Formatting Instructions for RLJ/RLC Submissions

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Paper under double-blind review

Keywords: RLJ, RLC, formatting guide, style file, LATEX template.

Summary

The summary appears on the cover page. Although it can be identical to the abstract, it does not have to be. One might choose to omit the stated contributions in the Summary, given that they will be stated in the box below. The original abstract may also be extended to two paragraphs. The authors should ensure that the contents of the cover page fit entirely on a single page. The cover page does **not** count towards the 8–12 page limit.

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Contribution(s)

1. Provide a succinct but precise list of the contribution(s) of the paper. Use contextual notes to avoid implications of contributions more significant than intended and to clarify and situate the contribution relative to prior work (see the examples below). If there is no additional context, enter "None". Try to keep each contribution to a single sentence, although multiple sentences are allowed when necessary. If using complete sentences, include punctuation. If using a single sentence fragment, you may omit the concluding period. A single contribution can be sufficient, and there is no limit on the number of contributions. Submissions will be judged mostly on the contributions claimed on their cover pages and the evidence provided to support them. Major contributions should not be claimed in the main text if they do not appear on the cover page. Overclaiming can lead to a submission being rejected, so it is important to have well-scoped contribution statements on the cover page.

Context: None

- The submission template for submissions to RLJ/RLC 2025
 Context: Built from previous RLC/RLJ, ICLR, and TMLR submission templates
- 3. [Example of one contribution and corresponding contextual note for the paper "Policy gradient methods for reinforcement learning with function approximation" (Sutton et al., 2000).1

This paper presents an expression for the policy gradient when using function approximation to represent the action-value function.

Context: Prior work established expressions for the policy gradient without function approximation (Williams, 1992).

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Abstract

- 1 The abstract paragraph should be indented 1/2 inch on both left and right-hand margins.
- 2 Use 10 point type, with a vertical spacing of 11 points. The word "Abstract" must be
- 3 centered, in bold, and in point size 12. Two line spaces precede the abstract. The
- 4 abstract must be limited to one paragraph.

5 1 Submission of papers to RLJ/RLC

- 6 RLJ/RLC requires electronic submissions, processed by https://openreview.net/. See
- 7 RLC's website for more instructions.
- 8 Fur submissions, use no options with the rlj package to adjust the format for submission require-
- 9 ments, as follows:
- 10 \usepackage{rlj}.
- 11 If your paper is ultimately accepted, use option accepted with the rlj package to adjust the
- 12 format to the camera ready requirements, as follows:
- 13 \usepackage[accepted] \{rlj\}.
- 14 To de-anonymize and remove mentions to RLJ/RLC (for example for posting to preprint servers),
- 15 use the preprint option, as in
- 16 \usepackage[preprint]{rlj}.

17 **1.1 Style**

28

- 18 Papers to be submitted to RLJ/RLC must be prepared according to the instructions presented here.
- Authors are required to use the RLJ/RLC LATEX style files obtainable at the RLJ/RLC websites (as
- 20 both a .zip file and a link to an Overleaf project). Changing the style files, font, font size, margins,
- 21 line spacing, or appearance of sections and subsections may be grounds for rejection.

22 1.2 Retrieval of style files

- 23 The style files for RLJ/RLC are available online on the RLJ/RLC website. The file rlj.pdf
- 24 contains these instructions and illustrates the various formatting requirements your RLC paper must
- 25 satisfy. Submissions must be made using LATeX and the style files rlj.sty and rlj.bst (to be
- used with LATEX2e). The file rlj.tex may be used as a "shell" for writing your paper. All you
- 27 have to do is replace the author, title, abstract, and text of the paper with your own.

2 Citations, figures, tables, references, equations

9 These instructions apply to everyone, regardless of the formatter being used.

2.1 Citations within the text

- 31 Citations within the text should be based on the natbib package and include the authors' last names
- 32 and year (with the "et al." construct for more than two authors). When the authors or the publication
- 33 are included in the sentence, the citation should not be in parenthesis, using $\cite{\{}$ (as in
- 34 "See the work of Sutton & Barto (1998) for more information."). Otherwise, the citation should
- 35 be in parenthesis using \citep{} (as in "Reinforcement learning is defined not by characterizing
- 36 learning methods, but by characterizing a learning *problem* (Sutton & Barto, 1998).").
- 37 The corresponding references are to be listed in alphabetical order of authors, in the **References**
- 38 section. As to the format of the references themselves, any style is acceptable as long as it is used
- 39 consistently.

