Instructions to Paper Reading

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Why reading a research paper?

My advisor/classmate tells me to read this paper
This is **on the required reading list** for this course
This is **referenced from the paper** I am reading

I need to **write a summary** about this paper
I need to **do a presentation** about this paper in my class
I need to **write a survey** about sth related to this paper

I need to **implement** some parts of this paper
I need to **review this paper** for a conference or a journal
I want to **learn from this paper** for my future writing

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How do you approach reading papers?

- **Quick skimming**

- **Critical reading**

- **Creative reading**

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Critical Reading

- Be suspicious!

Critical Reading

- **If the authors attempt to solve a problem,**
    - are they solving the right problem?
    - are there simple solutions not have considered?
    - what are the limitations of the solution?

- **If the authors present data,**
    - do they have right data to substantiate argument?
    - do they gather it in the correct manner?
    - do they interpret data in a reasonable manner?
    - are there other more compelling datasets?

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Creative reading

- Positive thinking

Creative reading

- What are the good idea in this paper
- Improvements that might make important practical differences?
- Applications/extensions that the authors might not have thought of?
- Can they be generalized further?

Reading is Modeling

- To build a cognitive model of the author(s)
    - Take care of who the author(s) are
    - Read other works by the same author(s)

- The view of the work is more important than tricks
    - Think about why the author(s) choose to do things in such a way

- To refine the cognitive model of yourself
    - Figure out what you need to improve to align with the cognitive model of the author(s)
    - Simulate the mind of the author(s) in your mind