Formatting Instructions for HotSoS 2027

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Abstract

This document describes the required format for papers submitted to HotSoS 2027 and serves as the paper template. The main paper is limited to four pages, including the title, authors, abstract, figures, and tables. The required AI use statement, acknowledgments, references, and appendices do not count toward this limit. The style supplies the workshop branding, title, abstract box, typography, and page numbering. Replace these instructions with your paper, choose section headings appropriate to your work, and retain the supplied formatting without modification.

Keywords: four-page papers; formatting instructions; LaTeX template

1 Preparing a HotSoS 2027 paper

Papers must use the supplied `hotsos_2027.sty` without modification. **Do not change the margins, fonts, font sizes, line spacing, paragraph spacing, heading styles, title layout, or abstract box.** Do not use negative spacing, altered page dimensions, or other layout changes to fit more text. These instructions specify presentation; they do not prescribe the research sections or organization of a paper.

1.1 Four-page limit

The main paper may occupy **at most four pages**. Count all front matter and substantive content, including optional keywords, footnotes, figures, and tables. A shorter paper need not be padded. Place `\hotsosmainmatterend` after the last main-text section and before the AI use statement. It flushes pending main-text floats, checks the limit, and starts the exempt back matter on a new page. Do not reset page numbers.

1.2 Using the template

Edit `hotsos_2027.tex`; keep the style, `references.bib`, and `assets` folder alongside it. The source is a formatting guide that authors replace with their own content. The supplied page breaks organize this guide; they need not be retained in a paper. Compile with pdfLaTeX and BibTeX, or run `latexmk -pdf hotsos_2027.tex`.

1.3 Review and accepted versions

The default mode is blind review. Use `\usepackage[review]{hotsos_2027}` explicitly if preferred. For an accepted paper, use `\usepackage[accepted]{hotsos_2027}`; the supplied `hotsos_2027_final.tex` wrapper does this without editing the main source. Retain a single mode selection. Table 1 summarizes the behavior; the AI use statement is required in both versions.

2 General formatting

Use US Letter paper (8.5 by 11 inches), not A4. The text area is 5.7 inches wide by 8.8 inches high, with 1.4-inch side margins and 1.1-inch top and bottom margins. Body text is 10-point Times-family type with 11-point leading. Paragraphs have no indentation and are separated by 5.5 points. All of these settings are supplied by the style and must be preserved. The workshop notice appears only on the first page; subsequent pages carry only the page number.

2.1 Title, branding, and authors

Use the ordinary `\title` and `\author` commands. The title is centered in 17-point bold type; the workshop logo appears above it. The author block centers bold names above normal-weight affiliations and email addresses. Separate author blocks with `\And` to allow wrapping, or `\AND` to start a new row:

```
\author{First Author\\First Institution\\
        \texttt{first@example.org}
        \And
        Second Author\\Second Institution\\
        \texttt{second@example.org}}
```

Shared affiliations can use a single block, with names on one line and affiliations below. Use `\thanks` for author notes; put funding and other acknowledgments in the back matter. The style suppresses authors, author notes, and the `ack` environment in blind review mode.

2.2 Abstract and keywords

Write one self-contained paragraph in the standard `abstract` environment. The style supplies the full-width pale lavender box and its heading. Keep the abstract on the first page; do not add another box or adjust its padding. Optional `\hotsoskeywords{...}` text appears inside the box below the abstract. Omit that command if keywords are not needed.

2.3 Document modes and anonymity

Choose one mode. Companion options such as `nonatbib` can be combined with it. The `final` option is an alias for `accepted`.

Table 1. Document modes. The default is anonymous review.

Mode	Behavior
`review`	Anonymous authors; acknowledgments hidden; line numbers.
`accepted`	Authors and acknowledgments shown; no line numbers.
`nonanonymous`	Named review copy with line numbers, if requested.
`preprint`	Named copy labeled as a preprint; no line numbers.