40 2.2 Footnotes

- 41 Indicate footnotes with a number in the text. Place the footnotes at the bottom of the page on which
- 42 they appear. Precede the footnote with a horizontal rule of 2 inches. When following punctuation,
- 43 footnotes should be placed after the punctuation (e.g., commas and periods).²

44 2.3 Figures

- 45 All artwork must be neat, clean, and legible when printed. Lines should be dark enough for purposes
- 46 of reproduction. The figure number and caption always appear after the figure. Place one line space
- 47 before the figure caption, and one line space after the figure. The figure caption is lowercase (except
- 48 for the first word and proper nouns); figures are numbered consecutively.
- 49 Make sure the figure caption does not get separated from the figure. Leave sufficient space to avoid
- 50 splitting the figure and figure caption. Ensure that figures are always referenced in the text before
- 51 they appear, or on the same page that they appear. This will be ensured if the figure occurs after its
- 52 first reference in the source. For example, see Figure 1.

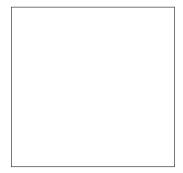


Figure 1: Sample figure caption.

- 53 You may use color figures. However, it is best for the figure captions and the paper body to make
- sense if the paper is printed either in black/white or in color.
- You may use subfigures, as shown in Figure 2.

56 **2.4 Tables**

- Tables must be centered, neat, clean and legible. Do not use hand-drawn tables. The table number
- 58 and title always appear after the table. See Table 1. Place one line space before the table title, one
- line space above the table title, and one line space after the table. Tables are numbered consecutively.

¹This is an example of a footnote.

²This is a second example of a footnote.

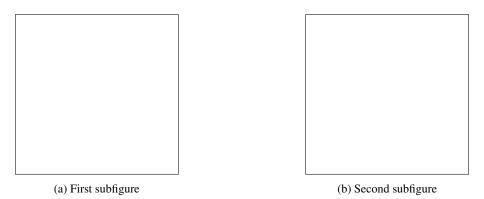


Figure 2: An example using subfigures.

Table 1: Sample table caption

PART DESCRIPTION

Actor Stores and updates the policy
Critic Stores and updates a value function

60 2.5 Equations

- 61 Equations can be included inline or using equation, gather, or align blocks. When using
- 62 align blocks, place the alignment character & after equality or inequality symbols so that it is
- 63 visually clear where each expression (which may span more than one line) begins and ends, as in
- 64 the following example.

$$\Pr(A_{2} = a_{2}) = \sum_{s_{0} \in \mathcal{S}} \Pr(S_{0} = s_{0}) \sum_{a_{0} \in \mathcal{A}} \Pr(A_{0} = a_{0} | S_{0} = s_{0}) \sum_{s_{1} \in \mathcal{S}} \Pr(S_{1} = s_{1} | S_{0} = s_{0}, A_{0} = a_{0})$$

$$\times \sum_{a_{1} \in \mathcal{A}} \Pr(A_{1} = a_{1} | S_{1} = s_{1}) \sum_{s_{2} \in \mathcal{S}} \Pr(S_{2} = s_{2} | S_{1} = s_{1}, A_{1} = a_{1}) \Pr(A_{2} = a_{2} | S_{2} = s_{2})$$

$$= \sum_{s_{0} \in \mathcal{S}} d_{0}(s_{0}) \sum_{a_{0} \in \mathcal{A}} \pi(s_{0}, a_{0}) \sum_{s_{1} \in \mathcal{S}} p(s_{0}, a_{0}, s_{1}) \sum_{a_{1} \in \mathcal{A}} \pi(s_{1}, a_{1}) \sum_{s_{2} \in \mathcal{S}} p(s_{1}, a_{1}, s_{2})$$

$$\times \pi(s_{2}, a_{2}), \tag{1}$$

- where \times denotes scalar multiplication split across multiple lines.
- 66 You may use the style of your choice when referencing expressions by number, including the fol-
- 67 lowing forms:
- In (1), there is no summation over a_2 because it is defined on the left side of the equation.³
- In Equation 1, there is no summation over a_2 because it is defined on the left side of the equation.
- In Eq. 1, there is no summation over a_2 because it is defined on the left side of the equation.
- 71 You may number all lines of all equations, some lines of each equation (typically one line per
- 72 equation), or only the equations that are referenced.⁴ The default behavior is to number all lines
- 73 of all equations and we strongly encourage (but do not require) authors to number all lines of all
- 74 equations for initial submissions to allow reviewers to easily reference specific lines.

