Format of the Doctoral Thesis
(see §10, RerNat-O 2021)

The GAUSS Doctoral Degree Regulations amended in 2018 do not prescribe a very specific format for a doctoral thesis (see RerNat-O §10 below).

**Monography** (§10.2): A monographic doctoral thesis will remain the standard format of a dissertation.

**Chapter-based thesis** (§10.3): Manuscripts which are published, accepted, under revision, submitted or being prepared for publication can be a part of the doctoral thesis as long as

a) the reviewers of the thesis agree,

b) the supervisor confirms that the manuscripts make up the significant part of the scientific work of the doctoral candidate, and

c) the doctoral candidate’s own contributions are stated clearly.

- It is not required to apply for a chapter-based thesis.
  
  - Chapter-based theses include what used to be called “cumulative theses”, i.e. a chapter-based format with only published or accepted manuscripts. These are of course still possible but count as regular chapter-based theses.
  
  - Keep in mind to correctly reference published/accepted/submitted manuscripts.
  
  - Get (written) approval of co-authors for use (and later, publication) of the manuscripts in your thesis.
  
  - Please note that copyright issues need to be considered well in advance (i.e. you may need to contact the journals or publishers). See also the [info page of the SUB](#).
  
  - There is no minimum or maximum number of manuscripts which must be included.

All dissertations have to include

1) a thorough and comprehensive introduction, which leads to the general topic of the thesis and addresses all its aspects and overall relevance,

2) a careful summary of all topics dealt with, and

3) an extensive discussion section, which addresses all key findings of the doctoral research and their relevance to the field, putting the key results of the thesis into a broader context.

*Please keep in mind that also in a chapter-based thesis, especially the introduction, summary and discussion will make up a big part of the grade of the thesis.*

*There are no further rules or specifications reg. formatting and length of a dissertation in GGNB.*
§ 10 Thesis

(1) The focus of the dissertation must be in field of mathematics or natural science. It must satisfy strict scientific standards, represent progress in science, and must be an independent achievement on the part of the doctoral candidate. It must be a scientifically noteworthy, written work and must demonstrate that the doctoral student is equipped to solve scientific questions in an independent and methodically faultless manner and can present the results thereof in the form deemed standard within the subject. The doctoral candidate may include already published results in the dissertation; the source must be mentioned in the usual scientific manner of the field.

(2) The dissertation can be structured in monographic form with a detailed classification of the topic in the scientific context and a sufficient discussion.

(3) Furthermore, a scientific manuscript or several scientific manuscripts, for which the doctoral candidate is at least co-author, can form parts of a dissertation. In this case, a summarized presentation of the topics worked on, together with a detailed discussion part and a clear presentation of the candidate’s own contributions to the manuscripts, must be presented. Furthermore, one of the supervisors must confirm that these manuscripts make up the significant part of the scientific work. This can be deviated from in the programme specific regulations.

(4) The dissertation may not have been or be used for any other doctoral or comparable process at a university in Germany or abroad, unless otherwise specified in these regulations.

(5) The dissertation may be drafted in German or English. A title page according to the template provided in appendix 2 must be included.

(6) A dissertation should be completed mainly in connection with a scientific institution associated with the responsible programme. Any exceptions to this require prior consent from the responsible examination committee.

(7) The programme specific regulations may contain more detailed regulations.