Title should be descriptive and use minimal jargon

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Nature Letters begin with a fully referenced "bold paragraph" that is arguably the most important item to get your paper past the editors. It has to be written with readers in other disciplines in mind, of length about 200 words, but certainly no more than 300 words. This paragraph starts with a 2-3 sentence basic introduction to the field; followed by a one-sentence statement of the main conclusions starting 'Here we show' or equivalent phrase; and finally, 2-3 sentences putting the main findings into general context so it is clear how the results described in the paper have moved the field forwards. Please refer to nature's annotated example to see how the summary paragraph for a Letter should be constructed[1].

Detailed information on how to format a nature letter or article is given in their formatting guide[2]. If there is a discrepancy between this template and the formatting guide, you should follow the formatting guide. At the time of creation, this template followed the guide, but there are updates periodically.

The basic composition of a Nature Letter is outlined in[3]. From the formatting guide[2], "Contributions should be double-spaced and written in English (spellings as in the Oxford English Dictionary). Sections can only be used in Articles. Contributions should be organized in the sequence: title, text, methods, references, Supplementary Information line (if any), acknowledgements, author contributions, author information (containing data deposition statement, competing interest

declaration and corresponding author line), tables, figure legends." The file that controls the order of items is `nature-template.tex`. This file is extremely short and it calls other files for content `abstract.tex`, `methods.tex`, `body.tex`, `suppmat.tex`. The purpose of this file structure is to allow facile and rapid transition to other journal templates without a lot of extra work. The overall strategy of this template file-structure is to work on the individual files, allowing different people to work on different files, having the ability to switch journals easily, and produce a single PDF file for the submission.

Based on the composition order of sections, you would assume the figure legends and the figures have to go at the end of the submission. The nature submission guidelines are actually not very clear on this issue, but historically that is what people have done–move the figures to the end. The guidelines for scientific reports[4] and communications[5] do say expressly that "the figures may be inserted within the text at the appropriate positions, or grouped at the end.". This template defaults to putting the figures at the end of the text, by using the endfloat package, but you can modify this behavior by commenting out the endfloat package line in the file: `preamble.tex`. In general, the properties of the document are specified in three documents: `nature.cls`, `preamble.tex`, and `preamble_optional.tex`. The file `nature.cls` provides the maketitle command, and new environments for affiliations, abstract, methods, and addendum. The heading for References and Supplementary Information are handled in-text within the template. The file `preamble.tex` handles spacing, packages, figure placement, caption formatting, bibliography formatting, and the file `preamble_optional.tex` includes extra packages: todonotes, ulem, rotating, soul, color, and special custom commands for working on the document with multiple people: `\NEW`, `\NOTE`, `\NOTEC`, `\NOTEM`. It also provides two special symbols: `\Conv`, `\xoverline`.

The NOTE commands allow you to type comments that are color coded on the side of the text. For example, `\NOTEC{A comment by Carlos}`, or `\NOTEM{A comment by Morga`

A comment by Carlos

A comment by Morgane

These comments show up on the side margin, in different colors. If you have a favorite color, feel free to make yourself a NOTE command with a different color in the preamble, or just use `\NOTE{A generic comment}`, which will give you orange. The idea is to ask everyone to flag to-do notes with these instead of leaving them in the middle of the text, where they require reading to find them. You don't want to forget one and submit an XXX error, right?

A generic comment

The figure label at the beginning of figure captions that has been turned off using the caption package in the preamble, which means that you have to create the figure label yourself and body-figure has been provided as a convinience function. Inside the caption environment, you have to use `\bodyfigurelabel{fig:whateverlabel}`, where the argument is the same as what you normally put into a label command. Do not call a normal label comment. The placement of this function at the beginning of the caption is important, too, since its output is the header text for the caption. This command works using a custom figure counter, which interacts with the reference command as you would expect—for example, you still can refer to Fig. 1 using the standard ref commands. The purpose of this feature is to enable you to have control over whether a figure is labelled part of the main text or of the Extended Data. A separate command `\edfigurelabel{fig:anotherlabel}` is provided for use with Extended Data. The figure counter is reset prior to calling the file `suppmat.tex`, so that you can continue to use ref/label commands to refer to Extended Data Figures. Check out the dummy Extended Data for this feature at work.

