Responding to Reviewers
Things to keep in mind when responding to reviewers

• Structure
• Thoroughness
• Attitude
• Strategy
Responding to Reviewers: Structure (of the response)

• Provide an overview, then quote the full set of reviews

• Use typography to help the reviewer navigate your response
Make the response self-contained

• Quote the changes directly in the response
  • Refer to specific line number

• Makes it easier for the reviewer to understand exactly what you did without having to flip back and forth between your manuscript and the response
  • Reduces the chance that reviewer will read the whole paper and find new things to complain about

• Except when a large chunk of modified text (e.g., a new section) is too long to quote.
  • Refer to it explicitly in the response (e.g., give title of the new section)
Responding to Reviewers: Thoroughness

• Respond to every point raised by the reviewer
• Be clear about what changed relative to the previous version
• Typical ways to respond to each point:
  • You are right, here's how we addressed the criticism…
  • This is a misunderstanding because things were unclearly formulated. We have clarified…
  • This is a legitimate/pertinent concern in general, but in this specific case…
Responding to Reviewers: Attitude

• Don’t be scared by major revisions
• Accept the blame
• Be polite and respectful of all reviewers
• Remember that reviewers are typical readers
Responding to Reviewers: Strategy

• When possible, do what the reviewer asks
• Be prepared for discrepancies
• Compromise
  • You can’t do everything
  • When in doubt, ask the editor
How to get your scientific paper published: Responding to Reviewers

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2cfCH1P8E8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2cfCH1P8E8)
Check out the other videos in the “How to get published” series:

• The writing process:  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQrJyDsddZc&t=4s

• Journal selection:  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFnIsWrljLQ&t=1s

• Responding to reviewers:  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2cfcH1P8E8
Expectation for peer-review

• Do a careful read of the paper
• Please look at the document “How to peer review” and use as a check-sheet
• Be specific on points (quote sentences and pages)
• You can submit either a text or document