
Formatting Instructions for NIPS 2015

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Abstract

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

1 Submission of papers to NIPS 2015

NIPS requires electronic submissions. The electronic submission site is

<http://papers.nips.cc>

Please read carefully the instructions below, and follow them faithfully.

1.1 Style

Papers to be submitted to NIPS 2015 must be prepared according to the instructions presented here. Papers may be only up to eight pages long, including figures. Since 2009 an additional ninth page containing *only cited references* is allowed. Papers that exceed nine pages will not be reviewed, or in any other way considered for presentation at the conference.

Please note that this year we have introduced automatic line number generation into the style file (for L^AT_EX 2_& and Word versions). This is to help reviewers refer to specific lines of the paper when they make their comments. Please do NOT refer to these line numbers in your paper as they will be removed from the style file for the final version of accepted papers.

The margins in 2015 are the same as since 2007, which allow for $\approx 15\%$ more words in the paper compared to earlier years. We are also again using double-blind reviewing. Both of these require the use of new style files.

Authors are required to use the NIPS L^AT_EX style files obtainable at the NIPS website as indicated below. Please make sure you use the current files and not previous versions. Tweaking the style files may be grounds for rejection.

1.2 Retrieval of style files

The style files for NIPS and other conference information are available on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.nips.cc/>

The file `nips2015.pdf` contains these instructions and illustrates the various formatting requirements your NIPS paper must satisfy. L^AT_EX users can choose between two style files: `nips15submit_09.sty` (to be used with L^AT_EX version 2.09) and `nips15submit_e.sty`

(to be used with L^AT_EX2e). The file `nips2015.tex` may be used as a “shell” for writing your paper. All you have to do is replace the author, title, abstract, and text of the paper with your own. The file `nips2015.rtf` is provided as a shell for MS Word users.

The formatting instructions contained in these style files are summarized in sections 2, 3, and 4 below.

2 General formatting instructions

The text must be confined within a rectangle 5.5 inches (33 picas) wide and 9 inches (54 picas) long. The left margin is 1.5 inch (9 picas). Use 10 point type with a vertical spacing of 11 points. Times New Roman is the preferred typeface throughout. Paragraphs are separated by 1/2 line space, with no indentation.

Paper title is 17 point, initial caps/lower case, bold, centered between 2 horizontal rules. Top rule is 4 points thick and bottom rule is 1 point thick. Allow 1/4 inch space above and below title to rules. All pages should start at 1 inch (6 picas) from the top of the page.

For the final version, authors’ names are set in boldface, and each name is centered above the corresponding address. The lead author’s name is to be listed first (left-most), and the co-authors’ names (if different address) are set to follow. If there is only one co-author, list both author and co-author side by side.

Please pay special attention to the instructions in section 4 regarding figures, tables, acknowledgments, and references.

3 Headings: first level

First level headings are lower case (except for first word and proper nouns), flush left, bold and in point size 12. One line space before the first level heading and 1/2 line space after the first level heading.

3.1 Headings: second level

Second level headings are lower case (except for first word and proper nouns), flush left, bold and in point size 10. One line space before the second level heading and 1/2 line space after the second level heading.

3.1.1 Headings: third level

Third level headings are lower case (except for first word and proper nouns), flush left, bold and in point size 10. One line space before the third level heading and 1/2 line space after the third level heading.

4 Citations, figures, tables, references

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

4.1 Citations within the text

Citations within the text should be numbered consecutively. The corresponding number is to appear enclosed in square brackets, such as [1] or [2]-[5]. The corresponding references are to be listed in the same order at the end of the paper, in the **References** section. (Note: the standard BIBT_EX style `unsrt` produces this.) As to the format of the references themselves, any style is acceptable as long as it is used consistently.

As submission is double blind, refer to your own published work in the third person. That is, use “In the previous work of Jones et al. [4]”, not “In our previous work [4]”. If you cite your other papers

108
109 Table 1: Sample table title
110 PART DESCRIPTION
111

PART	DESCRIPTION
Dendrite	Input terminal
Axon	Output terminal
Soma	Cell body (contains cell nucleus)

115
116
117 that are not widely available (e.g. a journal paper under review), use anonymous author names in the
118 citation, e.g. an author of the form “A. Anonymous”.
119

120 **4.2 Footnotes**
121

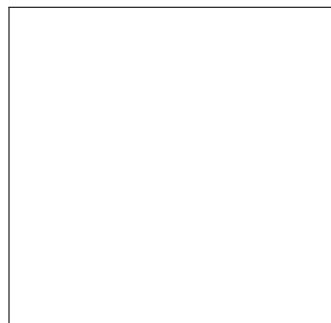
122 Indicate footnotes with a number¹ in the text. Place the footnotes at the bottom of the page on which
123 they appear. Precede the footnote with a horizontal rule of 2 inches (12 picas).²
124

125 **4.3 Figures**
126

127 All artwork must be neat, clean, and legible. Lines should be dark enough for purposes of repro-
128 duction; art work should not be hand-drawn. The figure number and caption always appear after the
129 figure. Place one line space before the figure caption, and one line space after the figure. The figure
130 caption is lower case (except for first word and proper nouns); figures are numbered consecutively.
131

132 Make sure the figure caption does not get separated from the figure. Leave sufficient space to avoid
133 splitting the figure and figure caption.

134 You may use color figures. However, it is best for the figure captions and the paper body to make
135 sense if the paper is printed either in black/white or in color.
136



148 Figure 1: Sample figure caption.
149
150
151

152 **4.4 Tables**
153

154 All tables must be centered, neat, clean and legible. Do not use hand-drawn tables. The table number
155 and title always appear before the table. See Table 1.
156

157 Place one line space before the table title, one line space after the table title, and one line space after
158 the table. The table title must be lower case (except for first word and proper nouns); tables are
159 numbered consecutively.

