



KTH Electrical Engineering

Electric Power Systems Lab  
**EG201X DEGREE PROJECT IN ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEMS**  
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## Exercise

# Citation

The objective of this exercise is to teach you how to manage citations and references in a master thesis.

## Background

Honesty is important in all societies and the academic world is no exception. In university educations, such as the engineering educations at KTH, there are strict rules against students who are attempting to deceive during examinations or other assessment. In academic writing, it is necessary to learn how to correctly use quotations and references in order to avoid accusations of plagiarism.

The definition of plagiarism used in KTH policies is to “submit someone else’s work as one’s own”. This means for example using other people’s ideas, words, figures, etc., without acknowledging the source. The general rule is therefore that you should be very clear in your thesis and in your presentations on what is your own contribution and what is not. Here follows some guidelines on how to indicate when you are using other peoples work.

### **Facts**

If you are using numbers or other facts that are not well-known<sup>1</sup> and which you have not collected yourself, you should state the source directly after the statement.

*Example:* In the end of 2010 the installed wind power capacity was 2 163 MW in Sweden [1].

### **Short quotations**

A short quotation can appear within a paragraph or a sentence. The quotation should be included within quotation marks and the source should be stated directly before or after the quotation. Use three dots (...) to indicate that you have omitted a few words and three dashes (---) if you have omitted one or more sentences. If you have to do a minor change to the phrasing to make the quotation fit grammatically within your presentation, you should indicate the changed or added words by using brackets []. To further emphasise a quotation, you may also use italics.

*Example:* The list of successful FOSS projects is impressive. For the sake of illustration, we cite the Apache Project [29], and the Mozilla Project [30]. The Apache Software Foundation [29] is the developer of the Apache Web server that “*is the most widely deployed server with 70 percent of the 54 mil-*

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1. You do not have to give a reference to a map if you are stating that Sweden is located in northern Europe...

lion Web sites queried in the Netcraft data collection” (study by Netcraft) [5]. Apache shows how the FOSS approach can be successful and can produce software of high quality. On the other hand, the Mozilla Project supports many technologies, including popular tools such as the Firefox web browser and the Thunderbird e-mail client, among others. More details on these projects can be found in [5] and on the Mozilla website [30].

### **Longer quotations**

There are a few different ways to indicate a longer quotation. The text should clearly stand out from the main text, for example by being indented, using a different text size or font. It is recommended that you also keep the text within quotations marks.

*Example:* As all electricity trading takes place in a common grid it is in practice impossible to track the generated electric energy from producer to consumer. This fact is frequently used to discredit players who on their own initiative try to consider external costs when choosing electricity supplier. For example, consider this letter to the editor of the Swedish engineering newspaper *Ny Teknik* concerning a petrol station offering hydrogen produced using electricity from wind power:

“In the article it is stated that this electricity is generated by a wind power plant outside Malmö. I doubt the veracity of this claim—it is as far as I know purely blather, with intent to intimate that the hydrogen would be ‘green’. The electrolysis is most likely performed at the petrol station, although this is not clearly stated. It would be madness to have a special electric line between the wind power plant and the petrol station. The truth is of course that the power is taken from the grid...”

### **Summaries**

Instead of using a longer quotation, you might want to summarise and possibly rephrase the original text, but you should still indicate the original source.

*Example:* Below follows a summary of definitions for capacity credit values. For further details, please refer to [4].

## **Instructions**

As preparation for this exercise, you should read the sections concerning references in the instructions for writing a master thesis in electric power systems (if you have not already done that). The instructions are available on the course web page. Moreover, you should read the advice for citation given above.

This exercise is divided in several assignments, which are described below. You find the assignments on the course web page. From the start page, select “Exercises” in the left-hand menu. Go to the Citation exercise. The documents for the assignments can be found in the menu to the right.

- **Comparison of student assignments.** Read and compare examples of the student assignments. Can you find the similarities? Can you tell which student who is plagiarising?
- **Comparison of scientific papers.** Read and compare the examples of scientific papers. Can you find the similarities? Can you tell which authors who are plagiarising?
- **Find references.** The “Missing references” document contains a text where all references have been removed, followed by a list of references. Try to figure out where the references should appear in the text.
- **Correct citation.** Read the document labelled “Example text”. Write a short paragraph, where you argue in support of or against the example text. Use a correctly cited quotation from the example text to emphasise your argument.

Write a short report with your answers and comments to each assignment. Submit your report to your supervisor and discuss it in a telephone meeting or a direct meeting. If possible, several students can meet in a seminar and have a group discussion of their observations together with a KTH teacher.