

18.784

Communications Workshop: Finding Sources for Research Papers

Spring 2026

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E18-240A



Writing,
Rhetoric,
And
Professional
Communication

Your term paper is an expository paper.

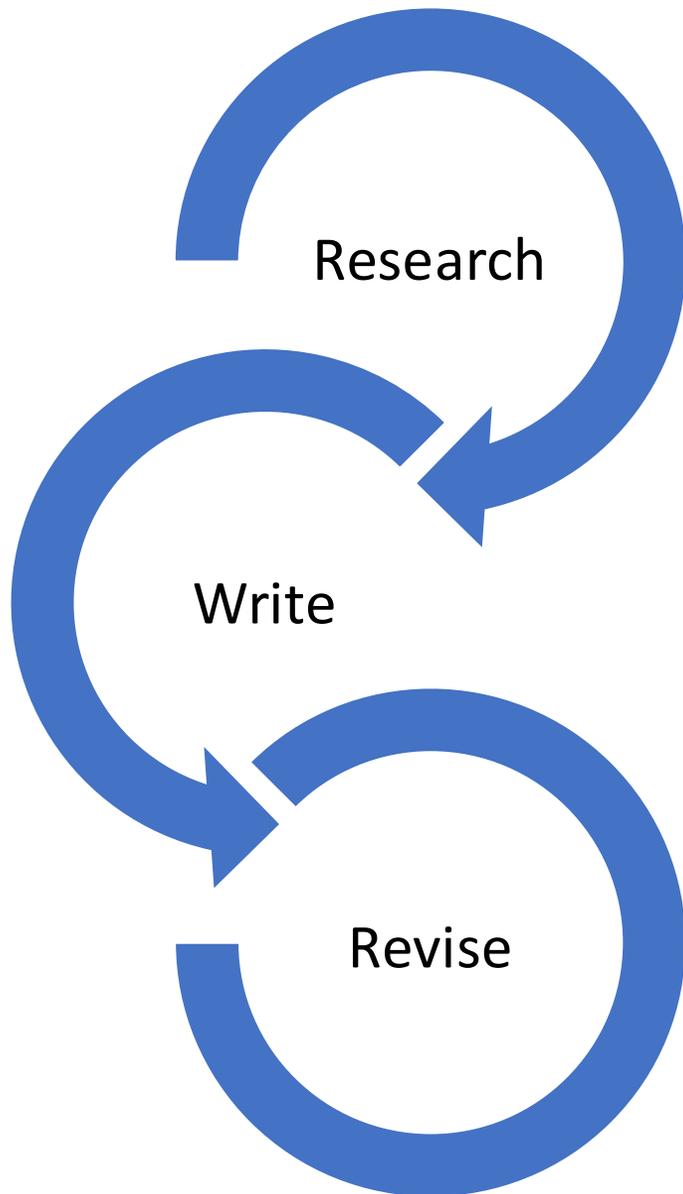
It will synthesize, discuss, and explain
already existing and *published* results.

