Rubric for the assessment of a research report

	excellent (5)	**good (4)**	**sufficient (3)**	**weak (2)**	**insufficient (1)**
1. Research objectives and questions					
1.1 Context and research objective	Knowledge gap and objective emerge directly from the given scientific context with consistent reasoning. Formulations are clear and concise.	Knowledge gap and objective emerge directly from the given scientific context with consistent reasoning.	Knowledge gap and objective are linked to the given scientific context, but the reasoning is weak.	Knowledge gap or objective are given, but link to the scientific context (existing research) is absent.	Knowledge gap and objective are absent.
1.2 Research question	Research questions and hypothesis address the research objective. Consistent and clear reasoning shows the connection.	Research questions and hypothesis address the research objective. The reasoning connecting questions to objectives is consistent, but not clearly formulated.	Research questions and hypothesis address the research objective . The reasoning connecting questions to objectives is partly inconsistent.	Research questions and hypothesis are stated but do not address the research objective (an answer to the research question should contribute to the objective). The reasoning connecting questions to objectives is weak or inconsistent.	Research questions and hypothesis are absent.
2. Research method					
2.1 Design of experiments	The experiments can answer the research question(s), the optimal set of experiments has been chosen.	The experiments can answer the research question(s), but this is not the optimal set of experiments (too many or too few experiments, inconsistent variation of parameters etc.).	The experiments can only partly answer the research question(s) approximately only. Design of experiments is incorrect in some aspects (values for initial or boundary conditions, variables that are varied etc.).	The experiments cannot answer the research questions.	No description of experiments.
2.2. Description of experiments and analysis	Description of experiments and subsequent analysis is	Description of experiments and subsequent analysis is	Description of experiments and subsequent analysis is	Research cannot be reproduced due to insufficient information	No description of experiments and subsequent analysis

	complete and clear so that exact reproduction of the research is possible. Information on experiments is clearly organized.	complete and clear so that exact reproduction of the research is possible.	lacking in a number of places (variables that are kept constant, variables that varied, range of variation). Because of this it is only possible to perform a more or less similar research.	on setup of experiments and subsequent analysis	
3. Results					
3.1 Selection of results	Presented results cover all research questions and have been carefully selected (which variables, which relationships, etc.). The presented results are explicitly linked to the research questions. No superfluous results are given.	Presented results cover all research questions. The presented results are explicitly linked to the research questions. No superfluous results are given.	Presented results cover all research questions, but either the connection is not made explicit or the amount of results (figures/tables) given is either too large or too small.	Presented results do not cover all research questions, or unrelated results are shown.	Presented results have no connection to the research questions.
3.2 Presentation of results	The form of presentation of results is innovative/unexpected, possibly going beyond standard types of graphs and tables in order to enhance insight and understanding. Careful choice of variables or relationships shown.	Graphs and tables are properly designed (all necessary elements are included, layout is clear).	Graphs and tables miss some of the necessary elements, but the message conveyed by the graph/table is still clear.	Graphs and tables miss some of the necessary elements, but it is still clear what is shown. Due to the lacking quality, the message conveyed by the graph/table is unclear.	Graphs or tables miss multiple elements (axis-labels, units, captions) and as a results it is unclear what is shown.
3.3 Description of results	Figures and tables are referred to in the text. The discussion of their contents informs the reader about what the figures and tables demonstrate	Figures and tables are referred to in the text. The discussion of their contents informs the reader about what the figures and tables demonstrate	Figures and tables are referred to in the text. The discussion of their contents is limited to a repetition of their contents.	Figures and tables are referred to in the text, but their content is not discussed, or the discussion is very limited	Figures and tables are not referred to in the text.

	(trends and remarkable results or discussed). Description of results is linked to the research questions.	(trends and remarkable results or discussed).			
4. Discussion and conclusion					
4.1 Discussion of results (can be part of the results section)	Interpretation of the results is linked both to the research questions and to literature. The provided interpretations are correct and consistent with the results. Possibly links between different results are made.	Interpretation of the results is linked to the research questions but no link to literature is given. The provided interpretations are correct and consistent with the results.	Interpretation of the results is not clearly linked to either the research questions or literature. The provided interpretations show occasional errors or are partly inconsistent with the results.	Interpretation of results is given without any link to research questions or literature. The provided interpretations show multiple errors or are inconsistent with the results.	No interpretation of results is provided.
4.2 Critical reflection on the research performed	All weaknesses in the research are indicated and weighed relative to each other. Furthermore, (better) alternatives for the methods used are indicated.	Most weaknesses in the research are indicated and impacts on the main results are weighed relative to each other.	Most weaknesses in the research are indicated, but impacts on the main results are *not* weighed relative to each other.	Only some possible weaknesses and/or weaknesses which are in reality irrelevant or non-existent are identified.	Discussion only touches trivial or very general points of criticism.
4.3 Clarity of conclusions and recommendations	Clear link between research questions and conclusions. All conclusions are substantiated by results. Conclusions are formulated clearly and precise.	Most conclusions are well-linked to research questions and substantiated by results. Conclusions are mostly formulated clearly but with some vagueness in wording.	Conclusions are linked to the research questions, but not all questions are addressed. Some conclusions are not substantiated by results or merely repeat results.	Conclusions are drawn, but in many cases they are only partial answers to the research question. Conclusions merely repeat results.	No link between research questions, results and conclusions is presented.

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