DB&IS Seminar
Summer Semester 2021

Lehrgebiet Informationssysteme
TU Kaiserslautern
Organizing Groups

- **Databases and Information Systems (DBIS)**
  https://dbis.informatik.uni-kl.de/

- **Heterogeneous Information Systems (HIS)**
  http://wwwlgis.informatik.uni-kl.de/

- Main contact for organizational matters: Nico Schäfer (nschaefer@cs.uni-kl.de).
- For further email addresses and rooms see websites.
- Please include [db-seminar] in the subject of your emails.
Aim of This Seminar

- Critically read and understand a research paper.

- Prepare a presentation and give a talk on a research paper.

- Learn novel concepts and recent developments of databases and information systems.
Process

1. Reading and Understanding

2. Slide Preparation

3. Presenting
Process: Reading and Understanding the Paper

• Research papers are dense texts written by experts for experts.

• You are the budding experts!

• There is no golden rule for reading papers. Depends on
  • the community
  • the type of paper (theory, system, ...)
  • your experiences
Process: Reading and Understanding the Paper

- Four more weeks for understanding the authors’ contributions.
- Guideline for reading and understanding:
  - Recognize the research problem authors have addressed.
  - Understand the authors’ contributions to the problem.
  - Raise appropriate questions and find limitations of the paper. 
    [e.g., are authors’ assumptions to propose the solution reasonable?, 
    the logic of the solution justifiable?, 
    is there any simpler way to approach the solution?, etc.]
  - Have a look on the related works of the paper for better understanding of the scope of the research problem.
  - Think: Your tutor might ask you to tell in 4-5 sentences what the paper is about.
First Appointment with Your Tutor

- Schedule an appointment with your tutor, to take place not later than 21.05.2021.
- Before that meeting, write a short (5000-5500 characters) summary. For this, you find a template on the seminar webpage.
- Send the summary to the tutor before the appointment.
- Send before the intended outline (incl. rough timeline) of your presentation to discuss it with your tutor.

Each student must show a solid understanding of a paper and outline of the presentation slides.
Process: Slide Preparation

- More than one month for making the slides.
- Consult with your tutor for any difficulties in slide preparation.
- Remember that you must explain the content of the slides to the tutor.
- Send your No-left-TODO version of slides to the tutor at latest 20.06.2021.
- Each student must complete No-left-TODO presentation.
- Revise the slides and incorporate the changes suggested by the tutor.
- Send your Camera-Ready version of slides to the tutor 2 days before the presentation dates.
Process: Slide Preparation

Always remember: **Most of the audience does not know the paper and wants to learn something!**

**Good Practice**

- Mention slide numbers.
- Cite papers correctly.
- **Do not copy!**
- Put reference to the source of copied figures, equations, etc.
- Custom illustrations and animations can help.
Good Practice

- Try to avoid including long sentences in your slides.
- Examples and figures are more preferable.
- A good presentation should tell a story.
- Do not use small fonts.
- Do not overfill your slides with text or figures.
Process: Presentation

- 45 min. will be assigned to each student for their talk on the assigned paper following a 15 min. Q&A session.

- Talk and slides should be in English (don’t worry—nobody here is native speaker).

- Everybody is expected to ask questions.
Process: Presentation

- Presentations should be **45 min.** Large deviations will affect the grading/passing of the seminar.
- When presenting do not read from the slides.
- Practice your talk at home.
Process: Presentation

- Two presentation dates:
  - middle of January
  - end of February

- Participation in the presentations of the peer students is mandatory.
Submission of Final Report

• Submit a short report (not longer than 4 pages). Report should include:
  – Motivation and problem statement.
  – Brief discussion on main approach and experimental results.
  – Conclusion of the work in your own words mentioning strong and weak points of the paper.
  – Send your Final Report to the tutor 2 weeks after the presentations.

• Do not copy and paste from the paper.

• Use the LaTeX-template.
Process: Grading / Passing

Grading/Assessment based on

- Quality of presentation slides and ability to explain the work of the assigned paper.
- Ability to answer and discuss the questions raised in Q&A session.
- Performance in engaging yourself in others’ Q&A session.
- Evaluation on 4-pages report.
Process: Grading / Passing

Attention!

- Missing deadlines will not be accepted. All deadlines with respect to local time zone (Kaiserslautern).
- Attend all the talks.
  - In case of absence please contact beforehand with valid reasons (e.g., illness or exams).
Misc: How to Fail the Seminar

• Miss a submission deadline.
• Copy text passages from your assigned paper.
• Copy text from other resources.
• Copy the presentation from, e.g., original authors.
• Do not understand the contents of your paper.
Summary

- Understanding → Slides → Presentation → Report.
- Also, on this webpage you find more information and the schedule (eventually).
Thank You for Your Attention!