

# The nuthesis class<sup>\*</sup>

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## Abstract

The `nuthesis` class is designed to make following the guidelines in the *University of Nebraska–Lincoln Guidebook For Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation* [13, 12] straightforward. As the rules should be nearly identical on the other NU<sup>1</sup> campus (Kearney, the Medical Center, and Omaha) an effort has been made to allow the class file to be used on those campus.

## 1 Usage

Please note that `nuthesis` requires `memoir`, `setspace`, `geometry` and `scrtime` from KOMA-script.

### 1.1 Class options

The `nuthesis` is designed to be a “drop in” replacement for the `report` document class. As with any L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X class, there are a number of optional arguments that are available to the class.

The default options for this class are `double`, `electronic` and `phd`.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <code>single</code>                           | The options <code>single</code> and <code>double</code> control the spacing in most of the document.   |
| <code>double</code>                           | For example, the abstract <i>must</i> be double spaced and the option <code>single</code> does not affect it.  |
| <code>print</code><br><code>electronic</code> | With the move towards electronic submissions, we have an <code>electronic</code> option that sets up the thesis for this. Currently, the difference between <code>electronic</code> and <code>print</code> , is <code>print</code> adds extra spacing to the margins to allow for binding. |

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<sup>\*</sup>This document corresponds to `nuthesis` v0.7, dated 2008/04/14.

<sup>†</sup>Prof. Allan Donsig and the author wrote the original `unlthesis`, on which this class is loosely based.

<sup>1</sup>Hence the name of the class.

**phd** For the most common degrees that will be using this class, we have options  
**edd** that allow several title page elements to be set as a group. A listing of what is set  
**ms** by each option is shown in Table 1. The description of the lower level commands  
**ma** that do the real work, is found in §1.2.1.

Table 1: Pre-defined options for the title page.

Option	Document type	Degree	Degree Abbreviation
<b>phd</b>	Dissertation	Doctor of Philosophy	Ph. D.
<b>edd</b>	Dissertation	Doctor of Education	Ed. D.
<b>ms</b>	Thesis	Master of Science	M. S.
<b>ma</b>	Thesis	Master of Art	M. A.

**draft** As you will no doubt be printing multiple copies of your thesis, a **draft** option has been provided, similar to that of [4]. The purpose of this option is to print in the header the date and time that the file was L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>Xed.

**testing** The **testing** option is used to print out a frame showing the margin and header placement on the first page of the document.

One gets started, like any other L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document:

```

_____ Start of code _____
\documentclass[print]{nuthesis}
_____ End of Code _____
```

The above example will set up formatting for a double spaced, print ready dissertation for a Ph. D. (**phd**, **double** are default options, not overridden here).

## 1.2 Title page

**\title** The usage of this group of commands should be self-explanatory from usage of  
**\author** **title** and **author** in the standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X classes. The extra ones are part of the  
**\adviser** collection of macros needed to typeset the title and abstract pages.

**\adviserAbstract** **\adviserAbstract** is to typeset your adviser(s) names without titles, i.e., “Pro-  
**\major** fessor” for the abstract.

**\degreemonth** Note: **title** and **doctype** are automatically made uppercase, this can not be  
**\degreeyear** overridden, as it’s required by guidebook.

After the preamble you should have:

```

_____ Start of code _____
\begin{document}
%% Start formatting the first few special pages
```

```
%% frontmatter is needed to set the page numbering correctly
\frontmatter
```

```
\title{A Very Good Thesis}
\author{You}
\adviser{Professor Someone}
\adviserAbstract{Someone}
\major{Something}
\degreemonth{Month}
\degreeyear{Year}
```

---

End of Code

---

Note: `\adviser` and `\adviserAbstract` are a “dumb” macros in that they have only one argument. If you happen to have Co-advisers, you need to enter both names here, just as you (or Grad Studies) want them to appear. For example:

---

```
% \adviser{Professor Donald~E. Knuth and Professor Leslie Lamport}
% \adviserAbstract{Donald~E. Knuth and Leslie Lamport}
```

---

End of Code

---

`\college`      This group is part of the collection of macros that allow the user to enter information needed to typeset the title and abstract pages.

