XRAC Research Request Rubric for Reviews

Grounds for rejection

Failure to satisfy the following two items are grounds for rejection.

- Proposal addresses access to other compute resources
- Code performance and scaling data are provided

Assessment and Summary

- Research objectives described
- Peer-reviewed supporting grant(s) OR Science review
- Progress report, publications, and prior usage (if applicable)
- [R] Proposal describes access to other compute resources

Appropriate Methodology

- Right tools, codes, algorithms, etc., for the research objectives
- Appropriate parameterizations, model configurations, etc., for the research objectives

Appropriate Research Plan

- Necessary & sufficient experiments or work plans to answer the research objectives?
- Request totals calculated correctly
- Justification provided for number of replicates, problems sizes, duration of calculations, etc

Efficient Use of Resources

- Appropriate resources chosen
- Resources to be efficiently used
- [R] Code performance and scaling data are provided and appropriate

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The following descriptions elaborate on the primary elements of the "short-form" rubric.

Grounds for Rejection

- The two grounds for rejection are failure to address access to other resources and failure to provide appropriate code performance and scaling.
- These are both also addressed within the parts of the review, but are called out here for emphasis.
- Reviewers who reject requests on these grounds should explicitly identify the reason in the Assessment and Summary portion of their review.

Assessment and Summary

- Does the main Document succinctly state the scientific impact of the research to be conducted?
- Are the science objectives described in sufficient detail to support the computational request?
- Does the request have [national?] agency or foundation supporting grants for which the science objectives in this computational request have been reviewed?
 - o If not, science must be reviewed for its merits.
 - If a renewal, also consider the progress made using prior allocations, including the publication of peer-reviewed manuscripts and other communications within the community.
 - o If so, the scientific merit and approach will not be subject to further review.
- Renewal requests:
 - Are publications and a progress report provided?
 - Has sufficient usage of prior allocation been made (or explanation provided)?
- Pl available resources:
 - [GROUNDS FOR REJECTION] Are the researcher's available local CI resources and other non-XSEDE resources (or absence thereof) described?
 - Does the plan include how XSEDE resources will provide capabilities beyond those of local resources or why the requested XSEDE resources are required in addition to PI available resources?

Appropriateness of Methodology

- Compute resource requests:
 - Are the choice of applications, methods, algorithms and techniques to be employed to accomplish the stated scientific objectives reasonably described and motivated?
 - Are the methods/tools appropriate and sufficient for answering the science questions?
- Storage resource requests:
 - Are the data usage, access methods, algorithms and techniques to be employed to accomplish the stated research objectives reasonably described and motivated?

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- Shared collections:
 - Are the public or community access methods to be utilized described?

Appropriateness of Computational Research Plan

- Does the research plan explain how the research objectives will be achieved?
- Are the computational runs described in sufficient detail to justify the request?
- Is the proposed computational work necessary and sufficient to address the science questions?
- Compute resource requests:
 - Do the proposed computations include simulation parameters (step size, time scale, ensemble parameters, etc.) sufficient to obtain accurate and meaningful results?
 - Are sufficient human resources available to devote to the task?
 - Are the amount of resources requested derived from the methodology and research plan?
- Are there serious concerns about the research plan?
 - o If so, document these concerns in your review
- Are the resource requests calculated correctly from the information provided?

Efficient Use of Resources

- Is the proposed usage for the selected resources in accordance with the recommended use guidelines of said resources?
- Compute resource request:
 - Are relevant performance and parallel scaling data provided?
 - Is a discussion of work done to improve optimization and/or parallelization of the application(s) provided?
- [GROUNDS FOR REJECTION] Does the request provide code performance and/or scaling data on the requested resources for the work proposed?
- Is the work proposed being targeted to appropriate resources?
 - If not, recommend an allocation on more appropriate resources.