The fauthesis Document Class: A User's Guide

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1 Introduction

The file fauthesis.cls contains a IATEX 2_{ε} document class designed to help students at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) create Master's Theses and Doctoral Dissertations using the IATEX document preparation system. It aims to help an author (a) maintain FAU's required margin and style conventions and (b) generate the required pieces of boilerplate text on the title page and other preliminary pages of a thesis automatically so as to avoid typographical and formatting errors. These requirements are described in detail in FAU's *Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines* [1], available online.

A thesis is organized similarly to a book in many ways. A book contains front matter including a title page, copyright information, acknowledgements and often a dedication, and tables listing the contents of its main body. These are followed by several chapters of the main body of the text, possibly one or more appendices, and a bibliography. A thesis, however, usually contains several additional preliminary pages presenting information peculiar to its academic purpose. These include a signature page where members of the author's Supervisory Committee and other University officials approve the thesis, a brief biography of its author, and an abstract page summarizing its contents.

FAU's manuscript guidelines dictate much of the structure and content of the preliminary pages of an FAU thesis, but leave the format of the main body of the text somewhat more at the discretion of the author. The **fauthesis** document class reflects this dichotomy. The preliminary pages are largely composed using rigid templates from bits of data specified by the author in the .tex file containing the text his or her thesis. The main body, in contrast, is generated using standard $IAT_EX 2_{\varepsilon}$ syntax. Authors unfamiliar with that syntax are advised to consult a suitable manual [2, 3, 4, 5, 6].

The remainder of this User's Guide outlines the structure of a .tex file that uses the fauthesis document class, and describes the steps the author should take to take advantage of its features. This document is divided in four sections. These outline options that may be passed to the fauthesis class in the \documentclass command, followed by commands that are meant to be used in the document preamble (between \documentclass{fauthesis} and \begin{document}}, in the front matter (between \begin{document}}, and the first is the first is the steps of the steps

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\chapter), and in the main body of the text, respectively. Before getting into these details, however, there are a few practical and logistical issues to address.

- Installation Download the fauthesis.cls file and copy it into the directory containing the
 .tex file of the text of your thesis. T_EX usually searches the document directory for
 .cls (and .sty) files it is asked to load. If T_EX is properly configured to do this, then
 it should not be necessary to install fauthesis.cls at the system level.
- **Compatibility** The fauthesis document class is built on top of the standard $\text{LATEX} 2_{\varepsilon}$ report document class. Consequently, it should be compatible with most common package (i.e., .sty) files. There are, however, some notable exceptions. Most importantly, do not load the geometry package, nor any other package that adjusts the margins of your document. The fauthesis class sets precise margins compatible with FAU's manuscript guidelines. Similarly, avoid packages that modify how chapter headings are typeset. These will likely change the required 2-inch margin at the top of the first pages of chapters. A list of packages known to be incompatible with the fauthesis document class may be found in Appendix B below.
- **Printing** Most authors today use PDFLATEX to generate a .pdf output file from their .tex source. If you use software from the Adobe Acrobat family to print the final, paper copy of your thesis for binding, then be sure **not to select** "Auto-Rotate and Center" and to set "Page Scaling" to "None" in the Print dialog. Otherwise, your margins will be incorrect on the printed page even if they are correct in the .pdf file.
- Support Although the output of the fauthesis document class has been reviewed and generally approved by FAU's Graduate College, the Graduate College does not support or maintain the class file itself. The class file is the sole and independent work of its author, and any questions or concerns regarding it should be addressed directly to him.

Furthermore, please note that while the Graduate College recommends using the class file, doing so does not necessarily guarantee that the format of your thesis will be approved. (It is more likely, but not guaranteed.) If a problem of this sort arises, I will make every effort to work with the affected student to resolve it within a reasonable period of time (roughly one week). If you anticipate such problems, or even if you don't, please plan to submit your thesis to the Graduate College for format review early enough that time remains to fix a problem before the Graduate College's posted deadlines for graduation.

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This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but *without any warranty*; without even the implied warranty of *merchantability* or *fitness for a particular purpose*. See the GNU General Public License for more details.

2 Class Options

The fauthesis document class extends the standard $IATEX 2_{\varepsilon}$ report document class. It consequently recognizes many of the same class options that the report class does. Most important among these are the options (10pt|11pt|12pt), which set the default font size, and the fleqn and leqno options, which modify the alignment of equations and the placement of equation labels, respectively. See the IATEX User's Guide [2], or another IATEX reference, for details. Note, however, that the notitlepage and twocolumn options from the report class are explicitly disabled in the fauthesis class and will only produce a warning if invoked. These are fundamentally incompatible with FAU's manuscript guidelines.