Writing Your Expository Paper

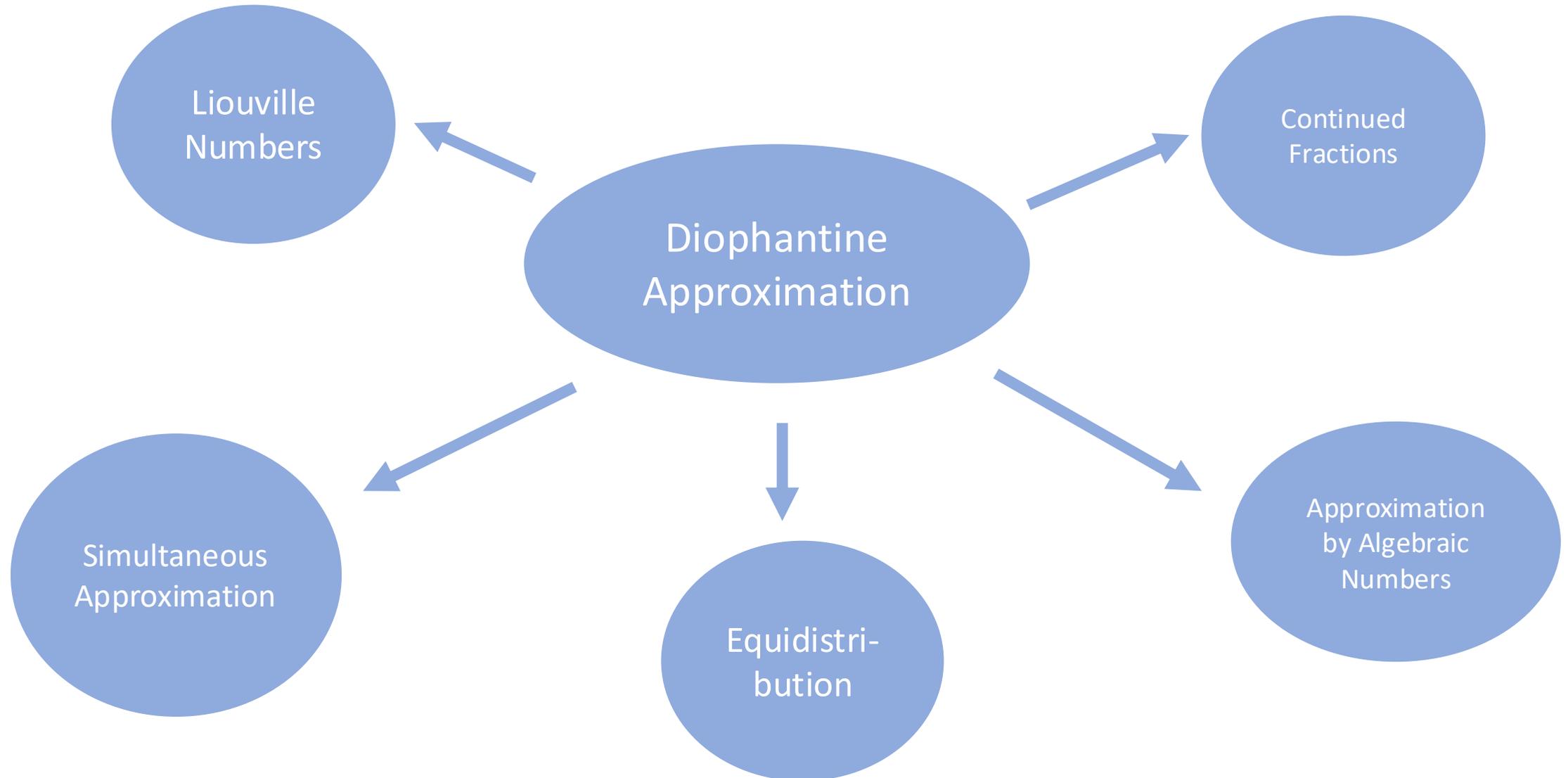
Conducting Research...

- Select a topic & conduct exploratory research
 - Search databases
 - Select sources
 - Read, annotate, and study the sources
- Narrow the scope of your project
 - Reflect on what you have learned so far
 - What about this topic do I specifically want to write about? Why?
 - What is my specific focus? My driving purpose?
 - What else do I need to know about my topic?
- Conduct additional research as needed
 - Continue to reflect on focus and purpose
 - Begin writing, then revising! 😊

Writing & Research are recursive – you will return to and repeat several actions throughout a project!



Develop key terms related to your topic



Strategies for Searching Databases: Some Examples



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MR5032303 - On multiplicity bounds for eigenvalues of the clamped round plate

Mangoubi, Dan; Rosenblatt, Daniel

J. Spectr. Theory **16** (2026), no. 1, 183–195.

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Diophantine Approximation AND Equidistribution



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MR4848676 - Effective equidistribution of expanding translates in the space of affine lattices

Kim, Wooyeon

Duke Math. J. **173** (2024), no. 17, 3317–3375.

(Reviewer: [Han, Jiyoung](#))

Reviewed

4 citations

MSC 37A17

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MR4835276 - Dynamical diophantine approximation exponents in characteristic p

Hindes, Wade

Bull. Lond. Math. Soc. **56** (2024), no. 12, 3801–3818.

Reviewed

MSC 37P05

[Article](#)

AND
finds
sources
that mention
both key
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MR5035535 - Equidistribution of polynomially bounded o-minimal curves in homogeneous spaces

Bersudsky, Michael; Shah, Nimish A.; Xing, Hao
Duke Math. J. **175** (2026), no. 3.

Prelim

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MR5032303 - On multiplicity bounds for eigenvalues of the clamped round plate

Mangoubi, Dan; Rosenblatt, Daniel
J. Spectr. Theory **16** (2026), no. 1, 183–195.

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OR
finds sources
that mention
either
key term
(but not
necessarily
both)

Diophantine Approximation NOT Equidistribution

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MR5032303 - On multiplicity bounds for eigenvalues of the clamped round plate

Mangoubi, Dan; Rosenblatt, Daniel
J. Spectr. Theory **16** (2026), no. 1, 183–195.

Prelim

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 Article

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MR5030491 - Simultaneous Diophantine Approximation on the 3D Veronese Curve

Badziahin, Dmitry
Int. Math. Res. Not. IMRN 2026, no. 4, Paper No. rnag017.