`\university`      For what `\college` should be set to depends on the college you will be graduating from. For graduate students: “Graduate College” for undergraduates: “College of Arts & Sciences”, ...

`\city`  
`\state`

Note: `\college`, `\university`, `\campus`, `\city`, and `\state` are pre-set to “Graduate College”, “University of Nebraska”, “Lincoln”, and “Nebraska” respectively. Each of these can be easily overridden, by uncommenting the commands in the following example and specifying what they should be.

---

Start of code

---

```
%% \college{Your college}
%% \city{Your City}
```

---

End of Code

---

### 1.2.1 Degree information

`\doctype`      This is the final group of the collection of macros that allow the user to enter information needed to typeset the title and abstract.

`\degree`

`\degreeabbreviation`

As these can be set all at once for the most common degrees with an option to the `nuthesis`, see Table 1. If you have a different degree uncomment the following commands and specify the correct information

`\doctype` is used to set the type of document we are working with (typically a thesis or a dissertation).

---

```

Start of code
%% \doctype{Thesis or Dissertation}
%% \degree{Your degree}
%% \degreeabbreviation{Your degree abbr.}
End of Code

```

---

### 1.3 Other front matter

<code>abstract</code> <code>copyrightpage</code> <code>dedication</code> <code>acknowledgments</code> <code>grantinfo</code>	<p>Here is the collection on environments that can be used to typeset a number of common elements typically found in a thesis. The <code>abstract</code> is the only required one.</p>
--	--

---

```

Start of code
%% Required
\begin{abstract}
  Abstract goes here.
\end{abstract}

%% Optional
%% \begin{copyrightpage}
%% \end{copyrightpage}

%% Optional
%% \begin{dedication}
%% \end{dedication}

%% Optional
%% \begin{acknowledgments}
%% \end{acknowledgments}

%% Optional
%% \begin{grantinfo}
%% \end{grantinfo}
End of Code

```

---

<code>\tableofcontents</code> <code>\listoffigures</code> <code>\listoftables</code>	<p>Here is the collection on commands that can be used to typeset a number of common elements typically found in a thesis. The <code>\tableofcontents</code> is the only required one.</p>
--	--

---

```

Start of code

```

---

```

%% The ToC is required
%\tableofcontents
%% Uncomment these if need be
% \listoffigures
% \listoftables

```

---

End of Code

---

## 1.4 The rest

Now that all the front matter is set up, it's time to start on the main part of the thesis.

You *must* use `\mainmatter` before you start the main body of your thesis, else the page numbering will be wrong.

Once you are at the end of your main body, you *must* use `\backmatter` before you start the Appendices with `\appendix` for your thesis, or the section formatting will be wrong.

---

Start of code

---

```

%% mainmatter is needed after the ToC, (LoF, and LoT) to set the
%% page numbering correctly for the main body
\mainmatter

```

```

%% Thesis goes here

```

```

\chapter{My Thesis}

```

```

%% backmatter is needed at the end of the main body of your thesis to
%% set up page numbering correctly for the remainder of the thesis
\backmatter

```

```

%% Start the correct formatting for the appendices
\appendix

```

```

%% Appendices go here (if you have them)

```

```

%% Bibliography goes here (You better have one)
%% BibTeX is your friend

```

```

%% Index go here (if you have one)
\end{document}

```

---

End of Code

---

## 2 Implementation

We use the memoir [18] as the base for nuthesis. Simply because it had most of what was needed and it was easy to add the missing features.

### 2.1 Initial code

Load three of the four needed packages (We load `geometry` later.) We use `setspace` to handle single/double spacing correctly. From the KOMA-script bundle, we use `scrtime` to use `\thistime` for the running headers in `draft` mode.

The packages [16, 8, 17] should be already installed with most T<sub>E</sub>X distributions. If [3, 2] are not installed, then there is something wrong as they are required packages.

```
1 \RequirePackage{ifthen}
2 \RequirePackage{keyval}
3 \RequirePackage{setspace}
4 \RequirePackage{scrtime}
```

We also define a couple of boolean variables that are needed by class options.

```
5 \newboolean{nu@print}
6 \newboolean{nu@single}
```

#### 2.1.1 Building blocks

To typeset the title page with all the non-standard title page items, we need to set them up.

`\doctype` To allow for either a thesis or a dissertation, we allow give the user the ability to set it.

```
7 \newcommand{\doctype}[1]{%
8   \gdef\nu@doctype{#1}}
9 \newcommand{\nu@doctype}{}%
```

`\degree` Set up macros for the user to enter the full degree name eg “Doctor of Evil”  
`\degreeabbreviation` along with the abbreviation “M.D.” for use on the title and abstract pages.

```
10 \newcommand{\degree}[1]{%
11   \gdef\nu@degree{#1}}
12 \newcommand{\nu@degree}{}%
13 \newcommand{\degreeabbreviation}[1]{%
14   \gdef\nu@degreeabbreviation{#1}}
15 \newcommand{\nu@degreeabbreviation}{}%
```

<code>\major</code> <code>\college</code> <code>\university</code> <code>\city</code> <code>\state</code>	<p>Set up the major, college, university, and city. We also set a couple of defaults, viz <code>city=Lincoln</code>, <code>state=Nebraska</code>, <code>college=Graduate College</code>, <code>university=University of Nebraska</code> and <code>campus=unl</code>.</p> <pre> 16 \newcommand{\major}[1]{% 17   \gdef\nu@major{#1}} 18 \newcommand{\nu@major}{} 19 \newcommand{\college}[1]{% 20   \gdef\nu@college{#1}} 21 \newcommand{\nu@college}{Graduate College} 22 \newcommand{\university}[1]{% 23   \gdef\nu@university{#1}} 24 \newcommand{\nu@university}{University of Nebraska} 25 \newcommand{\city}[1]{% 26   \gdef\nu@city{#1}} 27 \newcommand{\nu@city}{Lincoln} 28 \newcommand{\state}[1]{% 29   \gdef\nu@state{#1}} 30 \newcommand{\nu@state}{Nebraska} </pre>
<code>\adviser</code> <code>\adviserAbstract</code>	<p>Define the macros needed to get the the name(s) and title(s) of one's <code>adviser(s)</code> for the title and abstract pages. Two macros are needed, as they have to be formatted differently. These are both “dumb” macros in that they have only one argument. It's more trouble that it's worth to have L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X be clever and “do the right thing” as there is too much variation in how to “correctly” list co-advisers.</p> <pre> 31 \newcommand{\adviser}[1]{% 32   \gdef\nu@adviser{#1}} 33 \newcommand{\adviserAbstract}[1]{% 34   \gdef\nu@adviserAbstract{#1}} 35 \newcommand{\nu@adviser}{} 36 \newcommand{\nu@adviserAbstract}{} </pre>
<code>\degreemonth</code> <code>\degreeyear</code>	<p>Set up macros for the user to enter the information for when the final exam took place or when the degree is conferred.</p> <pre> 37 \newcommand{\degreemonth}[1]{% 38   \gdef\nu@month{#1}} 39 \newcommand{\nu@month}{} 40 \newcommand{\degreeyear}[1]{% 41   \gdef\nu@year{#1}} 42 \newcommand{\nu@year}{} </pre>

## 2.2 Declaration of Options

**testing** This option is used to check settings, by printing out the frame on the title page. This frame shows the layout and positioning of the margins along with the header.

All `testing` does is append `showframe` to the list of options that are passed to `geometry`.

```
43 \DeclareOption{testing}{%
44   \PassOptionsToPackage{showframe}{geometry}
45 }
```

`single` The options `single` and `double` control the the spacing of the document, where  
`double` we can. We only want to make changes at the beginning of the document so, using `\AtBeginDocument` we test these booleans set by these options and do the right thing.

```
46 \DeclareOption{single}{%
47   \setboolean{nu@single}{true}
48 }
49
50 \DeclareOption{double}{%
51   \setboolean{nu@single}{false}
52 }
```

`print` These options don't do much, because they don't really need to. All `print` does is  
`electronic` append `bindingoffset=0.5in` to the list of options that are passed to `geometry`.

```
53 \DeclareOption{print}{%
54   \setboolean{nu@print}{true}
55   \PassOptionsToPackage{bindingoffset=0.5in}{geometry}
56 }
```

