

# Condensed Matter Journal Club

## New and Improved

**Url:**

<http://www.physics.mcmaster.ca/cmjclub>

**Email:**

[cmjclub@physics.mcmaster.ca](mailto:cmjclub@physics.mcmaster.ca)

## Intentions

If you do research in a field, you should know this field and maybe even areas which are slightly out of the focus of your own line of work. To learn about things, it is important to talk to people who learn or know about them. This is what a Journal-Club is good for and why roughly two years ago we have decided to benefit from the experience of our astro-brothers and -sisters by blatantly copying their homepage and all the rest of their sweet set-up.

This document is intended to serve as a comprehensive set of guidelines and rules that should explain what we hope to achieve with the Journal-Club and how we believe it should be done. What you see written below is a moderately modified version of a document originally put together by an astronomer.

## What we want to see

The Journal-Club should be intended to keep us up to speed on research currently being done in the field and to provide a means for students to gain experience presenting in front of an interested and engaged audience. Additionally, a Journal-Club offers an outlet for graduate students and fully trained physicists alike to share new and exciting work with the department. Graduate students will almost exclusively speak about a recently published paper; faculty and post-docs we hope to be speaking about either some of their own work or general ideas and concepts.

We do not expect the talks to be the most polished and best rehearsed talks ever given. If somebody who spent time with a specific topic explains it to the others by whatever means necessary and this leads to interesting discussions, all of us would be very happy. It should also be noted that everyone is aware of the fact that many of the speakers will not be experts in whatever they will be talking about. The whole thing really is mostly about facilitating discourse and happiness.

On the other hand please make sure that you put in the work to make it worthwhile for the audience. It would be very sad if this opportunity for learning would go unused because the presenter did not do his or her homework.

## Scheduling and such

The Journal-Club will take place on **Thursdays** in **ABB A204**. In order to register to give a talk, an on-line service is available on the Journal-Club-website. If for some reason you cannot sign-up on-line, please do not hesitate to send the Journal-Club an e-mail indicating your chosen date. **Every** graduate student is expected to give **one talk per year** (of course, you are welcome to do more!), and it will be your responsibility to choose a date. Faculty is always very welcome to give talks, too. For maximum planning security we ask you to choose your date early. In all likelihood, some

slots will not be filled and we will have some days without any scheduled talks. Should you, as the date of your presentation nears, realize that there exist scheduling conflicts, it would be nice if you could do your best to resolve this pickle; for example by pressuring somebody else into giving their talk in your time-slot. We kindly ask that you honour this request in an effort to help keep not only the Journal Club, but also the lives of the coordinators, running smoothly.

Journal-Club slots are ideal for guest speakers and they will take precedence over regularly scheduled presenters. If your talk date happens to overlap with that of a guest speaker, you will be bumped to the next available time slot. In the event that the next time slot doesn't work for you, you will be escorted from the premises and warned never to return. An embarrassing e-mail will then be distributed to the members of your immediate family, notifying them of your humiliation. Either that, or we will try to find another date that works for you.

To give us enough time to update the website well in advance of your presentation, we kindly ask that you e-mail us your talk title and abstract at least **7 days** before you are scheduled to present.

## Information-sources

The Journal-Club-website will serve as a welcome means of providing an easily accessible schedule. In order to stay apprised of the upcoming week's talks, please become accustomed to referring to the website. We will also distribute a warning e-mail well ahead of time. Finally, if you plan to attend any Journal-Club presentations and suspect that you might not be on the Journal-Club mailing list, please send a quick e-mail to the address given above to let us know that you would like to receive the weekly notifications.

## Selection of topics

For the most part, a single article is presented during a Journal-Club talk, as most talks will be given by graduate students. A list of papers from which students can choose is available and can be found on the homepage. If the article-list does not provide a suitable paper, we suggest finding one on your own and asking your supervisor or some other faculty member or us whether or not it is a good choice. We are also open to other suggestions for other presentation topics.

As soon as you think that a topic might be interesting to the condensed matter physicists at the department and you would like to give a presentation on it, please don't hesitate, come forward and let us know.

Post-docs and faculty members are invited (and encouraged) to choose any topic they deem appropriate.

Please always keep in mind: The Journal-Club should serve to benefit not only the audience, but also the presenter.

Once again: It's on!

The Organizers<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Alannah and Murray