

Guidelines for Writing a Paper Review

Throughout the semester, we will have paper discussions that dive into more advanced research related to course material. For students in the ME2 section, you will be required to submit a paper review of one of the papers per discussion (the paper that you should review is marked with “+ Review” on the schedule page). Please put together a short writeup in your favorite document editor, and submit it to Gradescope. The writeup should consist of the following sections:

1. Brief Summary

- Limit this to 1-2 paragraphs.
- What is the problem the paper is trying to solve?
- What are the key ideas of the paper? Key insights?
- What is the key contribution to literature at the time it was written?
- What are the most important things you take out of it?

2. Strengths

- 3-5 bullet points.
- Does the paper solve the problem well?
- List only the most important ones.

3. Weaknesses

- 3-5 bullet points.
- This is where you should **think critically**. Every paper/idea has a weakness. This does not mean that the paper is necessarily bad (though maybe some will be), but that there is room for improvement and future research can accomplish this.
- List only the most important ones.

4. Extensions and New Ideas

- 1-2 extensions or new ideas, one paragraph each.
- Be creative. Is there some new insight that you might be able to explore? Can you do better than what they've proposed? Can you use their idea to solve a different problem? Use any inspiration from the paper to think about what you could do, and briefly explain what value this adds to the literature.
- You can use your weaknesses for inspiration on what to fix, but you don't have to.

Based on Onur Mutlu's Guidelines on Paper Reviews, Spring 2015, available at <http://course.ece.cmu.edu/~ece447/s15/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=onur-447-s15-how-to-do-the-paper-reviews.pdf>