

Reviewing: It is Your Duty!

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

Abraham Matta
Computer Science
Boston University

References:

"The Task of the Referee, by Alan Jay Smith

"A Guide for New Referees in Theoretical Computer Science", by Ian Parberry

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!

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- ❑ Do NOT distribute unpublished work you review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

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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 😊