The Art and Science of \LaTeX{} Posters

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Abstract

\LaTeX{} is awesome! You should definitely use it to make your poster. In principle, anything that you could do in an article typeset in \LaTeX{} you could also do in a poster. This template contains examples of how display various types of content on a \LaTeX{} poster. This template only serves a suggestion about how to organize and present your research using \LaTeX{}. This poster has more words than yours should.

This maybe the only section of your poster that your viewer remembers, so make it count.

Introduction, Motivation, and Background

The goal of this section is to tell a story that leads the reader guess your research question is before you write it. This is best accomplished by starting from some general topic that most people in CS are already aware of and then bringing in additional facts and context that lead to your specific problem. This could take a while. You should include some citations backing up your claim so that the viewer is aware you’re not just making up “facts”. You might use a figure to drive your point home.

You might even use a figure to make your point. In principle, anything that you could do in an article typeset in \LaTeX{} you could also do in a poster. This template contains examples of how display various types of content on a \LaTeX{} poster. This template only serves a suggestion about how to organize and present your research using \LaTeX{}. This poster has more words than yours should.

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Example of how not to write your introduction [2].

Talk about what other scientists have done, in a way that will make it easy to determine what is the similar and different about what you’re doing.

By the end of your introduction, the viewer is chomping at the bit to know what your research question is, you shouldn’t disappoint them.

Figure 1: Example of how not to write your introduction [2].

Methods

Here you should outline your approach for answering your research question. While this can be handled in prose, it can be done more effectively as

- a list,
- an outline,
- an algorithm, or
- a diagram.

It’s good to talk about important assumptions you may be making, or the rationale behind your experiment’s design. You should also talk about any data sets or software you might be using.

Figure 2: Diagram of science inaction. Mouseover Text: The rat’s perturbed; it must sense nanobots! Code grey! We have a Helvetica sequence!

Results

Here you describe the results of following your methodology. In CSC 498, you may not have too much of these. You probably have some preliminary ones, discuss those here. You might talk about difficulties encountered while following your method. It should be clear from this section and the methods section what you actually did. Tables and graphs are appropriate here. Make sure to title, label axes, and give units where necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Data (Gb)</th>
<th>Poster Size (Mb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>300.130</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.092</td>
<td>0.296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Amount of data generated and poster size for four imaginary senior project students. * indicates data usage before CSC account suspended.

Analysis

Discuss how you analyzed your data. For particularly complex analyses you might include an algorithm or equations describing them.

Figure 3: Algorithm for making \LaTeX{} posters. Warning: This algorithm may not halt!

For CSC 498, you likely will talk about how your plans to analyze your data and evaluate your project.

Conclusions

Here you describe what conclusions the audience should reach from your analysis. Did you answer your research question? Discuss any threats to validity in your method, data, or analysis, or any assumptions that were important to reach your conclusions. What would you do differently if you could do it again, or work on this project for another term (or in graduate school)? For example, I’d like to add a \texttt{tikz} example to this poster like the one below.

For CSC 498, this is more likely to be a todo list or sequence of milestones for completing the project in CSC 498.

Acknowledgments

This section is optional. Here you should thank anyone other than your advisor that provided help to you in your project. This can be other students, faculty, or staff. If you received an SRG to complete your project that should be mentioned here.

For example, I’d like to thank my colleagues for giving me feedback on my drafts of this poster template, and David Frey for making sure it will print appropriately.

Questions

- How many CSC students will develop their senior thesis posters in \LaTeX{}?

References


https://xkcd.com/683/