GUIDE · RESEARCH PAPERS

IEEE paper format, *explained*

IEEE paper format is the two-column layout set by IEEE's official Word and LaTeX (IEEEtran) templates: **10 pt Times body text, a 24 pt title, Roman-numeral section headings, "Fig. 1." captions below figures and "TABLE I" captions above tables**.

Last updated 2026-11-17

Looking for the official template? Journal authors use IEEE's Template Selector; conference authors use the conference template. Formatting a table? See the IEEE table format example. References are numbered in square brackets in the order you first cite them, with initials before surnames. Start from the official Word or LaTeX template, then follow your conference's call for papers for the page limit, paper size and review rules. Still choosing one? See our list of upcoming conferences in India with IEEE and Springer proceedings.

Download the official IEEE templates

Word (.docx, US Letter or A4) and LaTeX, for conferences: IEEE conference templates

LaTeX in the browser: IEEE Conference Template on Overleaf

IEEE journals and magazines: IEEE Template Selector

KEY POINTS

- **Two columns.** A published IEEE paper is never single column; a single-column file is only a review draft.
- **Body text is Times (Times New Roman in Word) at 10 pt.** The title is 24 pt, author names 11 pt, the abstract and Index Terms 9 pt bold, and captions and references 8 pt.
- **Captions:** "Fig. 1." goes below the figure, and "TABLE I", in Roman numerals, goes above the table.
- **References are numbered in square brackets** in the order you first cite them, with initials before surnames.
- **Use IEEE's official Word or LaTeX template** and leave its margins, fonts and spacing as they are. Your conference's call for papers sets the page limit and the paper size.

What is the IEEE paper format?

It is the page design IEEE uses for its conference proceedings and journals, delivered as ready-made templates. You do not build the layout yourself: you paste your content into the template and use its styles. The table below lists what the conference template produces, so you can check a draft against it.

IEEE conference paper format at a glance

ELEMENT	IEEE FORMAT
Paper size	US Letter (8.5 × 11 in) or A4 (210 × 297 mm). IEEE offers Word templates in both; use the size your conference asks for.
Layout	Two columns. The title and author block run across the full width. A published IEEE paper is never single column; see below.
Columns and margins	Columns about 88 mm (3.5 in) wide with a gap of about 4.2 mm. Top margin 19 mm (0.75 in), with a deeper bottom margin. The template fixes these: do not change them.
Body text	Times (Times New Roman in Word), 10 pt, justified.
Title	24 pt, centred. No symbols, special characters, footnotes or maths, and no subtitle.
Authors	Names in 11 pt; below each, department, organisation, city, country and email or ORCID.
Abstract	9 pt bold, starting "*Abstract*—". One paragraph with no equations, citations or footnotes.

ELEMENT	IEEE FORMAT
Index Terms	9 pt bold, starting "*Index Terms*—", followed by your keywords.
Headings	I. INTRODUCTION (Roman numeral, centred small capitals) › *A. Dataset* (italic, flush left) › *1) Preprocessing:* (italic, run into the paragraph)
Figures	Caption in 8 pt below the figure: "Fig. 1. Caption."
Tables	Caption in 8 pt above the table: "TABLE I" with the title in small capitals under it.
Equations	Numbered consecutively, (1), (2), flush with the right margin.
References	8 pt, numbered [1], [2] in order of first citation. "References" and "Acknowledgment" headings are not numbered.
Page numbers	None. Conference mode leaves headers and footers empty.

Sizes and spacing are those of IEEE's IEEEtran LaTeX class in conference mode at 10 pt, with heading and caption rules from the IEEE Editorial Style Manual. Your conference's call for papers overrides anything here.

Where do you download the IEEE paper format template in Word or LaTeX?

Download it fresh for every paper. A file passed down from a senior may be years out of date, and conferences sometimes publish their own adjusted version.

