
Formatting Instructions For NeurIPS 2020

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Abstract

1 The abstract paragraph should be indented 1/2 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 NeurIPS 2020

6 NeurIPS requires electronic submissions. The electronic submission site is

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

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

9 1.1 Style

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

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

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

20 1.2 Retrieval of style files

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

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

23 The file `neurips_2020.pdf` contains these instructions and illustrates the various formatting re-
24 quirements your NeurIPS paper must satisfy.

25 The only supported style file for NeurIPS 2020 is `neurips_2020.sty`, rewritten for L^AT_EX 2_ε.

26 **Previous style files for L^AT_EX 2.09, Microsoft Word, and RTF are no longer supported!**

27 The L^AT_EX style file contains three optional arguments: `final`, which creates a camera-ready copy,
28 `preprint`, which creates a preprint for submission to, e.g., arXiv, and `nonatbib`, which will not
29 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.

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\dotso

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 number¹
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.²

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

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

¹Sample of the first footnote.

²As in this example.



Figure 1: Sample figure caption.

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

101 4.4 Tables

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

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

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

109 `https://www.ctan.org/pkg/booktabs`

110 This package was used to typeset Table 1.

111 5 Final instructions

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

115 6 Preparing PDF files

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

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

- 119 • You should directly generate PDF files using `pdflatex`.
- 120 • You can check which fonts a PDF files uses. In Acrobat Reader, select the menu
121 Files>Document Properties>Fonts and select Show All Fonts. You can also use the program
122 `pdffonts` which comes with `xpdf` and is available out-of-the-box on most Linux machines.

123 • The IEEE has recommendations for generating PDF files whose fonts are also ac-
124 ceptable for NeurIPS. Please see [http://www.emfield.org/icuwb2010/downloads/](http://www.emfield.org/icuwb2010/downloads/IEEE-PDF-SpecV32.pdf)
125 IEEE-PDF-SpecV32.pdf

126 • xfig "patterned" shapes are implemented with bitmap fonts. Use "solid" shapes instead.

127 • The `\bbold` package almost always uses bitmap fonts. You should use the equivalent AMS
128 Fonts:

129 `\usepackage{amsfonts}`

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

132 `\newcommand{\RR}{I\!\!R} %real numbers`

133 `\newcommand{\Nat}{I\!\!N} %natural numbers`

134 `\newcommand{\CC}{I\!\!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^AT_EX

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^AT_EX 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 font
159 size to `small` (9 point) when listing the references. **Note that the Reference section does not count**
160 **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.