

# READING ASSIGNMENT 1

COMP 550, Fall 2019

Due: November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 9:00pm.

You must do this assignment individually. You may discuss with other students, but you must complete the final submission on your own.

## Human Parity in Machine Translation

There have been recent claims that machine translation systems have reached parity with human translators in performance. Read the following paper and critically assess its claims:

Achieving Human Parity on Automatic Chinese to English News Translation

Awadalla et al., 2018

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/uploads/prod/2018/03/final-achieving-human.pdf>

This is a long paper, but you do not need to understand all of the technical details in depth.

Submit a **one-page** critical summary of this paper. Address the following points:

1. What are the main technical innovations claimed by the paper that lead to the reported system's high level of performance?
2. How is the system evaluated?
3. In what ways do you agree or disagree with the claim that human parity has been reached on this machine translation task?
4. Is machine translation solved?

You may bring up other important points as you see fit. You may search for other relevant sources online and refer to them with citation, but this is not required (the citations count towards the one-page limit). Your summary will be evaluated on its coverage, conciseness, writing quality, justification of arguments, and clarity of thought.

**Electronically:** Submit a .pdf containing with your write-up to MyCourses under Reading Assignment 1.