You should be prepared to provide high-resolution versions of images: "all digitized images submitted with the final revision of the manuscript must be of high quality and have resolutions of at least 300 d.p.i. for colour, 600 d.p.i. for greyscale and 1,200 d.p.i. for line art"[6]. Basic guidelines to keep in mind are: all text should be in a sans-serif typeface, preferably Helvetica or Arial. Do not rasterize line art or text in submitted figure—this means that you have to use vector

graphics for all numbers, lines, and axes for your figures. Most figures of the variety of scatter plots of X vs Y plots should be tiny files under 1 MB of fully vector graphics content. Images, such as raw data from microscopy, or raw satellite data, have to prescribe to the dpi quality limits. 3D renderings are tricky because many could be done in vector graphics. If the 3D rendering is rasterized, then it has to match the resolution requirements. See the final artwork policy[7] for more details. Minimum text size is 5pt. Lines must be between 0.25pt and 1pt. Single column figures must be 89mm in width, double column figures must be 183mm in width. See Fig. 1 for a two-column dummy figure and Fig. 2 for a single-column dummy figure. To have uniform text and fonts for all your figures, you have to create your figures to match theses size rather than resizing the figures to fit the column size. Typically, you want to have three or four figures for a Letter.

Methods

Methods go here. This section should not exceed 3000 words, and it cannot contain figures or tables. References in the methods section do not count towards the references limit in the main text. The references in this section should be numbered sequentially starting with the last reference in the main text.

You can either install this template permanently in your latex path, or you can just put all the files in the same folder as the `nature-template.tex` file. I recommend the latter.

References

[1] Nature. Annotated bold paragraph (2014). URL http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/gta/2c_Summary_para.pdf.

[2] Nature. Manuscript formatting guide (2014). URL http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/gta/.

[3] Nature. Composition of a letter (2014). URL `http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/gta/3g_Paper_composition.pdf`.

[4] Nature. Nature scientific reports guidelines (2014). URL `http://www.nature.com/srep/authors/submit.html`.

[5] Nature. Nature communications guidelines (2014). URL `http://www.nature.com/ncomms/authors/submit.html#Figure-legends`.

[6] Nature. Nature image policies (2014). URL `http://www.nature.com/authors/policies/image.html`.

[7] Nature. Nature final artwork policies (2014). URL `http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/gta/3c_Final_artwork.pdf`.

[8] Nature. Nature supplementary info guidelines (2014). URL `http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/suppinfo.html`.

Competing Interests The authors declare that they have no competing financial interests.

Correspondence Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to name@awesomeuni.edu.

Supplementary Information

This Supplementary Information file contains data and additional methods in support of the paper. We will assume you want sections.

1   Issue ABC

The Supplementary Information is all-text, but it can refer to figures in the Extended Data. For example, look at the awesome Extended Data Fig. 1, which is correctly referenced as the first figure by the figure counter. A maximum of ten Extended Data display items (figures and tables) is permitted.

The template is set up to print all the references in the main references, based on[8] "Please note that we do not encourage deposition of references within SI as they will not be live links and will not contribute towards citation measures for the papers concerned. Authors who nevertheless wish to post reference lists should continue the numbering from the last reference listed in the print version, rather than repeating the numbering in the print version." If, for whatever reason, you decide that you want to have the references print inside Supplementary Information, the solution here: `http://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/66778/` `citation-alias-with-multibib-and-natbib` should be able to be implemented with this template using natbib and multibib.

