
Improved Noisy Softplus: an activation function that enables SNNs to be trained as ANNs

Anonymous Author(s)

Affiliation

Address

email

Abstract

1 The abstract paragraph should be indented ½ inch (3 picas) on both the left- and
2 right-hand margins. Use 10 point type, with a vertical spacing (leading) of 11 points.
3 The word **Abstract** must be centered, bold, and in point size 12. Two line spaces
4 precede the abstract. The abstract must be limited to one paragraph.

5 1 Submission of papers to NIPS 2017

6 NIPS requires electronic submissions. The electronic submission site is

7 <https://cmt.research.microsoft.com/NIPS2017/>

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

9 1.1 Style

10 Papers to be submitted to NIPS 2017 must be prepared according to the instructions presented here.
11 Papers may only be up to eight pages long, including figures. Since 2009 an additional ninth page
12 *containing only acknowledgments and/or cited references* is allowed. Papers that exceed nine pages
13 will not be reviewed, or in any other way considered for presentation at the conference.

14 The margins in 2017 are the same as since 2007, which allow for ~15% more words in the paper
15 compared to earlier years.

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

19 1.2 Retrieval of style files

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

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

22 The file `nips_2017.pdf` contains these instructions and illustrates the various formatting require-
23 ments your NIPS paper must satisfy.

24 The only supported style file for NIPS 2017 is `nips_2017.sty`, rewritten for L^AT_EX 2_ε. **Previous**
25 **style files for L^AT_EX 2.09, Microsoft Word, and RTF are no longer supported!**

26 The new L^AT_EX style file contains two optional arguments: `final`, which creates a camera-ready copy,
27 and `nonatbib`, which will not load the `natbib` package for you in case of package clash.

28 At submission time, please omit the final option. This will anonymize your submission and add
29 line numbers to aid review. Please do *not* refer to these line numbers in your paper as they will be
30 removed during generation of camera-ready copies.

31 The file `nips_2017.tex` may be used as a “shell” for writing your paper. All you have to do is
32 replace the author, title, abstract, and text of the paper with your own.

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

35 **2 General formatting instructions**

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

40 The paper title should be 17 point, initial caps/lower case, bold, centered between two horizontal
41 rules. The top rule should be 4 points thick and the bottom rule should be 1 point thick. Allow $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
42 space above and below the title to rules. All pages should start at 1 inch (6 picas) from the top of the
43 page.

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

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

50 **3 Headings: first level**

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

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

53 **3.1 Headings: second level**

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

55 **3.1.1 Headings: third level**

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

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

59 **4 Citations, figures, tables, references**

60 These instructions apply to everyone.

61 **4.1 Citations within the text**

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

65 The documentation for `natbib` may be found at

66 <http://mirrors.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/natbib/natnotes.pdf>

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

69 `\citet{hasselmo}` investigated\dotso

70 produces

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

72 If you wish to load the `natbib` package with options, you may add the following before loading the
73 `nips_2017` package:

74 `\PassOptionsToPackage{options}{natbib}`

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

77 `\usepackage[nonatbib]{nips_2017}`

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

82 4.2 Footnotes

83 Footnotes should be used sparingly. If you do require a footnote, indicate footnotes with a number¹
84 in the text. Place the footnotes at the bottom of the page on which they appear. Precede the footnote
85 with a horizontal rule of 2 inches (12 picas).

86 Note that footnotes are properly typeset *after* punctuation marks.²

87 4.3 Figures

88 All artwork must be neat, clean, and legible. Lines should be dark enough for purposes of reproduction.
89 The figure number and caption always appear after the figure. Place one line space before the figure
90 caption and one line space after the figure. The figure caption should be lower case (except for first
91 word and proper nouns); figures are numbered consecutively.

92 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.



Figure 1: Sample figure caption.

93

¹Sample of the first footnote.

²As in this example.

Table 1: Sample table title

Part		
Name	Description	Size (μm)
Dendrite	Input terminal	~ 100
Axon	Output terminal	~ 10
Soma	Cell body	up to 10^6

94 4.4 Tables

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

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

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

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

103 This package was used to typeset Table 1.

104 5 Final instructions

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

108 6 Preparing PDF files

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

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

- 112 • You should directly generate PDF files using `pdflatex`.
- 113 • You can check which fonts a PDF files uses. In Acrobat Reader, select the menu
114 Files>Document Properties>Fonts and select Show All Fonts. You can also use the program
115 `pdf fonts` which comes with `xpdf` and is available out-of-the-box on most Linux machines.
- 116 • The IEEE has recommendations for generating PDF files whose fonts are also ac-
117 ceptable for NIPS. Please see [http://www.emfield.org/icuwb2010/downloads/](http://www.emfield.org/icuwb2010/downloads/IEEE-PDF-SpecV32.pdf)
118 `IEEE-PDF-SpecV32.pdf`
- 119 • `xfig` “patterned” shapes are implemented with bitmap fonts. Use “solid” shapes instead.
- 120 • The `\bbold` package almost always uses bitmap fonts. You should use the equivalent AMS
121 Fonts:

122 `\usepackage{amsfonts}`

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

```
125 \newcommand{\RR}{\mathbb{R}} %real numbers
126 \newcommand{\Nat}{\mathbb{N}} %natural numbers
127 \newcommand{\CC}{\mathbb{C}} %complex numbers
```

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

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

130 6.1 Margins in L^AT_EX

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

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

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

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

140 Acknowledgments

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

143 References

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

148 [1] Alexander, J.A. & Mozer, M.C. (1995) Template-based algorithms for connectionist rule extraction. In
149 G. Tesauro, D.S. Touretzky and T.K. Leen (eds.), *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 7*, pp.
150 609–616. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

151 [2] Bower, J.M. & Beeman, D. (1995) *The Book of GENESIS: Exploring Realistic Neural Models with the*
152 *GENeral NEural Simulation System*. New York: TELOS/Springer-Verlag.

153 [3] Hasselmo, M.E., Schnell, E. & Barkai, E. (1995) Dynamics of learning and recall at excitatory recurrent
154 synapses and cholinergic modulation in rat hippocampal region CA3. *Journal of Neuroscience* **15**(7):5249-5262.