

# COMP90042 Assignment 3 Part 1: Peer Review

Assignment type: Individual

Peer review start date: 1pm Thu, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Peer review due date: 1pm Thu, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023

The peer review is the first part of the third assignment, where you will be assigned **three project reports to review**. You must review all your assigned reports; failure to do so will mean you will score 0 for this assignment. The assignment of reports is random, and the review process is double-blind, i.e. the reviewers do not know the identity of the report authors and the report authors likewise do not know the identity of their reviewers.

The peer review process will be done in the report submission assignment shell (i.e. the page where you downloaded this peer review instructions document). You will receive your assignments and also your reviews there. Please follow the instructions on the page to submit your reviews. The interface is fairly intuitive but if you have any questions please post them on the discussion board.

## How to Write a Review

In general, a good quality review should be: objective, constructive and balanced. A review is objective if it analyses each aspect carefully and states the facts. A constructive review does not only state the problems, but also proposes concrete suggestions for improvement — they are constructive because the comments help the reviewee to improve their work. Lastly, a balanced review highlights both the strengths and weaknesses of the work. As the goal of the peer reviewing is to develop evaluative capacity (i.e. capability to judge quality), it is crucial that one develops the ability to assess and identify both good and poor standards of work.

In your review, you should provide 3 types of comments: (1) summary, a short paragraph or two that summarises key methodologies and findings of the report; (2) strengths, aspects that are done well in the report; and (3) weaknesses, issues or problems that need to be improved, and what the improvements are.

You should consider the following aspects or qualities in the report when writing your review:

Component	Criteria	Description
Writing	Clarity	Is the report well-written and well-structured?
	Tables/Figures	Are tables and figures interpretable and used effectively?
Content	Soundness	Are the experiments sound? Are methods justified and used correctly?
	Substance	How much work is done? Is there enough substance?
	Novelty	How novel or ambitious are the techniques or methods?
	Results	Are the results and findings convincing? Are they well articulated?

## Grading

This assignment is worth 8 points. Your reviews will be graded by your reviewees, i.e. the students whose reports you reviewed, on a scale 1–10, and that will determine your assignment marks. More specifically, your assignment 3 mark will be calculated as an average of all the scores you received:

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \left( \frac{s_n}{10} \times 8 \right)$$

where  $s_n$  is a review score, and  $N$  is the total number of scores you've received (in most cases 3).

We will check for *outliers* for the scores you received, and remove them if necessary (manually reviewed by the teaching team). Outlier scores are review scores that are not properly justified and they diverge significantly from the scores of your other reviews. Based on past years' experience, this is extremely rare (i.e. students are generally fair in scoring their reviews), and the vast majority of scores have a variance less than 1.5.