

Physics 391/491: Junior/Senior Seminar Citations and Endnotes

There are numerous formats for bibliographic references. For example, even different physics journals use slightly different formats. It is important to learn how to do what is specified in a particular situation. For this class, you will be expected to follow a style similar to that expected for the *American Journal of Physics* (see <http://web.mit.edu/rhprice/www/Contributors/manFormat.html>). There are a few minor differences, such as the formatting of the numbers in the endnotes.

Instead of using footnotes, which appear at the bottom of a page, you should use endnotes, which are grouped together at the end of the document. Endnotes can include citations of sources and explanatory notes. Keep the number of explanatory notes small because they are not very convenient for the reader. They should be used in the rare situation in which the explanation is really worth giving but so tangential as to distract the typical reader if it had been included in the body of the text.

The rules for referring to endnotes in the body of the document are:

- The abstract must not contain references to endnotes because it will often be used separately.
- Within the body of the manuscript, references to endnotes usually appear as superscripts placed after any punctuation.
Correct: ... as shown by Einstein.³
Incorrect: ... as shown by Einstein³.
- You may also use "online citations" (for example, "... as demonstrated in reference 3."). However, this tends to make the text harder to read.
- If the *exact* same source is referenced additional times within the text, the original reference number is reused in the text.

The rules for formatting the endnotes are:

- The endnotes should appear in the same sequence that they *first* referenced in the text.
- Do not repeat a citation in the endnotes. If one is used multiple times, refer to the same number in the body of the manuscript.
- Each citation or explanatory note should be numbered.
- Keep the font size the same for the endnotes as it is for the body of the document.
- All endnotes, including references, end with a period. Punctuation always goes inside of quotation marks.
- For consistency, use initials for all authors, instead of first names.
- If there are three or fewer authors, list them all. If there are more than three authors, use "*et al.*" after the name of the first author. This is an abbreviation for the Latin phrase meaning "and others" so it should be italicized.

The majority of citations will be on of the following four types. (If you have another type of reference, look for a similar example in the *American Journal of Physics* or ask for advice.) The general format, an example, and rules are given below for each one.

1. Article in a periodical

AUTHOR(S), "TITLE," *JOURNAL VOLUME_NUMBER*
(ISSUE_NUMBER), START_PAGE-END_PAGE (YEAR).

F. J. Dyson, "Feynman's proof of the Maxwell equations," *Am. J. Phys.* **58**
(3), 209-211 (1990).

- The title of the article should be in double quotes. Use whatever capitalization the original does.
- The journal name should be abbreviated and italicized. Standard abbreviations for many journal names can be found at <https://journals.aps.org/files/rmpguapb.pdf>. If you don't find a journal on this list, look for an example of how it is abbreviated elsewhere.
- The volume number is in boldface. If there is an issue number, include it (in parentheses) so that it is easier for the reader to track down a reference.
- Give the initial and the final page numbers. The final page number is particularly useful when requesting an article through interlibrary loan.

2. Book

AUTHOR(S), *TITLE*, (PUBLISHER, LOCATION, YEAR), pp.
START_PAGE-END_PAGE.

D. J. Griffiths, *Introduction to Electrodynamics*, 2nd ed. (Prentice Hall,
Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1989), pp. 331–334.

- Italicize the title.
- Include page number or numbers when appropriate.

3. Article in an edited volume

ARTICLE_AUTHOR(S), "ARTICLE_TITLE," in *VOLUME_TITLE*
edited by VOLUME_AUTHOR(S) (PUBLISHER, LOCATION, YEAR),
pp. START_PAGE-END_PAGE.

M. R. Flannery, "Elastic scattering," in *Atomic, Molecular, and Optical
Physics Handbook*, edited by G. W. F. Drake (AIP Press, NY, 1996), p.
520.

4. Online material

DESCRIPTION and/or "TITLE," <URL>.

Formatting information for the *American Journal of Physics* is available
on the webpage, "Manuscript Format Policies,"
<<http://web.mit.edu/rhprice/www/Contributors/manFormat.html>>.

- Always include a brief description, the title (in quotes), or both, not just the URL (or address).
- Enclose the URL in angle brackets.