Weekly report template

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Practical training course name and code: Advanced Practical Training (521027S)

Employer: Prof. Simo Hosio & Dr. Aku Visuri

Working period (start-end, number of hours): Monday 12th July – Friday 16th July, 37.5 hours

Main tasks and duties during the period:

Week 7 was one of the most challenging weeks during my internship since I carried out several critical tasks this week. First, I presented our accepted paper "On Using Monte-Carlo Tree Search to Solve Puzzles" at ICCTA 2021, via Zoom, and attended other related programs online. Secondly, I continued our full-text review phase for the empathy survey project to reach others. Last, I worked on the data extraction of 100 articles for the Down Syndrome survey project to finish it soon.

Challenges faced during the period:

As a student, I have many experiences with live presentations. However, it is always challenging to indicate research work among many scientific and academic persons who exactly know what you talk about. So, we could name Week 7 as "The week of stress" since I needed to make a short, informative, and not boring presentation in my non-native language. Also, focusing on reading the full text of articles was arduous due to the above reason. It was demanding to engage in other works.

Solutions and successes:

For the most challenging part of the week, I decided to make the presentation slides ready as soon as possible to send them to my supervisors. Then, they could review the slides and gave me feedback which caused me to enhance the quality of the presentation. Since I had the presentation materials, I was able to practice on them twice before the event's day. Also, I employed my solution to do the data extraction and article review tasks, which was splitting the working sessions.

Personal development:

One absolute personal development during this week was coping with the presentation at the conference since I learned a lot on how to create proper presentation slides (more figures, fewer texts) based on the feedback. Besides, my self-confidence improved significantly after my successful presentation. Our presentation got an award for a great contribution and oral presentation. Besides, I could handle my stress level by doing the "The hardest job first, the easiest job then" algorithm.

Knowledge and skills from university studies that I was able to utilize in my work:

I had many experiences before on my university's courses such as Persuasive System Design, Internet of Things, etc. to create a proper presentation for an academic event. Also, since I work as a research assistant at the university (Crowd Computing Research Group), I have the skill to debate on scientific topics, listen to audience questions and answer them carefully, and how to explain a topic to the audience to let them understand easily. We almost train these in our weekly meetings.