**IEEE General Citation Guide**

### General Rules

- IEEE in-text citations consist of numbers provided in square brackets, which correspond to the appropriate sources in the reference list at the end of the paper. Each in-text citation number should appear on the text line, inside sentence punctuation, with a space before the bracket.
- The in-text citation numbers start at [1] and continue in ascending order throughout the paper.
- A numbered list of references must be provided at the end of the paper. The reference list contains full details of all sources cited in-text. The sources are numbered in the order they are used in the paper. The given name of the author is abbreviated to the initials followed by the last name.
- In the reference list, write the names of all authors, up to six. If there are more than six author names, use the primary author’s last name followed by “et al.” (meaning “and others”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Text Citations</th>
<th>Parenthetical Citations</th>
<th>In-text and Parenthetical Citations: Overarching Rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General</strong></td>
<td>Johnson [1] believed that…</td>
<td>Paper is made from trees [1].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Quotes</td>
<td>Schumer [6, pp. 4-5] argued that…</td>
<td>Schumer argued that “the importance of clear writing cannot be understated” [6, pp. 4-5].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figures or Images</td>
<td>The data in [2] shows…</td>
<td>Figure 1.3 shows the evidence [4].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Sources</td>
<td>[1], [3], and [6] show…</td>
<td>Weeby, Ketting, and Goodman’s ideas are still widely used today [1]-[3].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reference Citations

While citing electronic information in a reference list, include the relevant URL. Below are a few formats to include the URL in a reference.

Refer to the IEEE reference guide for additional formats.

- Accessed date. [Online]. Available: URL (no period at end)
- URL, DOI (add period at end).

Also refer to the below example for citing “Online Books.”

**Books and Chapters**

J. K. Author, “Title of chapter in the book,” in *Title of His Published Book*, xth ed. City of Publisher, (only U.S. State), Country: Abbrev. of Publisher, year, ch. x, sec. x, pp. xxx–xxxx.

**Online Books**


**Articles**


**Websites**

First Name Initial(s) Last Name. “Page Title.” Website Title. Web Address (retrieved Date Accessed).

**Technical Reports**


**Conference Papers**


**Manual/Handbook**

This guide is based on the 2020 edition of the IEEE reference guide. For more information, consult the IEEE reference guide available on the IEEE website.

### Patent


### Theses and Dissertations


### Online Video (e.g., YouTube)


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### Heading levels

1. Primary Headings are centered and numbered with Roman numerals. These are the titles of your sections.

A. Secondary headings are aligned left and marked with capital letter.

1. Tertiary headings are tabbed once and marked by Arabic numerals.

a. Quaternary headings are tabbed twice and shown by lower-case letters.

### Figures, Tables, and Equations

- All the citations of figures, tables, and equations in the article must follow a numerical order.
- Do not use articles (“a,” “an,” or “the”) at the beginning of a caption for figures, tables, or equations in in-text citations.
  - e.g., Incorrect: Refer to the Fig. 1; Correct: Refer to Fig. 1.

### Figures

- The title of the figures must be descriptive and placed below the figure.

**Fig. 1** Plot of temperature measurement vs. time

- Use a lowercase letter within parentheses if parts of the figure are labeled. Include the description of those labels in the caption of the figure.

**Fig. 2.** (a) Variation of effective mode index with time. (b) Step-index change.

- For in-text citations, use the abbreviation “Fig.” followed by the figure number.

### Tables

- Captions for a table must be centered above the table with the label TABLE, and the enumeration must be represented in Roman numerals (e.g., TABLE I).

**TABLE I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toyota</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Grocery Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercedes</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Parking Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyundai</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Parking Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Highway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

White cars were the most common today.

- The description of the caption must be centered directly below the table number caption (e.g., Cars I Have Seen Today).

- The optional descriptive notes can be included below the table, if necessary.

### Equations

- Equations are center-aligned and labeled with right-aligned Arabic numbers enclosed in parentheses.

\[ A = \pi r^2 \]  \hspace{1cm} (1)

- For in-text citations, mention the equation number only, e.g., mention “as seen in (2)” instead of “as seen in Equation (2).”
  - Exception: A sentence beginning with an equation number, e.g., “Equation (1) demonstrates…”