In addition to the standard **report** class options, **fauthesis** defines a few additional options that are peculiar to FAU dissertations and theses. Each of these has a default, which is the recommended value. Generally, none of these need be specified.

for chapter headings. The simplechapters option, which is the default, simply lists the chapter number and title in bold, centered text at the top of the page. The classicchapters option produces chapter headings similar to those in a book.

3 Preamble Material

The preamble is the part of a .tex file that comes after the \documentclass{fauthesis} command and before the \begin{document} command. This is where the author can load package files and define commands or macros to use in the main body of the text.

There are various data the fauthesis class will need to generate the title, copyright, signature and abstract pages. The author should set these in the preamble using the commands described in this section. Some of the commands in this list are optional, and these are noted explicitly and marked with an asterisk (*). Omitting any of the other commands will produce an error when IAT_EX runs. Note that all proper names of people, departments and colleges should be capitalized (and spelled!) correctly as arguments to these commands.

3.1 General Information

Specifying the author's Supervisory Committee for the signature page can sometimes be a little complicated. We therefore collect the commands used to do that in Section 3.2 below. This Section describes all of the other preamble commands used to generate the preliminary pages of an FAU thesis.

- Date of Graduation\graduation{MONTH}{YEAR} This is the month and year during which the author will graduate. Note that this should not be the month during which the thesis is finished or defended, but the month when the author will be invited to march at the graduation ceremony.
- **Department Chair**\chair[Dr.]{NAME}[Ph.D.] This is the proper name of the Chair of the author's academic department or program, exactly as it should appear on the signature page.
 - There are optional arguments both before and after the Chair's proper name. These are used to specify his or her salutation and academic credentials, respectively. The default salutation is "Dr." and the default credential is "Ph.D.," as shown above. While the salutation will almost always be the default, the credentials may vary. For example, a student graduating from the Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science whose Department Chair holds both an M.D. and a Ph.D. should use \chair{NAME}[M.D., Ph.D.], whereas a student graduating from the College of Engineering might use \chair{NAME}[Ph.D., P.E.]. In all cases, these options should be set according to how the Department Chair in question actually signs his or her name. The author is responsible to ensure that this information appears correctly in his or her thesis.

- College Dean\dean[Dr.]{NAME}[Ph.D.] This is the proper name of the Dean of the College that will award the author's degree, exactly as it should appear on the signature page. Optional arguments before and after the Dean's proper name specify his or her salutation and academic credentials. See the discussion under Department Chair above for details.

3.2 Supervisory Committee

Typically, the author's Supervisory Committee will consist of a single research Advisor, who chairs the Committee, as well as a number of other members called Supervisors. To specify such a Committee in the fauthesis document class, the author needs only the \advisor and \supervisor commands from the list below. The latter may be issued multiple times in the document preamble, once for each Committee member (other than the Advisor). Note that Supervisors will be listed on the signature page, after the Advisor, in the same order in which the corresponding \supervisor commands were issued in the preamble.

Sometimes, however, Committees include a second member whose role should be indicated on the signature page. Such a member is called a Co-Advisor below. Moreover, when a Committee does include a Co-Advisor, there are two further possibilities. The Co-Advisor either may have participated fully and equally with the Advisor in guiding the author's research, or may have performed a secondary, or largely academic, function. The former situation is distinguished by specifying the coadvisors option when loading the fauthesis document class. The latter corresponds to the nocoadvisors document class option, which is the default. From a practical point of view, the only difference in the LATEX output under the two options is that, when the coadvisors class option is active, the Advisor and the Co-Advisor are *both* recognized in the boilerplate text at the top of the signature page as having directed the author's research. Otherwise, only the Advisor is recognized. It is entirely at the discretion of the Advisor, the Co-Advisor and the author to decide which option best fits the circumstances.

The commands below allow an author to specify a single Advisor, a single optional Co-Advisor, titles and departmental affiliations for each, and multiple additional Supervisors who sit on his or her Supervisory Committee. The Advisor will appear first in the signature list, the Co-Advisor second if specified, followed by all Supervisors at the end. The template is hopefully flexible enough to accommodate most authors' needs.