2   Important Issue XYZ

Look, we're in a new section. It has an awesome Extended Data Fig. 2, which is correctly referenced as the second figure by the figure counter.
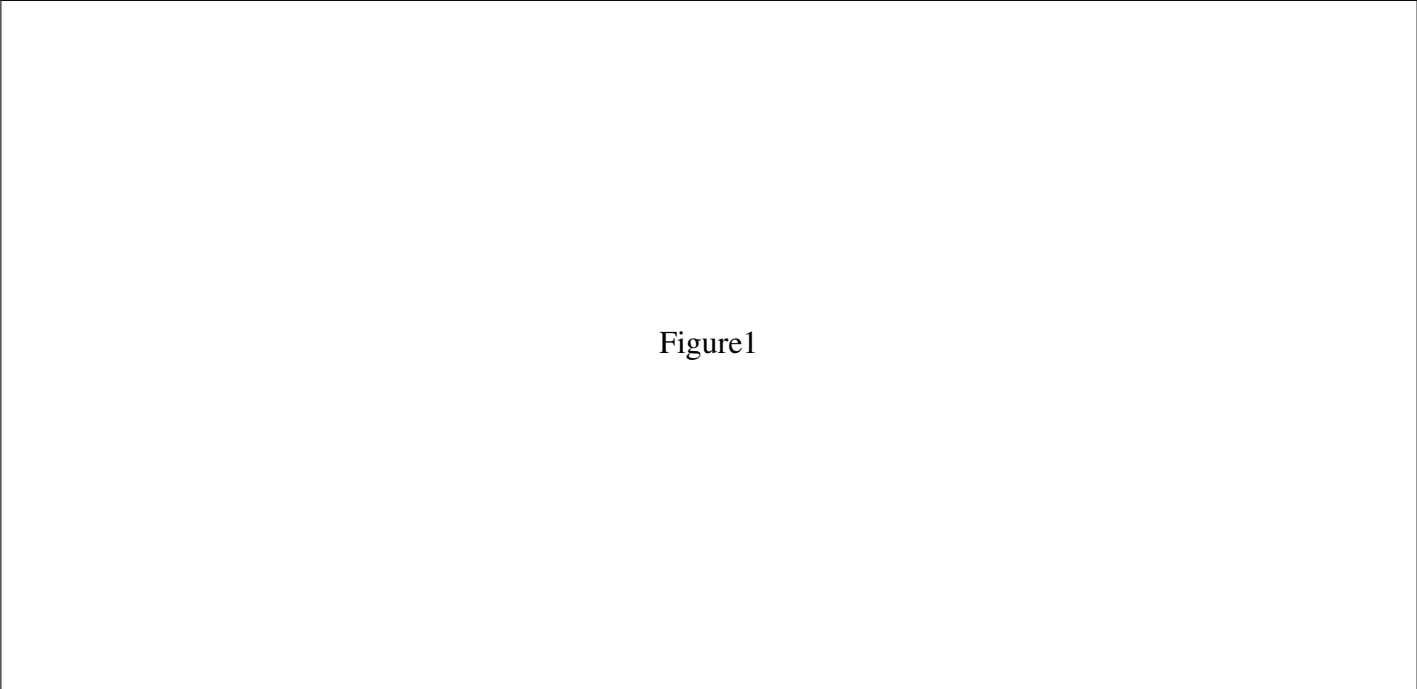
Figure1

Figure 1: Dummy Two-Column Figure and Legend (caption). Each figure legend should begin with a brief title for the whole figure and continue with a short description of each panel and the symbols used. For contributions with methods sections, legends should not contain any details of methods, or exceed 100 words (fewer than 500 words in total for the whole paper). In contributions without methods sections, legends should be fewer than 300 words (800 words or fewer in total for the whole paper)[2].
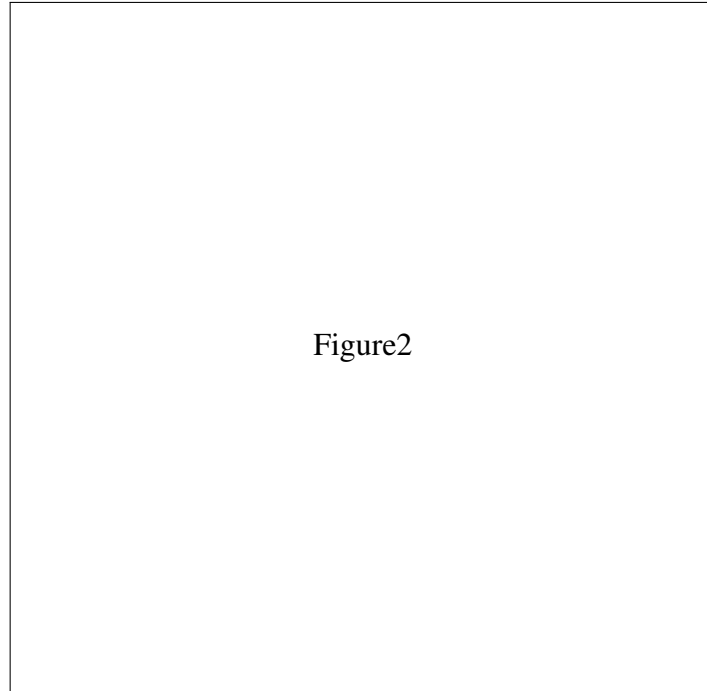
Figure 2: Dummy Single-Column Figure and Legend (caption). Each figure legend should begin with a brief title for the whole figure and continue with a short description of each panel and the symbols used. For contributions with methods sections, legends should not contain any details of methods, or exceed 100 words (fewer than 500 words in total for the whole paper). In contributions without methods sections, legends should be fewer than 300 words (800 words or fewer in total for the whole paper)[2].

Extended Data Figure 1: Dummy caption. Note, Extended Data Figures are all two-column.

ExtendedData2

Extended Data Figure 2: Dummy Caption. Note, Extended Data Figures are all two-column.