

Guidelines for Writing a Review



TECHNISCHE
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Performance Engineering Seminar

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1 Introduction

This document contains requirements and suggestions on how to review a paper in the context of our seminars. We outline one specific approach to structure your review as well as questions you should ask yourself when writing your review. Such a review is not unlike typical reviews of scientific papers by the science communities.

Note: For the sake of the reviews in this seminar, it is not required to read the referenced literature.

2 Structure overview

You should structure your review of the paper as outlined below. There is no page limit, but keep it brief and on point.

1. A very brief summary of the content of the paper, i.e., topic and main contribution of the paper.
2. Bullet points w.r.t. paper for
 - a) Pros
 - b) Cons
 - c) Neutral (if applicable)
3. A few paragraphs about
 - Explaining the strengths and weaknesses in more detail
 - Suggestions for improvement on how to address the criticisms mentioned
 - Questions that remained unanswered when reading the paper
 - Raise other further concerns (e.g. mention any text whose sentence structure is too convoluted)

3 Questions to be asked

- Is the paper understandable, if not: which parts in particular are not?
 - Understandable, i.e., one can understand the basic points and the logical structuring of the discussion in the paper.
- Does the overall structure of the paper make sense w.r.t. e.g., information flow, discussion arguments?
- Are the included figures/tables referenced and explained?
- Are the figures/tables legible (e.g., image quality)?
- Is the spelling and grammar on an acceptable level?
- Are quotations marked correctly?
- Has the edited paper been typed in a related style?
- Is a bibliography section included?

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- Can you find the other works list with the given information? E.g., skim through the paper to identify if it does (or can) include statements that support what it is used for in the paper you are reading.
 - Were the raised concerns in the discussion supported by arguments?
 - Is the discussion logically coherent?
 - Only on surface level:
 - Are important points missing from the discussion in your opinion?
 - Do you have a difference of opinion on one of the discussion points, if so, what is your argument?

4 Further reading

Please take time to read the following sources for further information about the reviewing process.

- <https://www.people.vcu.edu/~aslee/referee.htm>
- <https://authorservices.wiley.com/Reviewers/journal-reviewers/how-to-perform-a-peer-review/step-by-step-guide-to-reviewing-a-manuscript.html>
- <https://authorservices.wiley.com/Reviewers/journal-reviewers/how-to-perform-a-peer-review/top-tips-for-peer-reviewers.html>