- **Conference papers:** IEEE's conference templates page has the Word template in US Letter and A4, and the LaTeX template.
- **LaTeX online:** the IEEE paper template on Overleaf needs no installation and suits co-authors editing together.
- **Journals and magazines:** the IEEE Template Selector gives the right template for each IEEE periodical.
- **The class file itself:** IEEEtran on CTAN, with the "How to use IEEEtran" guide.

Word or LaTeX? Word is fine for a short paper with few equations. LaTeX handles equations, cross-references and long reference lists better, and BibTeX formats references for you. Either way, keep the template's styles and class options as they are.

How do you format a paper in IEEE style, step by step?

1. **Read the call for papers**
   Note the page limit, paper size, template link, whether review is double-blind, and any word limit on the abstract.
2. **Write the content first**
   IEEE's template advises finishing and editing your text as a separate file before you format it.
3. **Move it into the template**
   Paste section by section and apply the template's styles. In LaTeX, let IEEEtran number the headings.
4. **Place figures and tables**
   Put each one after its first mention, at the top or bottom of a column. Wide ones may span both columns.
5. **Finish and check the PDF**
   Complete the references, delete every line of template guidance text, and run the PDF through IEEE PDF eXpress if your conference uses it.

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Research paper format: the sections of an IEEE paper

IEEE's style manual gives this order for articles. The body headings in between are yours to choose, but most engineering papers follow a pattern like the one shown. Many journals outside IEEE ask for a similar research paper format; what changes is the heading style and the reference format, so always check the author guidelines of the journal you choose.

For engineering students the same order is the research paper format most colleges and Indian conferences ask for: title, abstract, keywords, introduction, related work, method, results, conclusion and references. Writing a review (survey) paper instead of a results paper? It uses the same IEEE template with different sections: a review method, a taxonomy and a comparison table. See our review paper format guide, with a free Word template.

