

HOW TO STRUCTURE A MASTERS THESIS

Q: What is the main motivation of your work?

Q: What is your main research question?

A: Your claims

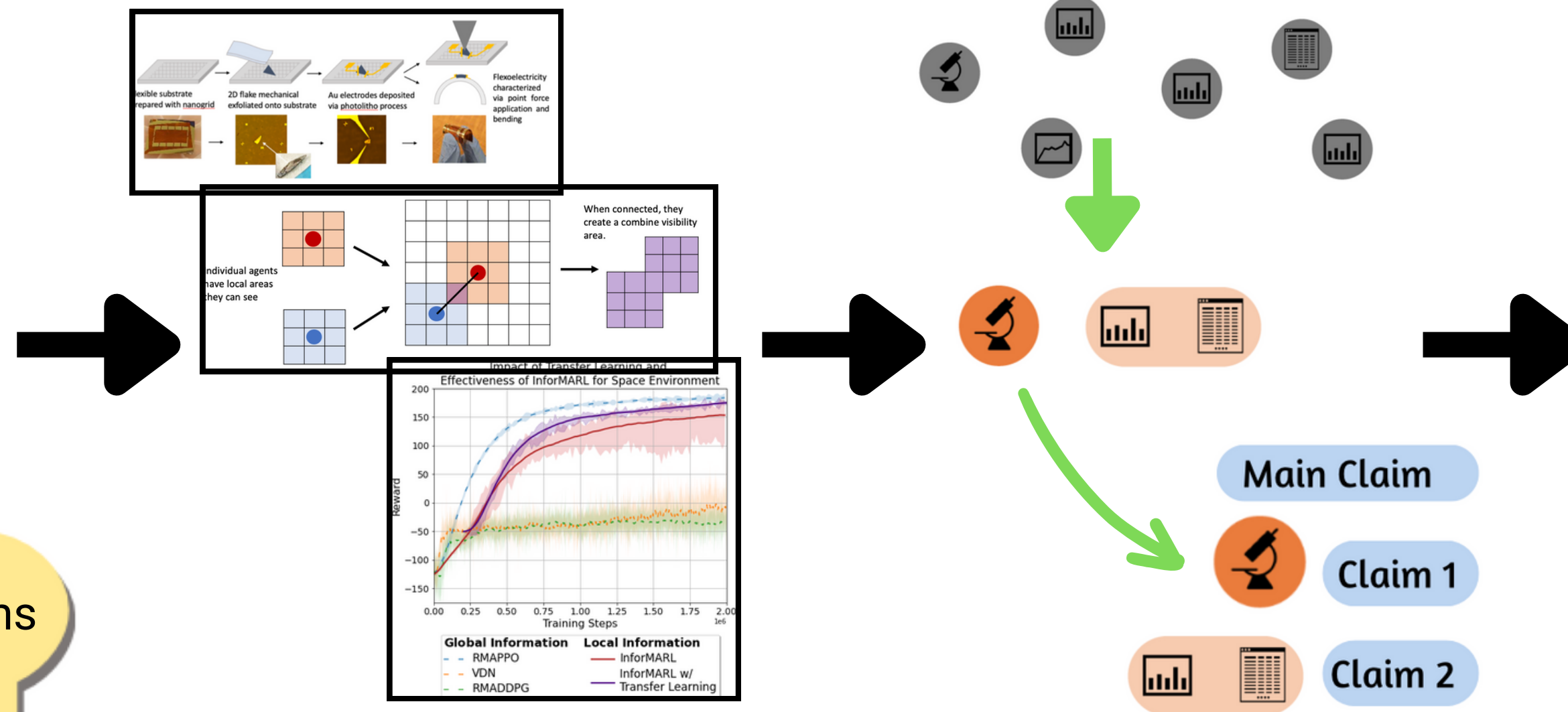


Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Literature Review
3. Methods for Claim 1
4. Results for Claim 1
5. Claim 2
6. Conclusion

Identify Your Why

- Your thesis structure centers around why you did your work. What are the key research questions that guided your research process?
- Once you have a research question, explain the goal for your research through a claim
- A claim directly answers these research questions by stating the most significant contribution(s) or lesson(s) of your work

Gather Your Evidence

- Once you have your claims, you should support them with a claim-evidence-reasoning (CER) structure
- Evidence for your claim can take the form of notes, results, slides, derivations, method explanations, and figures
- The evidence will be used to support the claims you've identified in your thesis

Arrange Your Evidence

- Identify thematic bins that correspond to your claims for each piece of evidence
- These claims can be structured in many ways. E.g. There can be a higher-level broad claim that is supported by several lower-level claims
- Tie your claims to the main claim with reasoning

Convert to Chapters

- Break your claims down into chapters based on the amount of evidence you have to support the claims
- All masters theses contain an Introduction, Literature Review, and Conclusion which sandwich your claims

