Reading and Reviewing Research Papers

Jianming Zhang
Ying Ye

Department of Computer Science,
Boston University
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Reading

Presenter: Ying Ye
The Goals of Reading

Learning something

Keeping up with the state-of-the-art

Looking for research ideas

Borrowing techniques

Reviewing
Abstract

• What to expect

**Abstract MadLibs!!**

This paper presents a _______ method for _______. Using _______, the _______ was measured to be _______ +/- _______. Results show _______ agreement with theoretical predictions and significant improvement over previous efforts by __________, et al. The work presented here has profound implications for future studies of _______ and may one day help solve the problem of _______.

Keywords: _______, _______, _______
Abstract

- What to expect
  problem it attempts to address
  claimed contributions
  how they substantiate their claims

  conclusion
Overview/Introduction

• What to expect
  detailed description of problem
  related works
  insufficiency of current solutions
Other sections

- Method
- Experiment
- Discussion
- Conclusion
References

• How to use
  look up methods used in the paper
  compare related works
  understand how they got the ideas
Reviewing

Presenter: Jianming Zhang
Outline

• Editorial System & Referee’s Role

• How to Write a Review

• Referees’ Ethics
Editorial Hierarchy

- Managing Editor
  - Area Editors
    - Paper Submitter
    - Double Blind
    - Referees
      - Referees’ Students
Referee’s Role

• Is a referee
  – responsible for the correctness of a paper?  
    No, the authors are.
  – responsible for accepting or rejecting a paper?  
    No, the editors are.
  – purely expected to express an advisory opinion about a paper?  
    Yes.
It looks like a referee has less responsibilities.

Then what prompts a referee to be a good reviewer?
What prompts a referee to be a good reviewer?

• The obligation to uphold the standards through reviewing papers.
• Besides that,
  – Enhanced Reputation
  – Goodwill from Editors
  – Appointment to Editorial Boards
What prompts us to be a good reviewer?
How to Write a Review

• A review is for quality control
  – Significance
  – Innovation
  – Correctness
  – Writing
  – etc.
A Review Template

1. Please briefly describe the paper's contributions, and list its positive and negative points.
A Review Template

2. Overall Rating
   (a) Definitely Accept
   (b) Weakly Accept
   (c) Borderline
   (d) Weakly Reject
   (e) Definitely Reject
A Review Template

3. Please explain your rating.

If the paper is so unclear that it should be rejected, please explain that. If the paper is not novel please explain, citing the work that makes it so. You should take into account whether this paper is of wide interest, or addresses only a narrow community. You should mention whether the paper cites prior work fairly or not. You should comment on the paper's correctness and experimental evaluation. A paper that is definitely correct has conclusions supported by flawless arguments (including correct proofs, formulas, and so on) or by well-designed and executed experiments, or perhaps by both. A convincing paper has strong arguments or limited but compelling experiments. Minor technical errors or experimental design and execution count against a paper, but it might have redeeming features (which you would explain). If a paper has major problems, it should be rejected. Your rating should not consider whether or not the paper might become an oral or poster.
A Review Template

4. Confidence
   (a) Very confident
   (b) Confident
   (c) Not confident

5. If you are confident in your review, you don't need to tell us why. However, if you are not, please explain why here.
A Review Template

6. Additional comments to author(s) (required)

7. Comments to committee (will not be seen by authors)
Referees’ Ethics

• Objectivity
• Fairness
• Speed
• Professionalism
• Confidentiality
• Honesty
• Courtesy
Common Dilemmas

• How much time should I put into a paper?

• What is the relationship between journal and conference versions of a paper?

• What if I am actively working on the same problems?
Thank You for Your Time!

• References