For review, omit or comment out acknowledgments and remove identifying content from the text, AI statement, figures, URLs, and supplementary files. The style clears the PDF author field in anonymous mode; authors must still check the complete PDF for identifying information. Review line numbers exclude the title and abstract. Never refer to those line numbers in a paper.

2.4 Headings

Choose headings that suit the paper. Use sentence case except for proper nouns. `\section` produces a 12-point bold heading; `\subsection` and `\subsubsection` use 10-point bold headings. The `\paragraph` command produces a bold run-in heading. Do not redefine these commands.

3 Citations, mathematics, figures, and tables

3.1 Citations and bibliography

The style loads `natbib`. Use author–year or numeric citations consistently. `\citet{key}` gives a narrative citation, such as Saltzer and Schroeder [1975]; `\citep{key}` gives a parenthetical citation. Pass citation options before loading the style:

```
\PassOptionsToPackage{numbers,sort&compress}{natbib}
\usepackage{hotsos_2027}
```

For another bibliography package, use the `nonatbib` option and configure the replacement. In anonymous review, cite your published work in the third person; follow the workshop policy for nonpublic self-citations. The bibliography command supplies its own heading. Do not add a duplicate `\section*{References}`. Consistent 9-point reference text is permitted.

3.2 Mathematics and footnotes

Use `\[...\]`, `equation`, or AMS environments such as `align` for display mathematics, rather than `$$...$$`. Define symbols and cross-reference numbered equations with `\label` and `\eqref`. For example,

$$\widehat{p} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{1}\{E_i\}. \tag{1}$$

Load `amsfonts` or `amssymb` for symbols such as $\mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbb{N}$. Use numbered footnotes sparingly, with markers after punctuation.[1]

3.3 Figures

Number figures consecutively and place captions *below* the artwork. Make labels legible at final size. Use patterns, labels, or distinct line styles so that color is not the only way to distinguish information. Scale graphics relative to `\linewidth`, preserving the aspect ratio:

```
\begin{figure}[ht]
  \centering
  \includegraphics[width=0.8\linewidth]{figure.pdf}
  \caption{A self-contained description of the figure.}
  \label{fig:example}
\end{figure}
```

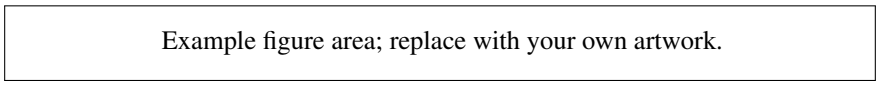


Figure 1. A layout example. The caption belongs below the figure.

3.4 Tables

Center and number tables; place captions *above* them. Use `tabular` inside a `table` environment, with `\caption` before the table and `\label` immediately after the caption. Use `booktabs` horizontal rules and omit vertical rules, as in Table 1. Retain the template's caption spacing. Keep all figures, tables, equations, and captions within the text margins.

[1] Footnotes use the size and separation supplied by the style and count toward the four-page main-paper limit.

4 Preparing the PDF and back matter

4.1 Build and inspect

Generate the PDF with pdfLaTeX. Upload the complete package when using an online LaTeX editor and select `hotsos_2027.tex` for review, or `hotsos_2027_final.tex` for the accepted version. Keep the relative asset paths. The recommended build command is `latexmk -pdf hotsos_2027.tex`. Without `latexmk`, run:

```
pdflatex hotsos_2027.tex
bibtex hotsos_2027
pdflatex hotsos_2027.tex
pdflatex hotsos_2027.tex
```

Resolve undefined references, missing citations or graphics, and overfull boxes. Inspect every page. Give difficult words a hyphenation hint with `\-`. Shorten or reorganize oversized content instead of shrinking fonts, changing margins, or inserting negative spacing.

4.2 Fonts, paper size, and print quality

Embed all fonts. Prefer scalable Type 1, TrueType, or OpenType fonts and avoid Type 3 bitmap fonts. Check PDF font properties or run `pdffonts hotsos_2027.pdf`. Confirm with `pdfinfo` that the page size is 612 by 792 points (US Letter). Check figures and the abstract in grayscale. Retain the supplied colors unless the organizers distribute an alternative; the `monochrome` option is for that purpose.

