

MIT Department of Mathematics
18.418: Topics in Computational Molecular Biology
Semester: Spring 2018
Instructor: Professor Bonnie Berger
TA: Younhun Kim

Reading Assignment - Guidelines

The primary purpose of the reading assignments is to enable you to gather understanding of the subject matter of the talks of the weekly guest speakers. You will be assigned one or two papers of the guest speaker a week before the actual talk. Your task is to write a one to two-page review or summary for each paper. The summary will be **due at midnight on the day before the talk** (usually Tuesdays).

In general, your summary should include the main contribution of the paper, its importance, novelty, strengths and weaknesses, and where it stands in comparison to the state of the art. While writing the summary, you should consider the following questions:

- What are the main contributions of the paper and how significant are they?
- How interesting the paper is for the community?
- Are the claims novel? Why or why not?
- How do the results/methods introduced in the paper compare with others in the field? Are the comparisons made by the authors fair?
- Are the claims supported with substantial evidence?
- Is the paper mathematically/computationally sound? Are there sufficient methodological details for reproducibility? Are the statistical tests used in the paper appropriate?
- Is there room for future improvement?
- Is the manuscript clearly written and easily understandable?

How to submit:

The summary must be typed. It must contain **your name** and should be uploaded to the appropriate Google Drive folder, which the TA will (privately) share with you at the beginning of the semester. The file name should be: **"RA_<no.>_<your name>.pdf"**. (Example: RA_1_younhun_kim.pdf)

We encourage you to think critically about the paper and come up with questions that you can ask the author during the Q&A session.