Reviewing: It is Your Duty!

Initially, papers to review will likely come from your advisor 😊

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References:
“The Task of the Referee, by Alan Jay Smith
Why?

- **Quality control**
  - You are reviewing to accept, not to reject!

- **You recommend for or against**
  - Useless without justification
  - Accept if novel, relevant, validated, well written, worthy

- **You are helping the final decision maker(s)**
  - Useless without evidence you understood the work
  - Be honest, e.g. if you haven’t checked a part of the paper

- **You are helping the authors; your colleagues**
  - Give suggestions for improvement
  - Be constructive – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
Beware!

- Has to be technically sound
  - But, relevant / well motivated
  - Don’t care if you prove “pigs can fly” 😊
  - Too bad if the authors had re-invented the wheel
- Has to be well written
  - But, delivers
  - Don’t care if it’s poetry if it does NOT deliver
- Could be simple
  - But, just in hindsight
  - AND simple, or “low density per unit progress”, may be good!
Different kinds of contributions

- Breakthrough
  - Solve a hard long-standing open problem, or lay a proper foundation for solving it

- Progress
  - Suggest a new problem and solve it
  - Solve a recently posed problem

- Tinkering
  - Polish, extend, correct existing solutions
**Different Expectations**

- Journal submissions more substantial than their conference counterparts
  - afford a revision, even a major one

- **Survey paper gives broad and thorough coverage**
  - Targets novices AND near-experts
  - Gives a new perspective
  - May include some analysis / results
  - Like your Oral PhD Exam

- Tutorial paper is usually more focused
  - Targets non-experts

- **Proposals**
  - Credibility of investigator matters!

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Ethical Issues - the Do NOTs

- Do NOT double submit or publish
- Give due credits
- Your duty is to referee and both thoroughly and on time
  - At least \((\text{NumberOfPapersYouSubmit}+1) \times 3-4\)
- Do NOT discriminate or get angry
- Do NOT show off at others’ expense
- Do NOT distribute unpublished work you review
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- It’s OK not to waste too much time on junk submissions 😊 ONLY IF IT’S TRUE
When you are the author

- Take the feedback seriously
  - Do NOT waste your time and the community’s time

- Do NOT submit junk
  - Listen to your advisor 😊

- Learn from papers you’re reviewing
  - Learn how to write from a well-written paper
  - Learn state of the art from a good “related work” section
  - Look at their “limitations” as future work 😊