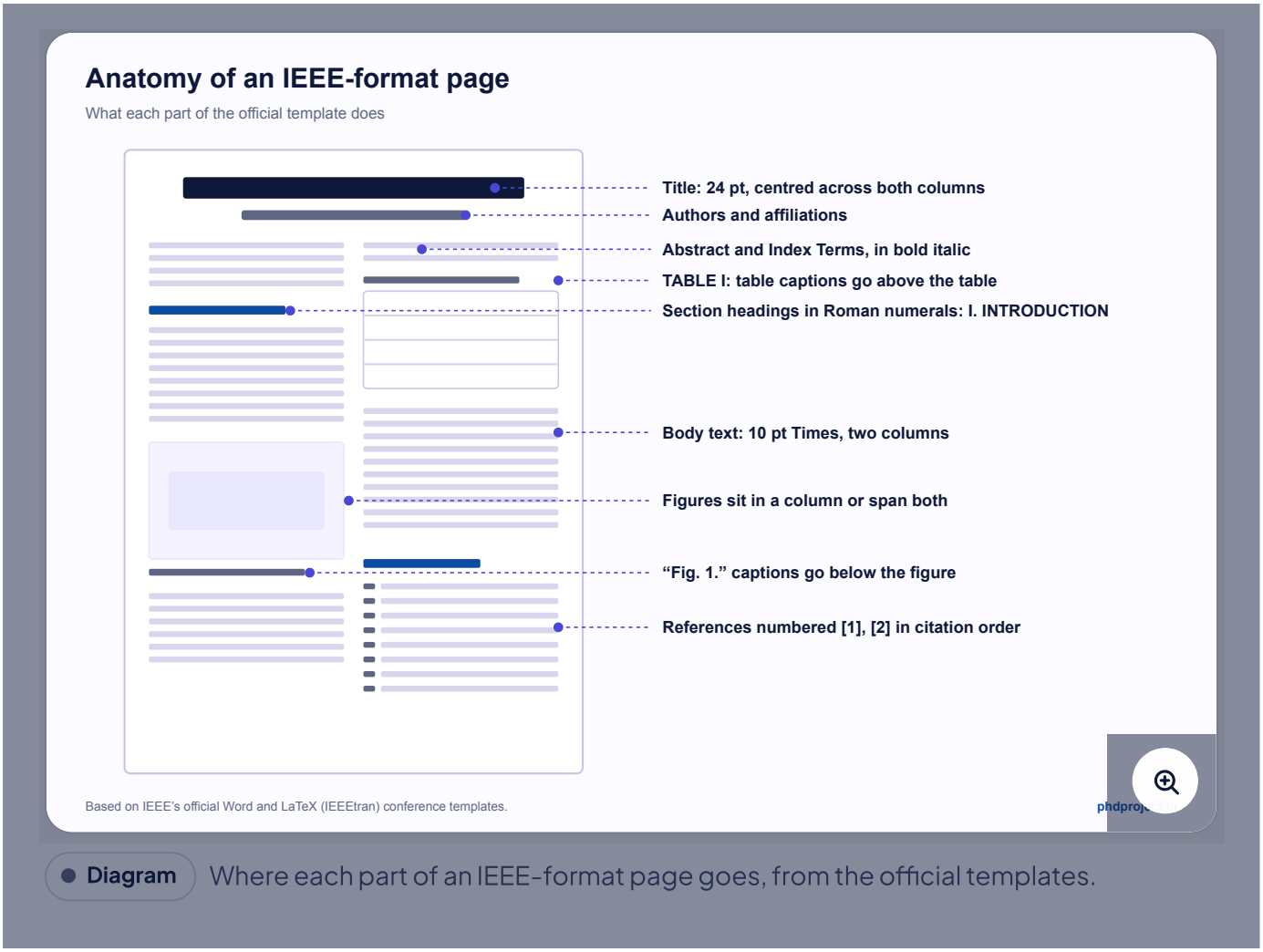


Diagram Where each part of an IEEE-format page goes, from the official templates.

1. **Title, authors and affiliations.**

2. **Abstract:** a single paragraph. IEEE journals ask for 150 to 250 words; conferences set their own limit.
3. **Index Terms:** your keywords, which IEEE journals list alphabetically.
4. **I. Introduction:** the problem, the gap and your contributions.
5. **Body sections:** typically related work, the proposed method, the experimental setup, and results and discussion.
6. **Conclusion.**
7. **Appendix** (if any) and **Acknowledgment** (unnumbered; spelled without an "e" after the "g").
8. **References** (unnumbered heading).

If you used AI tools to generate text, figures or code, IEEE's style manual requires you to disclose it in the Acknowledgment, naming the tool and the sections involved. Using AI only for editing and grammar is treated as common practice, though disclosure is still recommended.

How are headings, figures, tables and equations formatted?

Headings

Primary headings use Roman numerals and centred small capitals (I. INTRODUCTION). Secondary headings use capital letters and italics (A. Dataset). Third-level headings are italic, numbered 1), 2), and run into the paragraph after a colon. Only add sub-headings if there are at least two at that level.

Figures

The caption goes below the figure and starts "Fig. 1.", and you write "Fig. 1" in the text even at the start of a sentence. Label axes with words and put units in brackets: "Temperature (K)", not "Temperature/K" or just "K". Keep figure labels legible at 8 pt.

Tables

The caption goes above the table: “TABLE I” in Roman numerals, then the title on the next line with no full stop at the end. Table footnotes use letters.

An example of IEEE table format, with placeholder values to replace with your own:

TABLE I
RESULTS ON THE TEST SET

MODEL	ACCURACY (%)	F1-SCORE	PARAMETERS (M)
Baseline [5]	xx.x	0.xx	xx.x
Proposed method	xx.x	0.xx	xx.x

In the paper itself the caption is centred in small capitals and the table fits one column (or spans both if it is wide). The free sample paper has a ready-made TABLE I you can copy.

