

On the Possibility of the Impossible

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Abstract

Consider this a separate document, although it is submitted together with the rest. The executive summary aims at another audience than the rest of the proposal. It is directed at the final decision maker, who typically is not an expert at all in your field, but more a manager kind of person. Thus, don't go into any technical description in the executive summary, but use catch-words and bold statements that highlight the importance of your project.

(target size: 15-20 lines)

1 Introduction

This, like the rest, addresses fellow experts from your field (but not from your particular topic of research). Here you should technically connect to the main concepts from that field and give an outline of your project, stating the research/engineering question that you want to get answered by your project.

(target size: 1 page)

2 Statement and Motivation of Research

This part should make clear which question, exactly, you are pursuing, and why your project is relevant/interesting. This is the place to cite relevant literature. Where does your project extend the state of the art? what weaknesses in known approaches to you hope to overcome? If you have carried out preliminary experiments, describe them here.

(target size: 2-3 pages)

3 Planned Investigation

This is the technical core of the proposal. Here you lay out your plans of how you want to answer your research question specify your design of experiments or simulations, point out difficulties that you expect to encounter, etc.

(target size: 2-3 pages)

4 Evaluation Criteria

This section discusses criteria which can be used to evaluate the research results and which can be used to related research results to the already known state-of-the-art.

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5 Timeline

Here you break down the research activity into smaller steps which will then guide you during the guided research work. Try to define realistic milestones.

(target size: 1/2 page)

6 Conclusions

Summarize the main aspects of the proposal.

(target size: 1/2 page)

References

- [1] J. Sample. On the Possibility of the Impossible. Technical report, Jacobs University Bremen, September 2010.