- - If the nocoadvisors document class option is active, then the default value is "Dissertation Advisor" or "Thesis Advisor", depending on the degree sought.
 - If the coadvisors option is active, then the default is "Dissertation Co-Advisor" or "Thesis Co-Advisor," depending on the degree sought, *unless the author has explicitly specified a* \coadvisortitle. In that case, the default value under the coadvisors class option reverts to that under the nocoadvisors class option.
- - If the nocoadvisors document class option is active, then this command specifies a secondary research supervisor, academic advisor, or generally a member of the author's Supervisory Committee whose role should appear on the signature page. The Co-Advisor *will not* be acknowledged in the boilerplate text at the top of the

signature page as having directed the author's research. However, the Co-Advisor's name will appear second in the signatory list with a title beneath.

• If the coadvisors document class option is active, then the Co-Advisor *will* be acknowledged in the boilerplate text at the top of the signature page as having directed the author's research, and will appear second in the signatory list with a title beneath.

Optional arguments before and after the Co-Advisor's proper name specify his or her salutation and academic credentials. See the discussion under Department Chair in the previous Section for details.

- - If the nocoadvisors document class option is active, then the default value is "Dissertation Co-Advisor" or "Thesis Co-Advisor", depending on the degree sought.
 - If the coadvisors option is active, then the default is identical to the Advisor's title. This may be either a title set by the author using the \advisortitle command above or the default value if that command has not been used.

3.3 Signature Page Formatting

Generating a decent-looking signature page is easily the most delicate typographical issue that arises in formatting an FAU thesis. In view of this, the **fauthesis** document class allows authors a modicum of control over the spacing of signatures on the page, and over the boilerplate text at the top. Both of these commands are optional. The first is much more likely to be useful than the second.

committee, and the one at the lower left for University officials. Usually, the bottom of the upper right block is at roughly the same vertical position on the page as the top of the lower left block. The argument NUMBER can be any decimal value, and positive values will insert empty vertical space between the blocks, while negative values will cause them to overlap. The default is zero.

4 Front Matter

The front matter of a LATEX document comprises everything that appears before the first page of the first chapter of the actual text. The front matter of an FAU thesis consists of the title, copyright, signature, vita, acknowledgements, abstract, and dedication pages, as well as the Table of Contents and Lists of Tables and Figures. FAU's manuscript guidelines require that the front matter appear in exactly the order listed above, although the vita and dedication pages are optional. The fauthesis document enforces this order, and will produce warnings both during execution and printed at the top of the page in the output file to help the author ensure the correct structure.

After the preamble, the author's .tex file should contain the $\begin{document} com$ $mand, followed immediately by the <math>\frontmatter$ command. These standard pieces of $\ensuremath{\operatorname{IATEX}}$ should be followed immediately by the following commands specific to the fauthesis document class, in the order shown. As before, optional elements are noted explicitly and marked with an asterisk (*). Note, however, that if either of the optional elements are included, then they must appear in the positions shown.

preamble. If the signature page appears cramped, Section 3.3 describes commands that modify its spacing slightly. These commands must appear in the document preamble, however, not in the front matter. Trial and error is the best way to find values for the arguments that produce satisfactory output. In the end, of course, the final formatting of this page will have to be approved during the Graduate College's format review.

Table of Contents \dots \tableofcontents \dots \tableofcontents This command generates a Table of Contents for the thesis. LATEX compiles the information for this Table automatically each time it is run. But bear in mind that the Table of Contents generally doesn't update fully in the final document until the second, or sometimes even the third, run.

the List of Figures generally doesn't update fully in the final document until the second, or sometimes even the third, run. The **\nolistoffigures** command skips over the List in the required order specified by the **fauthesis** document class. It should be used *only* when a thesis contains *no* figures.

Some disciplines may have style conventions that include other tables, such as a List of Theorems for example, in the front matter. The author may define commands or load package files that implement such tables, which should appear only after all of the required front matter listed above. As long as the IAT_EX source generating the table begins with a standard \chapter* command, its appearance should be consistent with that of the Table of Contents and Lists of Tables and Figures. Bear in mind, however, that the Graduate College reserves the right to question its inclusion.

5 Main Matter and Beyond

The main matter of the thesis begins with the \mainmatter command, which resets the page number and starts numbering with Arabic numerals rather than lowercase Roman numerals. This should be followed immediately by the first \chapter command. If any Appendices are included, they must be preceded by the \backmatter command. This resets the chapter counter and starts labeling chapters with uppercase Latin letters rather than Arabic numerals. Each Appendix begins with an ordinary \chapter command.

5.1 Formatting Chapter and Section Headings

The fauthesis document class provides some simple ways to change the appearance of the headings at the tops of chapters, sections, subsections, and so forth. It also allows authors to change the formatting of the title of the thesis on the title page.