4.3 Required AI use statement

Every paper must include an unnumbered **AI use statement**, including review submissions. Place `\subsection*{AI use statement}` immediately after `\hotsosmainmatterend`, before acknowledgments. This section is **required** and does **not** count toward the four-page limit.

Adapt the sample statement on the next page to the actual use of generative AI. Replace every bracketed placeholder, report the applicable required and recommended disclosures, and explain how AI-assisted work was checked. The workshop's AI policy determines which tasks fall in each category; this template does not define that taxonomy. If no generative AI tools were used, state that explicitly. Preserve anonymity in the review version.

4.4 Acknowledgments, references, and appendices

The exempt back matter is ordered as follows: AI use statement, acknowledgments (accepted version only), references, then appendices. Use the `ack` environment for acknowledgments, including relevant funding and support. **Omit or comment out this section in the review version to preserve anonymity.** The style also hides the environment automatically in anonymous review mode as a safeguard.

Use `\appendix` before the first appendix section. Additional proofs, methods, and results may go there, while the main paper must stand on its own. All exempt sections retain the same layout and continuous page numbers. Do not move substantive main-text content into a disclosure section.

4.5 Submission check

Confirm the correct mode, a main paper of at most four pages, a completed AI use statement, anonymity where required, embedded fonts, legible figures and tables, and resolved references. The style counts pages when it reaches `\hotsosmainmatterend`, including any pending main-text floats. It warns if the count exceeds four; it does not shorten the paper for you. If the boundary is missing, the entire document is counted conservatively.

AI use statement

(This section is **required** and does not count toward the page limit.)

Replace the bracketed fields below with truthful, paper-specific disclosures. Remove these instructions from your submission. The statement must remain anonymous during review.

In this work, we used generative AI tools for *[tasks with required disclosure]*. We have not used generative AI tools for *[other tasks with required disclosure]*, and *[the rest of the required disclosure tasks]* are not applicable to this work. Additionally, we used generative AI tools for *[tasks with recommended disclosure]*. We have reviewed all AI-assisted work. *[Elaborate. For example, "we checked LLM-generated research ideas for potential plagiarism through a manual literature survey", "LLM-generated code was verified and tested for correctness by two authors", "all LLM-assisted proofs were checked line by line by the authors", etc.]*. We take responsibility for the final content of this work, including text, claims, or artifacts produced with the aid of generative AI.

References

Jerome H. Saltzer and Michael D. Schroeder. The protection of information in computer systems. *Proceedings of the IEEE*, 63(9):1278–1308, 1975. doi: 10.1109/PROC.1975.9939.

A Minimal document structure

This outline shows the required placement of the AI use statement and the main-text boundary. The section names within the main paper are chosen by the authors. Supporting appendices are optional and do not count toward the four-page limit.

```
\documentclass[10pt,letterpaper]{article}
\usepackage{hotsos_2027} % blind review by default
% Use [accepted] instead for an accepted paper.
\usepackage[hidelinks]{hyperref}
\title{Your paper title}
\author{Author Name\\Institution}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
\begin{abstract}
A single-paragraph summary of the paper.
\end{abstract}
\section{Your section heading}
Main paper: at most four pages. Example citation:
\citep{saltzer1975protection}.

\hotsosmainmatterend
\subsection*{AI use statement}
Your completed AI use statement is required here.

% Accepted version only; omit or comment out for review.
\begin{ack}
Your acknowledgments.
\end{ack}
\bibliographystyle{plainnat}
\bibliography{references}
\appendix
\section{Additional details}
Optional supporting material.
\end{document}
```

B Further formatting help

For package-specific details, consult the official documentation for `tcolorbox`, `natbib`, `booktabs`, and `graphicx`.

The supplied `README.md` explains how to build the paper and use the package. Workshop settings are recorded in `ORGANIZER_NOTES.md`.