CITS5553 Meeting Minutes

Date: 2025-07-31

Week: W2 Thursday

Type (client/internal/mentor): Client

Meeting Name/Purpose: Inital Client Meeting (Meet and Greet)

Time: 1530-1550

Location / Platform: Ried Library, In-person

Attendees:

- ☑ Sirui Li (Client)
- ☐ Wei Liu (Unit Coordinator)
- ☐ Jichunyang Li (Project Facilitator)
- ☑ Franco Meng (Student)
- ☑ RuiZhe Wang (Student)
- ☑ Aswathy Mini Sasikumar (Student)
- ☑ Nirma Rajapaksha Senadherage (Student)
- ☑ Cedrus Dang (Student)
- ☑ Laine Mulvay (Student)

Agenda

1. Project Overview & Goals
2. Project Priorities & Deliverables
3. Technical Considerations
4. Meeting Schedule & Logistics
5. Immediate Next Steps

Discussion Notes

1. Project Overview

- The project aims to build a system that enables users to input natural language queries and receive relevant database records, along with explanations for why those records were selected.
- The focus is on explainable interaction with relational databases using a multi-agent system.
- Instead of returning a single answer, the system will:
  - Identify relevant tables
  - Highlight relevant records
  - Optionally display schema or table relationships to enhance explainability
- This approach is intended to support transparency and trust, especially in scenarios where clarity is important.

2. Project Priorities

First Priority – Build the Core Pipeline

- Use the SPIDR public dataset (to be provided by Sirui).
- Develop a multi-agent system with the following agents:
  - Agent to interpret the natural language question
  - Agent to identify relevant tables
  - Agent to find relevant records within those tables
- The main focus is on highlighting candidate records, not necessarily returning final answers.
- Schema visualization may be used to help explain table relationships.
- The initial goal is to get the pipeline working; accuracy is not the main concern at this stage.
- Optionally, a graph database structure could be used to model table relationships.

Second Priority – User Interface & Explainability

- After the core pipeline is functional, develop a simple dashboard or front-end.
- Users should be able to input queries, see highlighted records, and view explanations.
- Schema visualization can be included for additional clarity (optional).

3. Technical Notes

- