

DISTRIBUTED ALGORITHMS

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES - AUTUMN 2018

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1. HOW TO READ YOUR COMPUTER SYSTEMS PAPER

While reading the paper that has been assigned to you and preparing your presentation keep the following questions in mind. During your presentation, you should briefly describe all the paper contents and explicitly address the issues below.

1.1. What questions does the paper address? In a well-written paper, you should be able to answer this question after reading the introduction. In general, the introduction positions the work in its context and then points out unsolved problems or problems whose existing solution can be improved. With respect to context, one particular question is whether the paper is proposing a new system or improving an existing one.

1.2. What are the main contributions of the paper? Again, in a good paper you should be able to find the main contributions and conclusions in the introduction. But only looking in the introduction is not enough since due to space limitations this part tends to be brief. Thus, one strategy could be to list the contributions after reading the introduction, and then expand it as you continue with the following sections.

1.3. What evidence supports the paper contributions? In a systems paper, such as most of the ones proposed in the CS course, there should be some validation of the claimed contributions. Is it the case in the paper assigned to you? How do the authors substantiate their claims?

1.4. Do the data actually support the conclusions? Typically in systems papers validation of the claims is based on experimentation. This can take the form of simulated models or prototypes. What's the approach chosen in your paper? More important, do the results really "prove" the author's claims? Notice that even if the experimental results are believable, they may still not support the conclusion the authors wish to reach. This can happen for reasons such as: (a) The logical connection between the data and the interpretation is not sound. (b) There are other interpretations that might be consistent with the data.

1.5. What is the quality of that evidence? This is an important question, although very difficult to answer. Are there results that do not sound plausible? Were the experiments done in a controlled manner? (e.g., Did the authors try to remove any sources of noise that could change the results?) Do you believe the experiments are reproducible?

1.6. Why are the contributions important? Do you think this paper makes a contribution in its field?

2. PRESENTATION DETAILS

Each group of 2 students must post a message to the corresponding iCorsi discussion forum and inform the group members along with a list of 4 among the 10 papers available on iCorsi until the end of October. The papers will be assigned to groups in a FIFO order, i.e., if 2 groups choose the same paper, the one that posts before will have precedence.

Each group will have 20 minutes to present followed by 5 minutes for questions. The presentation must discuss all the issues in §1. One group member presents from §1.1 to §1.3 and the second from §1.4 to §1.6. We define which student presents each part right before the presentation starts.

You should submit the final version of your presentation to iCorsi on a date to be defined. Presentations will take place in our classroom in the last weeks.