

# PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND OPTIMIZATION

## *sorttest*-reviews

### 1 Reviewing another's draft

By now, you should have received the drafts of *sorttest* papers written by two other members of the class. For each of these, you need to write a complete review.

The goal of each review is to provide the author of the draft with feedback that will help them to improve the document itself. To achieve that end, your goal for each draft is to identify any elements of the writing that may interfere with the clear, compelling communication that the paper is trying to achieve. You do **not** need highlight every instance of every problem; your role is not to edit comprehensively each draft. You need only help the author see the problems (and potential problems) of what they wrote.

The following is a non-comprehensive list of the aspects of each draft on which you should observe and comment:

- **Grammar and diction:** At the lowest level, the writing should be grammatically correct. Mis-used words, mis-conjugated verbs, mis-applied modifiers, mis-used punctuation—any aspect of writing at this low level that catches your attention for its incorrectness or awkwardness should be noted.
- **Sentence and paragraph tightness:** Is the language direct? Is there a tendency to be vague or too subtle/circuitous in describing the work? Are there excess modifiers that can simply be removed?
- **Section flow:** You should never feel lost while reading, as you move from one paragraph to the next, and from one section to the next. Are there any points in which the writing jumps to a topic or observation that you did not anticipate?
- **Definitions and exposition:** Are the concepts, experiments, and results defined and explained clearly? Does the writer use technical and uncommon terms without defining them? Does the writer define them, but too late in the document, well after using them extensively?
- **Accuracy and correctness of facts and analysis:** Does the document correctly describe the work? Is the analysis backed by the data? Are claims justified?
- **Overall gestalt:** Did you finish reading the document with clear idea of what the writer wanted to convey? And did the writing convey it?

**Keeping it anonymous:** Don't put your name on your review. I will know, thanks to the submission system, which review was written by which author. **Do** be sure to *number your reviews*, 1 and 2, to match the draft you were given; in this way, I will then know to whom to return each review.

## **2 What will be coming next**

The reviews will next be returned to the corresponding authors of each draft. The authors will then incorporate that feedback into a final version the paper.

## **3 Submitting your work**

Each review should be a PDF. Please name your reviews `sorttest-review-1.pdf` and `sorttest-review-2.pdf`, matching the numbering of the drafts that you received. These reviews should be submitted to the CS submission systems web page at:  
`www.cs.amherst.edu/submit`

**This assignment is due on Wednesday, Apr-10, 6:00 am.**