

Checkpoint 4 - Preliminary implementation and results

The goal of this checkpoint is for you to really start making some headway on the implementation effort for the project. You will be required to explain your implementation plan for your project and describe your implementation efforts so far. Ideally, you will have some preliminary results of your implementation.

You are allowed to switch papers for this checkpoint, but you will need to get approval if outside the pre-approved venues.

You should submit a PDF for peer review to [Circuit](#) that follows the ICML 2020 LaTeX guidelines. The structure should be very clear and similar to the example from checkpoint 1 on the course website. For example, you should use section headings to signify the required elements below. [overleaf.com](#) is recommended for LaTeX compilation. The required elements of this checkpoint are:

1. **Implementation goal (at least 1 paragraph)** – You should first describe your implementation goal for the end of the project. This should describe how it relates to one or more of the papers you selected. What do you hope to implement by the end of the project? Other possible questions you could answer: What is the motivation for this goal? What do you hope to understand or learn? Or, what do you hope to extend or improve upon? This is mainly to get you thinking about the big picture. I will not require your final project to meet this planned goal but hopefully it will help you focus your implementation efforts.
2. **Implementation plan (at least 1 paragraph)** – You should describe how you plan to achieve your goal for the project, i.e., what are the concrete steps you plan to take to achieve your goal? This could expand or clarify your tentative implementation plan from before or be completely new. The next questions provide possible things you could discuss but only some of them may be relevant. For example, which specific public code repositories do you plan to use? Please include URLs to these code repositories if possible. What code will you reuse and what code will you write yourself? How do you plan to evaluate your implementation? Which datasets do you plan to use?
3. **Preliminary implementation (at least 1 paragraph)** – You should describe what you have done so far on your implementation. Your description should detail what parts or experiments you have implemented or which parts of the other people’s code you have tried to run.
4. **Preliminary results OR discussion of implementation problems (at least 1 paragraph)** – You should discuss any (even simple) preliminary results if possible, OR if you do not have preliminary results, discuss the implementation problems you are facing and hypothesize about how you can solve them. Ideally, you would have preliminary results for at least one baseline experiment. Please include any result figures or result tables as appropriate and explain the significance of your preliminary results. However, you may run into unforeseen problems in implementation or in running other researcher’s code (research code is often messy and hard to run). Thus, it is perfectly okay if you do not have any results to show at this checkpoint, but you must describe the implementation problems you are facing and hypothesize about how you can solve them.

The basic rubric for peer review is given below.

1. [Implementation Goal] Does the submission describe the implementation goal?

0 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Did not include.	10 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 sentences or less.	20 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One paragraph or more.
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2. [Implementation Plan] Does the submission describe the implementation plan (i.e., concrete steps to achieve the goal)?

0 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Did not include.	10 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 sentences or less.	20 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One paragraph or more.
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3. [Preliminary Implementation] Does the submission describe the preliminary implementation efforts?

0 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Did not include.	20 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 sentences or less.	30 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One paragraph or more.
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4. [Preliminary Results OR Discussion of Problems] Does the submission discuss preliminary results OR discuss implementation problems?

0 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not discuss results nor implementation problems.	15 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 sentences or less.	25 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One paragraph or more.
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5. How would you rank the quality of this submission relative to other submissions in the class?

1 point <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Below average (lower 25%)	3 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Average (25%-75%)	5 points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Above average (75%-100%)
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