

Practice: reading research papers

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Critical impacts of global warming on land ecosystems

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Abstract. Globally increasing temperatures are likely to have impacts on terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems that are difficult to manage. Quantifying impacts worldwide and systematically as a function of global warming is fundamental to substantiating the discussion on climate mitigation targets and adaptation planning. Here we present a macro-scale analysis of climate change impacts on terrestrial ecosystems based on newly developed sets of climate sce-

1 Introduction

One of the most critical consequences of globally increasing temperatures is the potentially unmanageable impact on terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems, as climate is a prime determinant of ecosystem composition and functioning and explains much of their spatial variation (Woodward et al., 2004). In turn, through their material cycles, ecosystems and

What information can you gather from a quick look at the research paper in the picture?

Title, authors, authors' location and/or affiliation and publishing date are all significant details when reading a research paper. If we are familiar with the topic and the author, we may have certain expectations about the way the topic will be covered. In any case, most research papers start with an abstract that summarises what the article is going to be about.

As you can see, the first sentence of the abstract already describes the general topic of the paper (the impact of increasing temperatures), the second sentence tells us what the problem

connected with that topic is (the difficulty of quantifying such impact), and the third what the paper will discuss in details (analysis of climate change impacts).