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# Formatting Instructions For NeurIPS 2020

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Affiliation

Address

email

## Abstract

The abstract paragraph should be indented  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (3 picas) on both the left- and right-hand margins. Use 10 point type, with a vertical spacing (leading) 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 NeurIPS 2020

NeurIPS requires electronic submissions. The electronic submission site is

<https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/NeurIPS2020/>

Please read the instructions below carefully and follow them faithfully.

### 1.1 Style

Papers to be submitted to NeurIPS 2020 must be prepared according to the instructions presented here. Papers may only be up to eight pages long, including figures. Additional pages *containing only a section on the broader impact, acknowledgments and/or cited references* are allowed. Papers that exceed eight pages of content will not be reviewed, or in any other way considered for presentation at the conference.

The margins in 2020 are the same as those in 2007, which allow for  $\sim 15\%$  more words in the paper compared to earlier years.

Authors are required to use the NeurIPS L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X style files obtainable at the NeurIPS 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 NeurIPS and other conference information are available on the World Wide Web at

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

The file `neurips_2020.pdf` contains these instructions and illustrates the various formatting requirements your NeurIPS paper must satisfy.

The only supported style file for NeurIPS 2020 is `neurips_2020.sty`, rewritten for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>. **Previous style files for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09, Microsoft Word, and RTF are no longer supported!**

The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X style file contains three optional arguments: `final`, which creates a camera-ready copy, `preprint`, which creates a preprint for submission to, e.g., arXiv, and `nonatbib`, which will not load the `natbib` package for you in case of package clash.

30 **Preprint option** If you wish to post a preprint of your work online, e.g., on arXiv, using the  
31 NeurIPS style, please use the `preprint` option. This will create a nonanonymized version of your  
32 work with the text “Preprint. Work in progress.” in the footer. This version may be distributed as  
33 you see fit. Please **do not** use the `final` option, which should **only** be used for papers accepted to  
34 NeurIPS.

35 At submission time, please omit the `final` and `preprint` options. This will anonymize your  
36 submission and add line numbers to aid review. Please do *not* refer to these line numbers in your  
37 paper as they will be removed during generation of camera-ready copies.

38 The file `neurips_2020.tex` may be used as a “shell” for writing your paper. All you have to do is  
39 replace the author, title, abstract, and text of the paper with your own.

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

## 42 **2 General formatting instructions**

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

47 The paper title should be 17 point, initial caps/lower case, bold, centered between two horizontal  
48 rules. The top rule should be 4 points thick and the bottom rule should be 1 point thick. Allow 1/4 inch  
49 space above and below the title to rules. All pages should start at 1 inch (6 picas) from the top of the  
50 page.

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

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

## 57 **3 Headings: first level**

58 All headings should be lower case (except for first word and proper nouns), flush left, and bold.

59 First-level headings should be in 12-point type.

### 60 **3.1 Headings: second level**

61 Second-level headings should be in 10-point type.

#### 62 **3.1.1 Headings: third level**

63 Third-level headings should be in 10-point type.

64 **Paragraphs** There is also a `\paragraph` command available, which sets the heading in bold, flush  
65 left, and inline with the text, with the heading followed by 1 em of space.

## 66 **4 Citations, figures, tables, references**

67 These instructions apply to everyone.



Figure 1: Sample figure caption.

#### 68 4.1 Citations within the text

69 The `natbib` package will be loaded for you by default. Citations may be author/year or numeric, as  
70 long as you maintain internal consistency. As to the format of the references themselves, any style is  
71 acceptable as long as it is used consistently.

72 The documentation for `natbib` may be found at

73 `http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/natbib/natnotes.pdf`

74 Of note is the command `\citet`, which produces citations appropriate for use in inline text. For  
75 example,

76 `\citet{hasselmo}` investigated\dots

77 produces

78 Hasselmo, et al. (1995) investigated...

79 If you wish to load the `natbib` package with options, you may add the following before loading the  
80 `neurips_2020` package:

81 `\PassOptionsToPackage{options}{natbib}`

82 If `natbib` clashes with another package you load, you can add the optional argument `nonatbib`  
83 when loading the style file:

84 `\usepackage[nonatbib]{neurips_2020}`

85 As submission is double blind, refer to your own published work in the third person. That is, use “In  
86 the previous work of Jones et al. [4],” not “In our previous work [4].” If you cite your other papers  
87 that are not widely available (e.g., a journal paper under review), use anonymous author names in the  
88 citation, e.g., an author of the form “A. Anonymous.”

#### 89 4.2 Footnotes

90 Footnotes should be used sparingly. If you do require a footnote, indicate footnotes with a number<sup>1</sup>  
91 in the text. Place the footnotes at the bottom of the page on which they appear. Precede the footnote  
92 with a horizontal rule of 2 inches (12 picas).

