

How to review a scientific paper

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Publication: Communication of scientific results

Report original empirical or theoretical work

Review process = Quality control to ensure the suitability of a submission for publication



Process

- 1. Author submits paper to journal**
- 2. Formal check by publisher**
- 3. Quick check by editor**
 1. In scope of the journal
 2. Language
 3. Importance and scientific quality
- 4. Assignment of an associate editor**
- 5. Selection of reviewers**

Who are the reviewers?

- **Researchers knowledgeable in the field and the topic**
- **Selected and invited by the editor/associate editor**
 - Personal information
 - Publications
 - Author suggestions



What to do as a reviewer?

- **Read the abstract (provided with the invitation) and judge if you are competent or not**
- **Check if you have a conflict of interest with the authors**
 - Same institution
 - Recent or frequent co-author
- **Check if you have time to meet the deadline**
- **Respond to editor (also if NO)**

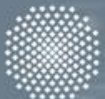
- **Reviewing is good for you**
 - Careful reading of a paper
 - Information on newest results (before publication)

- **Take enough time for the review**
 - First reading – time – second reading



What do we expect from reviewers?

- **Clear opinion and suggestion for decision**
 - Scientific content
 - Novelty
 - Importance
 - Presentation
- **Will the reader profit from reading this paper?**



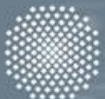
- **Novelty**

- Are the results already known?

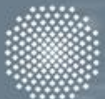
- Software to check plagiarism
 - Self-plagiatism is frequent
 - Is the paper incremental?

- Is the paper presenting new developments or is it an application for a different case?

- Does the application provide new insights?



- **Have the authors overlooked previous work?**
- **Are the methods appropriate?**
- **Do results support conclusions?**
- **Can one understand the derivations?**
- **Is the paper boring?**



Style of the review

- **Keep to the facts**
- **Don't insult the authors**
- **Don't rewrite the paper**
- **Even if you are suggesting acceptance pls provide reasons**

- **In case of rebuttals remain objective**

Thank you for your attention!