At the moment `electronic` is provided for symmetry and does nothing.

```
57 \DeclareOption{electronic}{%
58   \relax
59 }
```

`phd` For the most common degrees that will be using this class, we have options that  
`edd` allow several title page elements to be sent as a group. A listing of what is defined  
`ms` by each option is shown in table 1. For implementation details on the lower level  
`ma` commands that do the real work, please see §2.1.1.

```
60 \DeclareOption{phd}{%
61   \doctype{Dissertation}
62   \degree{Doctor of Philosophy}
63   \degreeabbreviation{Ph.\,D.}
64 }
65
66 \DeclareOption{edd}{%
67   \doctype{Dissertation}
68   \degree{Doctor of Education}
69   \degreeabbreviation{Ed.\,D.}
```



```

70 }
71
72 \DeclareOption{ms}{%
73   \doctype{Thesis}
74   \degree{Master of Science}
75   \degreeabbreviation{M.\,S.}
76 }
77
78 \DeclareOption{ma}{%
79   \doctype{Thesis}
80   \degree{Master of Art}
81   \degreeabbreviation{M.\,A.}
82 }

```

Allow options be passed from our class to memoir.

```

83 \DeclareOption*{%
84   \PassOptionsToClass{\CurrentOption}{memoir}
85 }

```

## 2.3 Execution of options

We don't do anything fancy here other than set the default option to be `double`, `electronic` and `phd`.

```

86 \ExecuteOptions{double,electronic,phd}
87 \ProcessOptions

```

## 2.4 Package Loading

We load memoir with some common default options.

```

88 \LoadClass[12pt,oneside]{memoir}

```

For reasons I'm not sure of, if `geometry` is moved to where the rest of packages are loaded, it yells at me. So, we load it here.

Load `geometry` with a number of options. To follow the rules in [13, 12], we set

`letterpaper` we are in the US

`margin=1in` the minimum margins allowed. An `bindingoffset=0.5in` option is joined to this list of options by the class option `print`.

`includehead` is used to include the header into the `textarea` calculation so the margins are correct

`nofoot` as we do not have footers

```
89 \RequirePackage[letterpaper,margin=1in,includehead,nofoot]{geometry}
```

## 2.5 Main Code

### 2.5.1 Page Styles

According to [13, 12]:

Except for the title page and abstract, number all pages in your ETD.

Number the pages in the front matter with small roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, etc.), placed at the upper right of the page. However, the page number for the Title Page (i) and the pages of the Abstract (ii...) should not appear on the page(s).

Number all pages through the body and back matter with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.). You should number these pages at the upper right.

`nu@pagestyle` So this is what we set up here. `memoir`'s default options take care of the lower roman to Arabic for us, if `\frontmatter`, `\mainmatter`, and `\backmatter` are used.

Borrowing an idea from [4], we define `nu@pagestyleDraft` which prints out the date and time the file was processed by L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

Even though the guidebook calls for one-sided documents, the `pagesytle` has been set up to handle two-sided printing, if that option is passed into the class. We don't define the `twoside` option, `memor` handles that for us.

```
90 \makepagestyle{nu@pagestyle}
91 \makeoddhead{nu@pagestyle}%
92   {}{}{\normalfont\thepage}
93 \makeevenhead{nu@pagestyle}%
94   {\normalfont\thepage}{}{}
95
96 \makepagestyle{nu@pagestyleDraft}
97 \makeoddhead{nu@pagestyleDraft}%
98   {\itshape\LaTeX{}ed at \thistime{ } on \today}{}{\normalfont\thepage}
99 \makeevenhead{nu@pagestyleDraft}%
100  {\normalfont\thepage}{}{\itshape\LaTeX{}ed at \thistime{ } on \today}
```

Check to see if we are in `draft` mode, if so, set the page styles to use `nu@pagestyleDraft`, else use the default. Set the pagestyles `plain` and `empty` to be an alias for `nu@pagestyle`.

```
101 \ifdraftdoc
102   \aliaspagestyle{plain}{nu@pagestyleDraft}
103   \aliaspagestyle{empty}{nu@pagestyleDraft}
```

```

104 %% \aliaspagestyle{cleared}{nu@pagestyleDraft}
105 \pagestyle{nu@pagestyleDraft}