93 Note that footnotes are properly typeset *after* punctuation marks.<sup>2</sup>

#### 94 4.3 Figures

95 All artwork must be neat, clean, and legible. Lines should be dark enough for purposes of reproduction.  
96 The figure number and caption always appear after the figure. Place one line space before the figure

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<sup>1</sup>Sample of the first footnote.

<sup>2</sup>As in this example.

Table 1: Sample table title

Part		
Name	Description	Size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
Dendrite	Input terminal	$\sim 100$
Axon	Output terminal	$\sim 10$
Soma	Cell body	up to $10^6$

caption and one line space after the figure. The figure caption should be lower case (except for first word and proper nouns); figures are numbered consecutively.

You may use color figures. However, it is best for the figure captions and the paper body to be legible if the paper is printed in either black/white or in color.

#### 4.4 Tables

All tables must be centered, neat, clean and legible. The table number and title always appear before the table. See Table 1.

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

Note that publication-quality tables *do not contain vertical rules*. We strongly suggest the use of the booktabs package, which allows for typesetting high-quality, professional tables:

<https://www.ctan.org/pkg/booktabs>

This package was used to typeset Table 1.

## 5 Final instructions

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

## 6 Preparing PDF files

Please prepare submission files with paper size “US Letter,” and not, for example, “A4.”

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

- You should directly generate PDF files using `pdflatex`.
- You can check which fonts a PDF files uses. In Acrobat Reader, select the menu Files>Document Properties>Fonts and select Show All Fonts. You can also use the program `pdffonts` which comes with `xpdf` and is available out-of-the-box on most Linux machines.
- The IEEE has recommendations for generating PDF files whose fonts are also acceptable for NeurIPS. Please see <http://www.emfield.org/icuwb2010/downloads/IEEE-PDF-SpecV32.pdf>
- `xfig` “patterned” shapes are implemented with bitmap fonts. Use “solid” shapes instead.
- The `\bbo1d` package almost always uses bitmap fonts. You should use the equivalent AMS Fonts:

`\usepackage{amsfonts}`

followed by, e.g., `\mathbb{R}`, `\mathbb{N}`, or `\mathbb{C}` for  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ . You can also use the following workaround for reals, natural and complex:

```

132 \newcommand{\RR}{\mathbb{R}} %real numbers
133 \newcommand{\Nat}{\mathbb{N}} %natural numbers
134 \newcommand{\CC}{\mathbb{C}} %complex numbers

```

135 Note that `amsfonts` is automatically loaded by the `amssymb` package.

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

## 137 6.1 Margins in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

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

```

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

```

143 See Section 4.4 in the graphics bundle documentation ([http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/](http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/latex/required/graphics/grfguide.pdf)  
 144 [latex/required/graphics/grfguide.pdf](http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/latex/required/graphics/grfguide.pdf))

145 A number of width problems arise when L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X cannot properly hyphenate a line. Please give LaTeX  
 146 hyphenation hints using the `\-` command when necessary.

## 147 Broader Impact

148 Authors are required to include a statement of the broader impact of their work, including its ethical  
 149 aspects and future societal consequences. Authors should discuss both positive and negative outcomes,  
 150 if any. For instance, authors should discuss a) who may benefit from this research, b) who may be  
 151 put at disadvantage from this research, c) what are the consequences of failure of the system, and d)  
 152 whether the task/method leverages biases in the data. If authors believe this is not applicable to them,  
 153 authors can simply state this.

154 Use unnumbered first level headings for this section, which should go at the end of the paper. **Note**  
 155 **that this section does not count towards the eight pages of content that are allowed.**

## 156 References

157 References follow the acknowledgments. Use unnumbered first-level heading for the references. Any  
 158 choice of citation style is acceptable as long as you are consistent. It is permissible to reduce the  
 159 font size to `small` (9 point) when listing the references. **Note that the Reference section does not**  
 160 **count towards the eight pages of content that are allowed.**

161 [1] Alexander, J.A. & Mozer, M.C. (1995) Template-based algorithms for connectionist rule extraction. In  
 162 G. Tesauro, D.S. Touretzky and T.K. Leen (eds.), *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 7*, pp.  
 163 609–616. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

164 [2] Bower, J.M. & Beeman, D. (1995) *The Book of GENESIS: Exploring Realistic Neural Models with the*  
 165 *GEneral NEural Simulation System*. New York: TELOS/Springer-Verlag.

166 [3] Hasselmo, M.E., Schnell, E. & Barkai, E. (1995) Dynamics of learning and recall at excitatory recurrent  
 167 synapses and cholinergic modulation in rat hippocampal region CA3. *Journal of Neuroscience* **15**(7):5249-5262.