DB&IS Seminar
Wintersemester 2018/19

Lehrgebiet Informationssysteme
TU Kaiserslautern
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.
Organizing Groups

Databases and Information Systems (DBIS)

Heterogeneous Information Systems (HIS)

For email addresses and rooms see websites:
http://dbis.informatik.uni-kl.de
http://wwwlgis.informatik.uni-kl.de/

Main contact for organizational matters: Manuel Dossinger (dossinger@cs.uni-kl.de).
Please include [db-seminar] in the subject of your emails.
Process

1. Reading and Understanding

2. Slide Preparation

3. Peer Reviewing

4. Moderating & Presenting
Process: Reading and Understanding the Paper

- Research papers are dense texts written by experts for experts.
- You are ongoing 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

- Two 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 9th November.
- 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.
- Bring along or 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

- Almost one month for making 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 7th December.

Each student must complete No-left-TODO presentation.
Always remember: Most of the audience does not know the paper and wants to learn something!

Good Practice

- Mention slide numbers.
- Cite papers correctly.
- Put reference to the source of copied figures, equations, etc.
Process: Slide Preparation

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: Peer Reviewing

- Peer students will be assigned by end of December.
- Provide feedback to your peer student’s slides within 11th January (2019).
- In the emails to the peer student CC your supervisor.
- Now, sit back and wait for the reviews.
- Incorporate the reviews into your final presentation.
- Send the final presentation to your tutor Deadline TBD.

Each student has now their final presentation for the seminar.
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).

- Peer student as a moderator should introduce the speaker and lead the Q&A session.

- Everybody is expected to ask questions.

- Prepare a couple of own questions (as fallback).
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.**
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.

• Do not copy and paste from the paper.
• A latex template will be provided.
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.
- Participation in general in the seminar as a moderator or peer reviewer.
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).
Summary

- Understanding → Slides → Presentation → Report.

- This slide deck and a list of deadlines are available on

- Also, more information and eventually the schedule are on this
  webpage.
Thank You for Your Attention!