Equations

Number equations consecutively and refer to them as “(1)”, not “Eq. (1)”, except at the start of a sentence (“Equation (1) is…”). Italicise Roman-letter variables but not Greek letters, punctuate equations as part of the sentence, and define every symbol before or right after the equation.



Fig. 9. Confusion matrix for ViT-Base/16 on the test set.

TABLE VII
Ablation study (ViT-Base/16, macro F1)

Configuration	Macro F1	ΔF1
Full pipeline	0.952	n/a
W/O Weighted sampling	0.911	−0.041
W/O Augmentation	0.937	−0.015
W/O Label smoothing	0.944	−0.008
W/O All imbalance handling	0.889	−0.063

Fig. 10. Ablation study: impact of each imbalance handling component.

TABLE VIII
Comparison with published HAM10000 results

Method	Architecture	Acc (%)
Han, Kim, Lim, Park, Park, and Chang [25]	ResNet-50	83.1
Esteva, Kuprel, Novoa, Ko, Swetter, Blau, and Thrun [5]	Inception-v3	87.4
ResNet-50 (Ours)	CNN	89.45
EfficientNet-B4 (Ours)	CNN	93.20
DINOv2 (Ours)	SSL ViT	95.57
ViT-B/16 (Ours)	ViT	96.95

Fig. 11. Accuracy comparison with published HAM10000 results.

at irregular borders and mixed colors to detect melanoma correctly precisely the features dermatologists identify as primary diagnostic indicators. EfficientNet GradCAM visualisations, by contrast, tend to focus on central high contrast regions, missing peripheral border information.

E. Transfer learning effectiveness

ImageNet-21K pre-training (14M images, 21,841 classes) provides optimal initialisation for ViT-Base/16. When the model sees many types of data, it learns better and can recognize skin patterns more easily. DINOv2's self-supervised pre-training yields strong but slightly lower performance, as its task diagnostic features require additional adaptation for the 7-class task. EfficientNet-B4 with Noisy Student outperforms standard ImageNet-1K by ∼2 points, confirming transfer learning importance for medical imaging.

F. Comparison with published results

Table VIII and Fig. 11 present the comparison with published HAM10000 results. ViT-Base/16 has the highest single-model accuracy on HAM10000.

G. Medical disclaimer

This system is developed for educational and research purposes only. It is not a replacement for professional medical guidance. A prominent disclaimer is displayed on all results pages. Prospective deployment would require clinical validation, regulatory review, and integration with existing workflows under medical supervision.

VI. Conclusion

This paper presented a deep learning framework for dermoscopic skin lesion classification on HAM10000. ViT-Base/16 achieves 96.95% accuracy, 0.987 AUC-ROC, and 0.952 macro F1, surpassing all published CNN-based results. Key findings: (a) ViT outperforms EfficientNet-B4 by 3.75% and ResNet-50 by 7.5%, with ImageNet-21K providing optimal initialisation; (b) combined weighted sampling, label smoothing, and augmentation are essential for handling class imbalance; (c) 94% melanoma recall is clinically meaningful sensitivity; (d) the deployed

IEEE-format paper A results page from a delivered M.Tech paper: TABLE captions sit above the tables, "Fig." captions below the charts, and subsection headings (E., F., G.) are lettered.

Shown with student, guide and institute details removed.

IEEE paper format example: what to notice on that page

The page above comes from the M.Tech project on skin lesion classification using a Vision Transformer. Open it at full size and check these points against your own draft:

1. **Two columns throughout,** with each table and figure placed at the top or bottom of a column.

2. **Single column is only a review draft.** Published IEEE papers are two-column, and IEEE Access asks for a double-column file even at submission. Some journals ask for the opposite: IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management wants manuscripts "double-spaced, 12–point font written in one single column format". In LaTeX that is IEEEtran's `onecolumn` option, which the class documentation says "is of interest only with draft papers", usually with `draftclsnofoot`. Follow the author instructions of the venue you are submitting to.
3. **Table captions above the table:** "TABLE VII" in Roman numerals, with the title on the line below.
4. **Figure captions below the figure:** "Fig. 9. Confusion matrix for ViT-Base/16 on the test set."
5. **Heading levels:** lettered subsections (E., F., G.) inside a Roman-numeral section, and "VI. Conclusion" opening the next one.
6. **Numbered citations in square brackets,** such as [5] and [25] in the comparison table.

How do you write references in IEEE format?

The IEEE format for references uses numbered citations. The rules below come from the IEEE Reference Guide (2025 edition) and the conference template.

- Number sources in the order you first cite them, in square brackets inside the sentence punctuation: "as shown in [3]."
- Refer to the number itself: "in [3]", not "in Ref. [3]", except at the start of a sentence.
- The current guide writes ranges out in full: [1], [2], [3], [4] rather than [1]–[4].
- Give initials before the surname. List up to six authors; with more than six, give the first author followed by "et al."

- Put article titles in quotation marks, capitalising only the first word and proper nouns. Italicise journal and book titles and abbreviate journal names (*IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng.*).
- Add the DOI when there is one. Each number holds exactly one source.

IEEE reference examples by source type

SOURCE	EXAMPLE IN IEEE STYLE
Journal article	[1] Y. LeCun, L. Bottou, Y. Bengio, and P. Haffner, "Gradient-based learning applied to document recognition," *Proc. IEEE*, vol. 86, no. 11, pp. 2278–2324, Nov. 1998, doi: 10.1109/5.726791.
Conference paper	[2] K. He, X. Zhang, S. Ren, and J. Sun, "Deep residual learning for image recognition," in *Proc. IEEE Conf. Comput. Vis. Pattern Recognit. (CVPR)*, Las Vegas, NV, USA, 2016, pp. 770–778, doi: 10.1109/CVPR.2016.90.
Book	[3] I. Goodfellow, Y. Bengio, and A. Courville, *Deep Learning*. Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 2016.
Preprint (arXiv)	[4] A. Vaswani *et al.*, "Attention is all you need," 2017, arXiv:1706.03762.
Dataset	[5] P. Tschandl, 2018, "The HAM10000 dataset, a large collection of multi-source dermatoscopic images of common pigmented skin lesions," Harvard Dataverse, doi: 10.7910/DVN/DBW86T.
Thesis	[6] J. K. Author, "Title of thesis," Ph.D. dissertation, Dept. Elect. Eng., Univ. Name, City, Country, 2025.
Web page	[7] IEEE. "IEEE Reference Guide." IEEE Author Center. Accessed: Sep. 29, 2026. [Online]. Available: https://journals.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/IEEE_Reference_Guide.pdf

Row 6 is the guide's pattern with placeholders. Cite a paper that is accepted but not yet out as "to be published", and one still under review as "submitted for publication".

Why do IEEE-format papers get returned before review?

A paper can be sent back without review for its format alone, however good the research. These problems are easy to catch before you submit.

Common formatting problems and their fixes

PROBLEM	FIX
Over the page limit	Cut text or move detail to an appendix. The limit and any paid extra pages are set in the call for papers.
Margins, fonts or spacing changed to fit more	Restore the template. IEEE's template states that margins, column widths, line spacing and fonts are prescribed.
Template guidance text left in	Delete every instruction line. The LaTeX template warns that leftover text may stop the paper being published.
Author names in a double-blind submission	Remove names, affiliations, acknowledgments and self-identifying links until the camera-ready version.
PDF fails IEEE's checks	Embed all fonts, remove passwords, bookmarks and links, and validate with IEEE PDF eXpress when the conference requires it.
Mixed or incomplete references	Use one numbered style throughout, with every author, title, venue, year and page range filled in.
Maths or symbols in the title or abstract	Rewrite them in words; the template forbids symbols, maths and footnotes there.