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NOT
will
exclude
sources that
mention
the specified
key term

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3,707 results

MR5032303 - On multiplicity bounds for eigenvalues of the clamped round plate

Mangoubi, Dan; Rosenblatt, Daniel
[J. Spectr. Theory](#) **16** (2026), no. 1, 183–195.

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MR5030491 - Simultaneous Diophantine Approximation on the 3D Veronese Curve

Badziahin, Dmitry
[Int. Math. Res. Not. IMRN](#) **2026**, no. 4, Paper No. rnag017.

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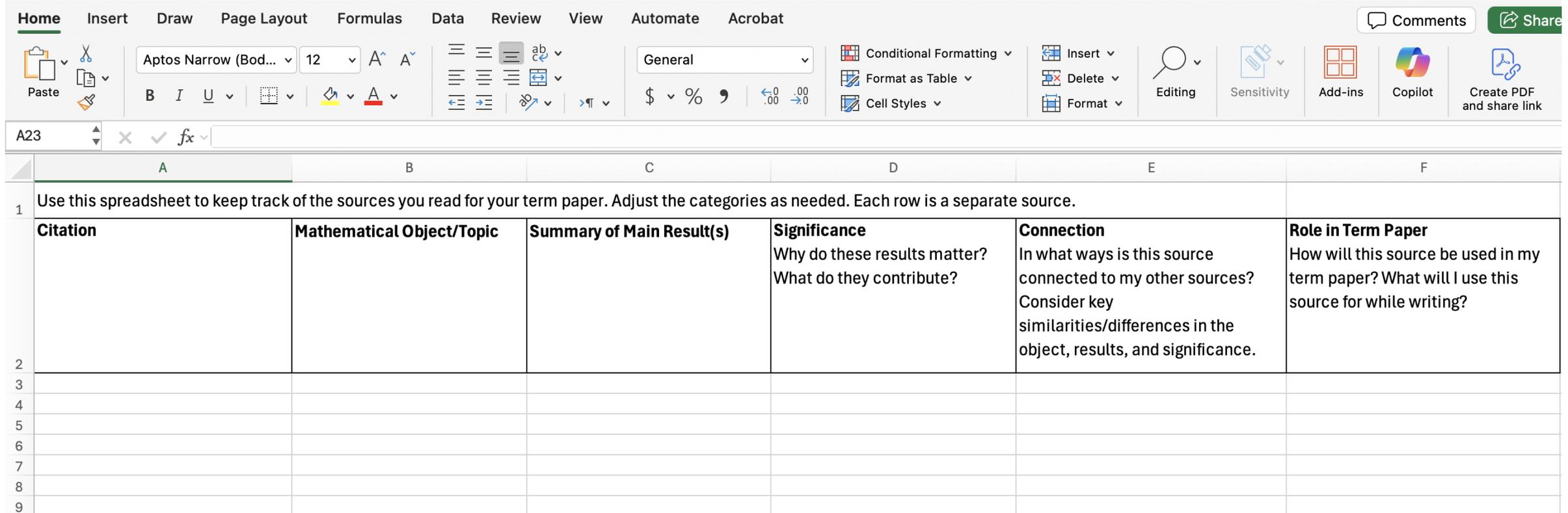
All

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Change “when”
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Keep Track of Your Sources with a Source Log



The image shows a screenshot of the Microsoft Excel interface. The ribbon at the top includes tabs for Home, Insert, Draw, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, View, Automate, and Acrobat. The Home tab is active, showing options for font (Aptos Narrow, size 12), bold, italic, underline, and text color. The spreadsheet area contains a table with 6 columns and 9 rows. Row 1 is a header row with instructions. Row 2 is the first data row with headers: Citation, Mathematical Object/Topic, Summary of Main Result(s), Significance, Connection, and Role in Term Paper. Rows 3 through 9 are empty for data entry.

Use this spreadsheet to keep track of the sources you read for your term paper. Adjust the categories as needed. Each row is a separate source.					
Citation	Mathematical Object/Topic	Summary of Main Result(s)	Significance Why do these results matter? What do they contribute?	Connection In what ways is this source connected to my other sources? Consider key similarities/differences in the object, results, and significance.	Role in Term Paper How will this source be used in my term paper? What will I use this source for while writing?

Writing is a form of thinking!

Writing about your sources as you are researching may also help you understand them more deeply. You can start writing your term paper sooner than you might think—no need to wait until “all” the research is complete :)

Suggested Process: Finding Sources

1. Select a topic from the assignment sheet that you are interested in
2. Develop keywords related to that topic
3. Use Boolean Operators and your keywords to search MathSciNet
 - AND, OR, NOT
4. Store your sources in the same location & name files consistently
5. Keep track of what you read by annotating sources and taking notes
 - Use the the “18.784 Source Log” resource to guide this process