```

Just like for the `draft` option, we set the `pagestyle plain` as an alias for `nu@pagestyle` so pages that start chapters are formatted correctly. But we leave `empty` alone, as we need some pages to have an empty page style.

```

106 \else
107 \aliaspagestyle{plain}{nu@pagestyle}
108 %% \aliaspagestyle{cleared}{nu@pagestyle}
109 \pagestyle{nu@pagestyle}
110 \fi

```

### 2.5.2 Front matter

Here's our collection of re-defining commands and environments needed for the typesetting the front matter.

**maketitle** Most of the following is straight forward, just a lot of trial and error in figuring the spacing between different elements.

```

111 \renewcommand{\maketitle}{%
112 \begin{center}%

```

We use `\singlespacing` for simplicity in our calculation of spacing to mimic the look of the sample title page in [13]

```

113 \singlespacing

114 \MakeUppercase{\thetitle}\\[2\baselineskip]
115 by\\[2\baselineskip]
116 \theauthor\\[4\baselineskip]
117 \MakeUppercase{A \nu@doctype}\\[4\baselineskip]
118 Presented to the Faculty of\\[1\baselineskip]
119 The \nu@college{} at the \nu@university\\[1\baselineskip]
120 In Partial Fulfilment of Requirements\\[1\baselineskip]
121 For the Degree of \nu@degree\\[3\baselineskip]
122 Major: \nu@major\\[3\baselineskip]
123 Under the Supervision of \nu@adviser\\[3\baselineskip]
124 \nu@city, \nu@state\\[1\baselineskip]
125 \nu@month, \nu@year
126 \end{center}
127 \thispagestyle{empty}
128 \cleardoublepage
129 }

```

**abstract** Most of the following is straight forward. Here you see the that many of the  
**copyrightpage** commands that capture the information are re-used again.  
**dedication**  
**acknowledgments**  
**grantinfo**

```

130 \renewenvironment{abstract}{%
131   \pagestyle{empty}%
132   \begin{doublespacing}%
133     \begin{center}%
134       \MakeUppercase{\thetitle}\\[.5\baselineskip]
135       \theauthor, \nu@degreeabbreviation\
136       \nu@university, \nu@year%
137     \end{center}%
138     \begin{flushleft}%
139       Adviser: \nu@adviserAbstract%
140     \end{flushleft}%
141   }\par\end{doublespacing}\cleardoublepage}
142
143 \newenvironment{copyrightpage}[1][Copyright]{%
144   \begin{center}%
145     \MakeUppercase{#1}\\
146     \copyright{} \nu@year, \theauthor%
147   \end{center}%
148   \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\begin{singlespacing}}{\begin{doublespacing}}%
149   }\par%
150   \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\end{singlespacing}}{\end{doublespacing}}%
151   \cleardoublepage}
152
153 \newenvironment{dedication}[1][Dedication]{%
154   \begin{center}%
155     \MakeUppercase{#1}%
156   \end{center}%
157   \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\begin{singlespacing}}{\begin{doublespacing}}%
158   }\par%
159   \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\end{singlespacing}}{\end{doublespacing}}%
160   \cleardoublepage}
161
162 \newenvironment{acknowledgments}[1][Acknowledgments]{%
163   \begin{center}
164     \MakeUppercase{#1}
165   \end{center}
166   \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\begin{singlespacing}}{\begin{doublespacing}}%
167   }\par%
168   \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\end{singlespacing}}{\end{doublespacing}}%
169   \cleardoublepage}
170
171 \newenvironment{grantinfo}[1][Grant Information]{%
172   \begin{center}
173     \MakeUppercase{#1}
174   \end{center}
175   \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\begin{singlespacing}}{\begin{doublespacing}}%
176   }\par%
177   \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\end{singlespacing}}{\end{doublespacing}}%
178   \cleardoublepage}

```

### 2.5.3 ToC, LoF, LoT

`tableofcontents` We want the Table of Contents, List of Figures, and List of Tables all to start on new pages. We make a “copy” of each before re-defining the commands