PDF requirements are listed on the IEEE Author Center page Meet IEEE Xplore requirements. Conferences may also screen submissions for text overlap with published work.

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Follow your institution's and the publisher's rules

Our work is writing support, formatting and explanation. Cite every source, disclose tool use where the venue asks, and make sure you can explain every result in the paper.

Frequently asked questions

What font and size does the IEEE paper format use?

Times (Times New Roman in Word) at 10 pt for the body text. The title is 24 pt, author names 11 pt, the abstract and Index Terms 9 pt bold, and figure captions, table captions and references 8 pt.

Where can I download the IEEE paper format template in Word?

From IEEE's conference templates page, which has the Word template in US Letter and A4 sizes and the LaTeX template. For an IEEE journal or magazine, use the IEEE Template Selector, and always use the template your conference links in its call for papers if it gives one.

Is the IEEE paper format A4 or US Letter?

Both exist. IEEE offers Word templates in US Letter and A4, and the IEEEtran LaTeX class supports both. IEEE itself mainly uses US Letter, so follow the paper size your conference names in its call for papers. Indian university thesis manuals usually ask for A4.

How many pages is an IEEE conference paper?

Each conference sets its own limit in the call for papers, and some allow extra pages for a charge. Check whether references count towards the limit before you cut content.

How do you cite references in IEEE format?

Number each source in the order you first cite it and put the number in square brackets, such as [1]. The reference list follows the same order, with initials before surnames, article titles in quotation marks and abbreviated, italic journal names.

Does using the IEEE template mean my paper is published by IEEE?

No. The template only sets the layout. A paper becomes an IEEE publication when an IEEE conference or journal accepts it after review and it appears in IEEE Xplore.

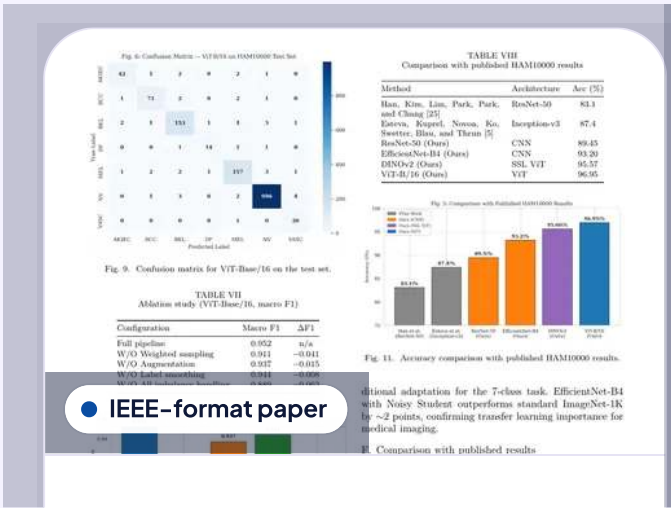
Do I have to disclose AI use in an IEEE paper?

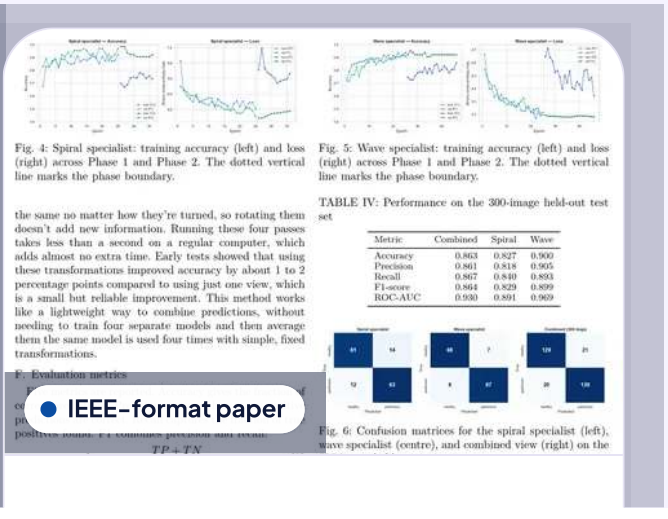
Yes, if AI generated any text, figures, images or code. IEEE's style manual asks you to name the tool and the sections in the Acknowledgment. Using AI only for editing and grammar is treated as common practice, though disclosure is still recommended.

