IEEE: Citation and Formatting Guide

Note: These reference guides do not take the place of assignment guidelines

IEEE format and citation style is used in engineering and its subset focus areas. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers created IEEE and based it on Chicago Style Manual’s end-notes citation style. Below is an overview of IEEE formatting, along with examples of how to cite commonly used sources.

Helpful Hints for IEEE Formatting

- IEEE references are formatted in 9-point, Times New Roman font and single spaced at the end of the paper.
- In-text citations are indicated with a superscript number in [brackets] that matches the corresponding source on your references page. The superscript goes at the end of the sentence, before the period.
- Reference numbers are used to organize the reference page, and refer to the order in which the references first appear in the text. Reference numbers are set flush left and form a column of their own, beyond the body of the reference. The reference numbers are on the line, enclosed in square brackets (see examples below).
- In all references, first names and middle names of authors and editors should be converted to initials only, followed by the last name. Place commas after Jr., Sr., and III in names. (ex. R. B. Stewart Jr., H. N. Roberts III, “Title of work”...)
- When citing IEEE Transactions, if the month is not available, the number may be kept, although it is normally deleted. Keep the day of the month when referencing a patent.
- If there is a URL included with the print reference, it can be included at the end of the reference.
- Citations for papers that have not been published yet should be cited based on their publication status at the end of the citation, as either “unpublished,” “submitted for publication,” or “to be published.”
- Names of conference technical articles should be abbreviated by first abbreviating all words that appear in the Conference Title Abbreviations Chart, and then by removing all remaining prepositions. For example, Proceedings of the Second Annual Symposium on Grammar and Style would become Proc. 2nd Annu. Symp. Grammar and Style (go to page 7 for list of abbreviations: https://www.ieee.org/documents/ieeecitationref.pdf)
- Names of IEEE Periodicals should be abbreviated using the IEEE Periodicals Abbreviations Chart (go to page 5 for list of abbreviations: https://www.ieee.org/documents/ieeecitationref.pdf)
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- For papers published in translated journals, give the English citations first, followed by the original foreign-language citation.

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