peeking "illegal." You should write the abstract that *you* think fits the paper best. As we saw in class, just because an abstract has been published does not necessarily make it the best abstract, or even a good abstract.

If you are having any trouble understanding the physics discussed in the paper, see Professor Gammie for either an explanation of the paper or for an alternative paper that might be easier for you to understand.

Due: **Friday, February 20, midnight**. Email copies to both Professor Gammie and Celia. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be downgraded and will be ineligible for rewrite points.

Total—50 points