160 ¹Sample of the first footnote
161 ²Sample of the second footnote

162 **5 Final instructions**
163

164 Do not change any aspects of the formatting parameters in the style files. In particular, do not
165 modify the width or length of the rectangle the text should fit into, and do not change font sizes
166 (except perhaps in the **References** section; see below). Please note that pages should be numbered.
167

168 **6 Preparing PostScript or PDF files**
169

170 Please prepare PostScript or PDF files with paper size “US Letter”, and not, for example, “A4”. The
171 -t letter option on dvips will produce US Letter files.
172

173 Fonts were the main cause of problems in the past years. Your PDF file must only contain Type 1 or
174 Embedded TrueType fonts. Here are a few instructions to achieve this.

- 175 • You can check which fonts a PDF files uses. In Acrobat Reader, select the menu
176 Files>Document Properties>Fonts and select Show All Fonts. You can also use the pro-
177 gram pdffonts which comes with xpdf and is available out-of-the-box on most Linux
178 machines.

- 179 • The IEEE has recommendations for generating PDF files whose fonts are also accept-
180 able for NIPS. Please see <http://www.emfield.org/icuwb2010/downloads/>
181 IEEE-PDF-SpecV32.pdf

- 182 • LaTeX users:

- 183 – Consider directly generating PDF files using pdflatex (especially if you are a MiK-
184 TeX user). PDF figures must be substituted for EPS figures, however.

- 185 – Otherwise, please generate your PostScript and PDF files with the following com-
186 mands:

187 dvips mypaper.dvi -t letter -Ppdf -G0 -o mypaper.ps
188 ps2pdf mypaper.ps mypaper.pdf

189 Check that the PDF files only contains Type 1 fonts.

- 190 – xfig ”patterned” shapes are implemented with bitmap fonts. Use ”solid” shapes in-
191 stead.

- 192 – The \bbold package almost always uses bitmap fonts. You can try the equivalent
193 AMS Fonts with command

194 \usepackage[psamsfonts]{amssymb}

195 or use the following workaround for reals, natural and complex:

196 \newcommand{\RR}{\mathbb{R}} %real numbers
197 \newcommand{\Nat}{\mathbb{N}} %natural numbers
198 \newcommand{\CC}{\mathbb{C}} %complex numbers

- 199 – Sometimes the problematic fonts are used in figures included in LaTeX files. The
200 ghostscript program eps2eps is the simplest way to clean such figures. For black
201 and white figures, slightly better results can be achieved with program potrace.

- 202 • MSWord and Windows users (via PDF file):

- 203 – Install the Microsoft Save as PDF Office 2007 Add-in from <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&familyid=4d951911-3e7e-4ae6-b059-a2e79ed87041>
204 – Select ”Save or Publish to PDF” from the Office or File menu

- 205 • MSWord and Mac OS X users (via PDF file):

- 206 – From the print menu, click the PDF drop-down box, and select ”Save as PDF...”

- 207 • MSWord and Windows users (via PS file):

- 208 – To create a new printer on your computer, install the AdobePS printer driver
209 and the Adobe Distiller PPD file from <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftpID=204> Note: You must reboot your PC after
210 installing the AdobePS driver for it to take effect.

- To produce the ps file, select “Print” from the MS app, choose the installed AdobePS printer, click on “Properties”, click on “Advanced.”
- Set “TrueType Font” to be “Download as Softfont”
- Open the “PostScript Options” folder
- Select “PostScript Output Option” to be “Optimize for Portability”
- Select “TrueType Font Download Option” to be “Outline”
- Select “Send PostScript Error Handler” to be “No”
- Click “OK” three times, print your file.
- Now, use Adobe Acrobat Distiller or ps2pdf to create a PDF file from the PS file. In Acrobat, check the option “Embed all fonts” if applicable.

If your file contains Type 3 fonts or non embedded TrueType fonts, we will ask you to fix it.

6.1 Margins in LaTeX

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

```
\usepackage[dvips]{graphicx} ...
\includegraphics[width=0.8\linewidth]{myfile.eps}
```

or

```
\usepackage[pdftex]{graphicx} ...
\includegraphics[width=0.8\linewidth]{myfile.pdf}
```

for `.pdf` graphics. See section 4.4 in the `graphics` bundle documentation (<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/latex/required/graphics/grfguide.ps>)

A number of width problems arise when LaTeX cannot properly hyphenate a line. Please give LaTeX hyphenation hints using the `\-` command.

Acknowledgments

Use unnumbered third level headings for the acknowledgments. All acknowledgments go at the end of the paper. Do not include acknowledgments in the anonymized submission, only in the final paper.

References

References follow the acknowledgments. Use unnumbered third level heading for the references. Any choice of citation style is acceptable as long as you are consistent. It is permissible to reduce the font size to ‘small’ (9-point) when listing the references. **Remember that this year you can use a ninth page as long as it contains only cited references.**

[1] Alexander, J.A. & Mozer, M.C. (1995) Template-based algorithms for connectionist rule extraction. In G. Tesauro, D. S. Touretzky and T.K. Leen (eds.), *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 7*, pp. 609-616. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

[2] Bower, J.M. & Beeman, D. (1995) *The Book of GENESIS: Exploring Realistic Neural Models with the GEneral NEural SImulation System*. New York: TELOS/Springer-Verlag.

[3] Hasselmo, M.E., Schnell, E. & Barkai, E. (1995) Dynamics of learning and recall at excitatory recurrent synapses and cholinergic modulation in rat hippocampal region CA3. *Journal of Neuroscience* **15**(7):5249-5262.