Peer reviewing reports and theses
Why is it important to peer review (well)?

- Learn how to critically evaluate others’ work
- By reviewing other work, you learn how to criticize your own work
  - To be able to check your reports or thesis with the eye of an opponent
  - Teaches how to find issues that are otherwise hard to detect when writing report or a thesis yourself
Writing a Peer Review

- Peer Review goal **IS NOT** to find typos
  a. Author can just use Grammarly :)
- Review should usually consist of two main parts:
  a. General opinion of the whole work
     ■ Summarizing good and weak parts of the thesis
     ● Not just weaknesses of the work!
     ■ Suggesting improvements
  b. Set of notes and questions
     ■ May be left as comments directly into the document
What aspects should be kept in mind when reading the work

- Is the central goal of the work defined?
- Is the work logically structured
- Is the Author's reasoning understandable?
  - Are the arguments presented clearly and correctly?
- Is the reader expected to have too much prior knowledge?
- Are the results of the work clearly presented?
- Is the work formatted correctly?
Goal of the Work

- Each written text should have a specific purpose!
- After reading the work, can you answer the following questions?
  - Are the goals set reasonable and realistic?
  - Were the goals achieved?
    - Or is it augmented as to why these goals are unachievable?
Readability

- How many sentences are longer than 12 words?
  - Could they be presented in several different sentences?
- How easy would it be for you to write these sentences grammatically correctly yourself?
- Is the text clinging too much to the details?
  - Can you restore a sentence after reading it without looking at it?
- Did the author avoid explaining details.
  - Are some important explanations skipped?
  - Are complex concepts left too unambiguous?
Logical structure of the work

● Is it clear, why should anyone read this work? What is the motivation for the reader.
● Does it have a specific goal set at the beginning of the work
   ○ What is to be achieved?
● Are the subheadings informative?
   ○ Does the table of contents alone provide an overview of the work?
● Are the different parts of the work in balance?
   ○ Are there any chapters or subsections that are significantly longer than the others?
Correspondence of the written and practical parts

- Does the author describe all the important details?
  - Would you be able to repeat the experiments based only on the author's description?
- Does the author help the reader to interpret the results?
- Are the graphs and tables of results presented without explanations?
- Are the graphs and tables of results comprehensible without explanation?
- Were the research questions raised at the beginning of the work answered at the end of the work?
Is the background of the report sufficiently detailed

- Does the work require significant prior knowledge?
- Is this prior knowledge necessary to present the results of the work?
- Are the necessary definitions provided in the work?
- Does the paper refer to literature sources that cover the given subject area?
  - In sufficient amount?
- Has the author described previous approaches to solve the same/similar problem?
  - Has the author described how their approach is different from previous?
Are the results of the work described well?

- Is the test plan described well?
  - Is the experiment design clearly described?
  - Is the hardware used in the experiment described?
  - Is the software used to perform the experiment described?
  - Is exactly what and how is measured described?

- How well are the results presented?
  - Are measurement errors or variability reported?
  - Are the results visualized correctly?
  - Does the author comment on the test results and explain their significance?
  - Are the conclusions drawn from the test results? Are they adequate?
  - Do the obtained results help to answer the research questions?
Next seminar tasks

- **16.05** - Send report for peer review
- Review the reports of two other students
  - **21.05** - Submit peer reviews, share it with the authors and upload through website
  - Review should consists of two parts:
    - General opinion of the report
    - Running comments, remarks and suggestions on what to improve
- **28.05** - Deadline for modified, final report.