UNIVERSITY OF
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URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Guidelines for Writing a Paper Review

Throughout the semester, we will have paper discussions that dive into more advanced research related to course material. 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*