`listoffigures`

`listoftables`

```
179 \let\nu@ToC\tableofcontents
180 \renewcommand{\tableofcontents}{\cleardoublepage\nu@ToC}
181
182 \let\nu@LoF\listoffigures
183 \renewcommand{\listoffigures}{\cleardoublepage\nu@LoF}
184
185 \let\nu@LoT\listoftables
186 \renewcommand{\listoftables}{\cleardoublepage\nu@LoT}
```

By default `memoir`, only numbers sections down to `section`. For most users this isn’t enough. So we reset them.

```
187 \maxsecnumdepth{subsubsection}
188 \setsecnumdepth{subsubsection}
189 \maxtocdepth{subsubsection}
```

## 2.6 Back matter

`backmatter` `memoir` resets some things in the backmatter that we don’t want reset, because of what the guidebook says. So, we redefine it to do nothing.

```
190 \let\backmatter\relax
```

## 2.7 Main matter

Check to see if `single` has been passed as an option to the class. If so turn on single spacing (where we can), if not use double spacing.

```
191 \AtBeginDocument{%
192 \ifthenelse{\boolean{nu@single}}{\singlespacing}{\doublespacing}%
193 }
```

## 3 Acknowledgements

Thanks to people.

## 4 Known issues

- For captions, it appears that double spacing does not seem to get applied, but is applied for them in the LoF or LoT.

## 5 Things to do

- error checking of mutually exclusive options - `print/electronic`, `single/double`.
- error checking that only one of `phd`, `edd`, `ms`, `ma` can be used at a time
- error checking for undefined options
- check for existence of `*.{eps,pdf}` wordmarks for each of the campus
- put required campus wordmarks in a separate folder (needs to be done carefully, to take into account different platforms).

## Change History

v0.1	General: Initial version . . . . .	1	v0.4a	General: Changed \textsc back to \MakeUppercase. . . . .	1
v0.2	General: \subsubsections now numbered. Thanks to Dave Miller. . . . .	1		Cleaned up optional includes. . .	1
	Added draft option. . . . .	1		Fix signature page to use \nu@doctype. . . . .	1
	Clean-up. . . . .	1		Fixed change log to use \cs. . .	1
	Fixed a missing pagestyle alias. Thanks to Dave Miller. . . . .	1		Fixed missing entries in changelog. . . . .	1
	Rewrote a bunch of code to make things cleaner. . . . .	1		Included the bibliogrpahy. . . .	1
v0.3				Incorporated thesis-test into dtx file. . . . .	1
	General: Addition the of signature page. . . . .	1		Lots of minor things fixed/cleaned up. . . . .	1
	Clean-up. . . . .	1		Rewrote documentation. Made changelog. . . . .	1
	Fixed headers to work for twoside option. . . . .	1	v0.5	General: DocStrip code wasn't being striped out. . . . .	5
	Included a skeleton file. . . . .	1		Fixed typos in the documentation. . . . .	1
	Place single/double code in \AtBeginDocument. . . . .	1	v0.6	General: Changed documentation to match. . . . .	1
v0.4				Removed signature page. . . . .	1
	General: \MakeUppercase to \textsc changed in title page. .	1			

v0.6.1		\adviserAbstract: Added to allow for differences in advisers on ti- tle and abstract pages. . . . . 7
General: Changed options for skele- ton file, removed “single” . . . . 2		
v0.7		abstract: Changed environment to use \adviserAbstract instead of \adviser . . . . . 11
General: Added \adviserAbstract documentation. . . . . 2		

## References

- [1] Donald Arseneau. *The url package*. Available at: <http://tug.ctan.org/cgi-bin/ctanPackageInformation.py?id=url>.
- [2] David Carlisle. *The keyval package*. Available at: <http://tug.ctan.org/cgi-bin/ctanPackageInformation.py?id=keyval>.
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- [4] Peter Czoschke. *The uiucthesis package*. Available at: <http://tug.ctan.org/cgi-bin/ctanPackageInformation.py?id=uiucthesis>.
- [5] Danie Els. *The booktabs package*. Available at: <http://tug.ctan.org/cgi-bin/ctanPackageInformation.py?id=booktabs>.
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