DELIVERED WORK

Projects that shipped with an IEEE-format paper

M.Tech projects, each with a paper written to the template. Shown with names and institute details removed.





M.Tech Medical imaging · Deep learning

Skin lesion classification using Vision Transformers

M.Tech Medical AI · Explainable AI

Parkinson's disease detection from spiral drawings

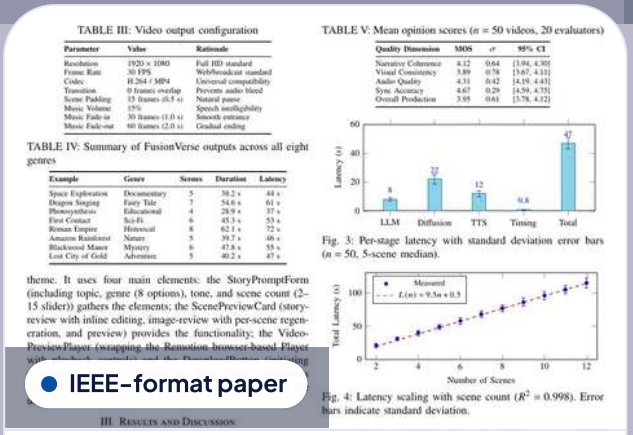


TABLE III: Video output configuration

Parameter	Value	Rationale
Resolution	1920 × 1080	Full HD standard
Frame Rate	30 FPS	Web/broadcast standard
Codec	H.264 / MP4	Universal compatibility
Transition	0 frames overlap	Prevents audio bleed
Scene Padding	15 frames (0.5 s)	Natural pause
Music Volume	15%	Speech intelligibility
Music Fade-in	30 frames (1.0 s)	Smooth entrance
Music Fade-out	60 frames (2.0 s)	Gradual ending

TABLE IV: Summary of FusionVerse outputs across all eight genres

Example	Genre	Scenes	Duration	Latency
Space Exploration	Documentary	5	38.2 s	44 s
Dragon Singing	Fairy Tale	7	54.6 s	61 s
Photosynthesis	Educational	4	28.9 s	37 s
First Contact	Sci-Fi	6	45.3 s	53 s
Roman Empire	Historical	8	62.1 s	72 s
Amazon Rainforest	Nature	5	39.7 s	46 s
Blackwood Manor	Mystery	6	47.8 s	55 s
Lost City of Gold	Adventure	5	40.2 s	47 s

theme. It uses four main elements: the StoryPromptForm (including topic, genre (8 options), tone, and scene count (2–15 slider)) gathers the elements; the ScenePreviewCard (story-review with inline editing, image-review with per-scene regeneration, and preview) provides the functionality; the Video-PreviewPlayer (wrapping the Remotion browser-based Player

III. Results and Discussion

TABLE V: Mean opinion scores (n = 50 videos, 20 evaluators)

Quality Dimension	MOS	σ	95% CI
Narrative Coherence	4.12	0.64	[3.94, 4.30]
Visual Consistency	3.89	0.78	[3.67, 4.11]
Audio Quality	4.31	0.42	[4.19, 4.43]
Sync Accuracy	4.67	0.29	[4.59, 4.75]
Overall Production	3.95	0.61	[3.78, 4.12]

Fig. 3: Per-stage latency with standard deviation error bars (n = 50, 5-scene median).

Fig. 4: Latency scaling with scene count (R^2 = 0.998). Error bars indicate standard deviation.

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