

## CS 202 Critique Guidelines

**Format:** Use **PDF**. Critiques should be short and concise (1 page). Bullet points are fine for strengths and weaknesses.

Length: Around 500 words. Try not to exceed one page.

Check the **Similarity Score** after submission. You may be penalized if the similarity score is higher than 30% (most critiques have 0-10%). Do not directly copy and paste papers' sentences. Paraphrase and write in your own words!

### Required format:

0. Paper title and YOUR NAME (-1 point if your name is missing!!).

#### 1. Summary

Write a short summary of the paper (1 paragraph is enough. Don't write it long). You can write about the problem tackled in the paper, key ideas proposed, main contributions or findings, etc.

#### 2. Strengths

Basically good things about the paper. For example:

- Does the paper solve the problem well?
- What technical part do you think particularly interesting and novel? (compared to other prior techniques at the time when the paper was written)
- Does the idea bring a significant benefit over prior work?
- Assumptions are reasonable?
- Implementation reflects the proposed ideas?
- Experiments support the claims?

#### 3. Weaknesses

Think critically. Many papers do not explicitly state their weaknesses. Even if some are discussed in the paper, there could be even more. Some questions you may ask are:

- Some ideas seem to be flawed or suspicious?
- Any hidden assumptions made?
- Is it applicable only to a special case or limited types of systems?
- Can it be used in practice?
- Is the experimental setup fair?
- Are the experiment results inconsistent?
- Is the benefit marginal?

#### 4. Other Comments

Additional thoughts and discussions on the paper. For example:

- What are the important things you can take out of it?
- Any room for improvement?
- Is there a better way (e.g., simpler) to achieve the same goal?
- Is the idea still valid in today's systems?
- What you learned/enjoyed most in the paper

#### **Rubric:**

Each critique will be graded out of 10 points based on overall quality and understanding. So you don't necessarily get deductions just because some parts are weak or some of your claims are incorrect. In general, I would like to see more of your thoughts written in your own words, rather than a plain summary or direct quotes from the paper.

Do not copy and paste paper's sentences as if they were written by you.