



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Computer
Science and Technology

Research project report title page

Candidate 1234N

“A \LaTeX template for a Master’s project report”

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Computer Science Tripos, Part III

Total page count: 15

Main chapters (excluding front-matter, references and appendix): 6 pages (pp 6–11)

Main chapters word count: 467

Methodology used to generate that word count:

[For example:

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$ make wordcount
gs -q -dSAFER -sDEVICE=txtwrite -o - \
    -dFirstPage=6 -dLastPage=11 report-submission.pdf | \
egrep '[A-Za-z]{3}' | wc -w
467
```

]

Abstract

Write a summary of the whole thing. Make sure it fits on one page.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This is the introduction where you should introduce your work. In general the thing to aim for here is to describe a little bit of the context for your work – why did you do it (motivation), what was the hoped-for outcome (aims) – as well as trying to give a brief overview of what you actually did.

It's often useful to bring forward some “highlights” into this chapter (e.g. some particularly compelling results, or a particularly interesting finding).

It's also traditional to give an outline of the rest of the document, although without care this can appear formulaic and tedious. Your call.

Chapter 2

Background

A more extensive coverage of what's required to understand your work. In general you should assume the reader has a good undergraduate degree in computer science, but is not necessarily an expert in the particular area you've been working on. Hence this chapter may need to summarize some "text book" material.

This is not something you'd normally require in an academic paper, and it may not be appropriate for your particular circumstances. Indeed, in some cases it's possible to cover all of the "background" material either in the introduction or at appropriate places in the rest of the dissertation.

Chapter 3

Related work

This chapter covers relevant (and typically, recent) research which you build upon (or improve upon). There are two complementary goals for this chapter:

1. to show that you know and understand the state of the art; and
2. to put your work in context

Ideally you can tackle both together by providing a critique of related work, and describing what is insufficient (and how you do better!)

The related work chapter should usually come either near the front or near the back of the dissertation. The advantage of the former is that you get to build the argument for why your work is important before presenting your solution(s) in later chapters; the advantage of the latter is that don't have to forward reference to your solution too much. The correct choice will depend on what you're writing up, and your own personal preference.

Chapter 4

Design and implementation

This chapter may be called something else...but in general the idea is that you have one (or a few) “meat” chapters which describe the work you did in technical detail.

Chapter 5

Evaluation

For any practical projects, you should almost certainly have some kind of evaluation, and it's often useful to separate this out into its own chapter.

Chapter 6

Summary and conclusions

As you might imagine: summarizes the dissertation, and draws any conclusions. Depending on the length of your work, and how well you write, you may not need a summary here.

You will generally want to draw some conclusions, and point to potential future work.

Bibliography

- [1] Leslie Lamport: \LaTeX – A document preparation system : User’s guide and reference manual. Addison-Wesley, 1994.
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Appendix A

Technical details, proofs, etc.

Appendices are for optional materials that is not essential to understanding the work, and that the examiners are not expected to read, but that will be of value to readers interested in additional, in-depth technical detail.

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