³This format is sometimes preferred because often referenced expressions are inequalities or definitions, not equations. Notice the use of egref in place of ref in this example.

⁴To number some lines of each equation use \nonumber to suppress numbers for some of the lines, as in this document. To number only the referenced equations, uncomment the line in main.tex: \mathtoolsset{showonlyrefs}. Note that there may be conflicts between showonlyrefs and both autoref and cref.

75 3 Final instructions

- 76 Do not change any aspects of the formatting parameters in the style files. In particular, do not
- 77 modify the width or length of the rectangle the text should fit into, and do not change font sizes
- 78 (except perhaps in the **References** section; see below). Please note that pages should be numbered
- 79 for submissions, but not for camera-ready versions.

80 4 Preparing PostScript or PDF files

- 81 We recommend preparing your manuscript using the provided Overleaf project, which will auto-
- 82 matically construct a PDF file for submission. This file can be downloaded by clicking the "Menu"
- 83 button in the top left, and then selecting "PDF" at the top of the menu that appears.
- 84 If you are not using Overleaf, please prepare PostScript or PDF files with paper size "US Letter",
- and not, for example, "A4". The -t letter option on dvips will produce US Letter files.
- 86 Consider directly generating PDF files using pdflatex (especially if you are a MiKTeX user).
- 87 PDF figures must be substituted for EPS figures, however.
- 88 Otherwise, please generate your PostScript and PDF files with the following commands:

```
89 dvips mypaper.dvi -t letter -Ppdf -G0 -o mypaper.ps
90 ps2pdf mypaper.ps mypaper.pdf
```

4.1 Margins in LaTeX

- 92 Most of the margin problems come from figures positioned by hand using \special or other
- 93 commands. We suggest using the command \includegraphics from the graphicx package.
- 94 Always specify the figure width as a multiple of the line width as in the example below using .eps
- 95 graphics

91

```
96  \usepackage[dvips]{graphicx} ...
97  \includegraphics[width=0.8\linewidth]{myfile.eps}
98  or
99  \usepackage[pdftex]{graphicx} ...
100  \includegraphics[width=0.8\linewidth]{myfile.pdf}
```

- 101 for .pdf graphics. See Section 4.4 in the graphics bundle documentation (http://www.ctan.
- 102 org/tex-archive/macros/latex/required/graphics/grfquide.ps)
- 103 A number of width problems arise when LaTeX cannot properly hyphenate a line. Please give
- 104 LaTeX hyphenation hints using the \- command.

105 **Broader Impact Statement**

- 106 In this optional section, RLJ/RLC encourages authors to discuss possible repercussions of their
- 107 work, notably any potential negative impact that a user of this research should be aware of.

A The first appendix

- 109 This is an example of an appendix.
- 110 **Note:** Appendices appear before the references and are viewed as part of the "main text" and are
- 111 subject to the 8–12 page limit, are peer reviewed, and can contain content central to the claims of
- 112 the paper.

108

113 B The second appendix

- 114 This is an example of a second appendix. If there is only a single section in the appendix, you may
- simply call it "Appendix" as follows:

116 Appendix

117 This format should only be used if there is a single appendix (unlike in this document).

118 Acknowledgments

- 119 Use unnumbered third level headings for the acknowledgments. All acknowledgments, including
- those to funding agencies, go at the end of the paper. Only add this information once your submission
- 121 is accepted and deanonymized. The acknowledgments do not count towards the 8–12 page limit.

122 References

- 123 R. S. Sutton, D. McAllester, S. Singh, and Y. Mansour. Policy gradient methods for reinforcement
- learning with function approximation. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 12,
- pp. 1057–1063, 2000.
- 126 Richard S. Sutton and Andrew G. Barto. Reinforcement Learning: An Introduction. The MIT Press,
- 127 Cambridge, MA, 1998.
- 128 R. J. Williams. Simple statistical gradient-following algorithms for connectionist reinforcement
- learning. *Machine Learning*, 8:229–256, 1992.

Supplementary Materials 130 The following content was not necessarily subject to peer review. 131 132 133 Content that appears after the references are not part of the "main text," have no page limits, are not necessarily reviewed, and should not contain any claims or material central to the paper. If your 134 paper includes supplementary materials, use the 135 136 \beginSupplementaryMaterials command as in this example, which produces the title and disclaimer above. If your paper does not 137 138 include supplementary materials, this command can be removed or commented out.