Define Chapter Headings \chapterheadformat{BLOCK}{CHAPTER}{TITLE}{SKIP} This command sets the code used to generate headings to chapters. The BLOCK argument gives line spacing and alignment commands to apply to the entire heading block. The CHAPTER argument describes how to format the chapter number. It may use the commands \chaptertype to represent the type of chapter (*i.e.*, Chapter or Appendix) and \chapternumber to represent the number (or letter) of the chapter. These are expanded internally. The TITLE argument specifies how to format the chapter title given as an argument to the \chapter command in the text. It may use the \chatpertitle command to represent the text of the title. Again, this will be expanded internally. Finally, the SKIP argument specifies spacing and other material to include after the title. For example, the classicchapters class option described above executes

\chapterheadformat
{\sesquispacing\raggedleft}%
{{\Large\bfseries\chaptertype\ \chapternumber\par}\vskip2.0ex}%
{{\LARGE\bfseries\boldmath\chaptertitle\par}}%
{\vskip5.0ex\hrule\vskip5.0ex}

at the beginning of the document. Note that the placement of the par commands in the second and third arguments is important since T_EX calculates the space between

lines using the current font size, which will have reverted to the default once the group has closed. The simplechapters class option executes

\chapterheadformat
{\doublespacing\centering}%
{{\bfseries\MakeTextUppercase{\chaptertype\ \chapternumber}\par}}%
{{\vskip5.0ex}

instead. Authors are free to design their own chapter headings, but of course are then on their own with regard to the format review.

Redefining any of these commands modifies the font in which the numbers and titles of the corresponding parts of the documented are formatted for output. For example, by default the fauthesis document class sets

\newcommand\sectionstyle{\normalsize\bfseries\boldmath\MakeTextUppercase}

This causes section titles to be set in bold, with bold math wherever applicable, and in all capital letters, unless specified otherwise by the author (see below). The other commands in this list work similarly.

5.2 Other Modifications and Notes

There are a few standard IATEX commands and environments that are modified by the fauthesis document class. We note these here.

Figure and Table Captions The \caption command is modified so that captions appear (a) in a slightly smaller font than usual, (b) single-spaced, and (c) centered on the page in a column that is somewhat narrower than the width of the text. The width of the caption is controlled by the \capwidth length, which the author may change from its default value of 0.8\textwidth (i.e., 80% of the width of the text on the page). The author may issue the command \setlength\capwidth{DIMEN} to change the caption width either (a) inside a particular float (i.e., figure or table) environment to change the width of just that one caption or (b) in the preamble to change the default width globally. Note that any package the author loads that overwrites the internal $\text{LATEX} 2_{\mathcal{E}}$ \@makecaption command will overwrite these changes to that command made by the fauthesis class. If the \caption command is not working as described here, this is probably what has happened.

- Footnotes and Quotations The \footnote command and the quotation environment are both modified to typeset their contents single-spaced.
- Generating Table of Contents Entries The commands that generate individual lines of the Table of Contents and Lists of Tables and Figures are modified to be typeset single-spaced. Note that, to avoid excessively long entries in the Table of Contents, most of LATEX's sectioning commands take an optional argument. For example, $chapter[SHORT]{TITLE}$ will produce a chapter entitled TITLE in the main body of the text, but which will have the title SHORT in the Table of Contents. The section and subsection commands work similarly. The $caption[SHORT]{CAPTION}$ command likewise allows long captions for Tables and Figures, while keeping entries in the corresponding Lists short. This is a very useful, and oft overlooked, feature of standard LATEX 2ε .
- Single- and Sesqui-Spacing The author may wish to typeset other (short!) portions of his or her thesis single-spaced. Please consult FAU's manuscript guidelines for, well, guidelines on doing this. There are two ways to switch the spacing convention locally. One is to put either the \singlespacing command, for single spacing, or \sesquispacing command, for one-and-a-half spacing, inside a surrounding group or environment so that T_EX will revert to the default spacing afterward. Alternatively, one can put a block of text in either the singlespace or sesquispace environment to accomplish the same thing if there is no surrounding group or environment.
- **Bibliography** The thebibiliography environment is modified so that the Bibliography is included in the Table of Contents. This is not the case by default in $\text{LATEX } 2_{\mathcal{E}}$. Also, individual bibliography entries are typeset single-spaced, with a gap roughly equal to an empty line between them.

A Version History

B Known Incompatibilities

The following packages are incompatible with the fauthesis document class. In most cases, the source will compile perfectly, but the margins will not be right. Authors encountering such problems should make sure their source does not load any of these packages.

geometry.sty Modifies page size and margins.

sectsty.sty Modifies chapter headings.

References

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