DB&IS Seminar
Wintersemester 2019/20
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)**
  https://dbis.informatik.uni-kl.de/

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

- Main contact for *organizational* matters: Manuel Dossinger (dossinger@cs.uni-kl.de).

- For further email addresses and rooms see websites.

- 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 the budding experts!

- There is no golden rule for reading papers. Depends on
  - the community
  - the type of paper (theory, system, ...)
  - your experiences
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 16th 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 13th 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.
- **Do not copy!**
- Put reference to the source of copied figures, equations, etc.
- Custom illustrations and animations can help.
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: Intro Talk

- Short talk, ~10 minutes
- Introduce the topic and main idea
- Date: SCHEDULE NOW
- Mandatory participation
- mid-end of November
Process: Intro Talk

Intention

• Not graded (no Professors)
• Presenters see if they can convey the scientific problem
• Audience provides feedback about form and content

Content

• Depends on the paper ;)
• Scientific problem statement (e.g., enumerate join plans)
• Short-Overview on Approach (e.g., use Greedy Algorithms)
• Not: In-depth implementation
• Not: Evaluation
Process: Peer Reviewing

- Peer students will be assigned by end of December.
- Provide feedback to your peer student’s slides within 17th January.
- 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 until 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.

• Use the \texttt{\LaTeX}-template.
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).
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.
- This slide deck and a list of deadlines are available on https://dbis.cs.uni-kl.de/index.php/en/teaching/winter-2019-20/dbis-seminar.
- Also, on this webpage you find more information and the schedule (eventually).
Thank You for Your Attention!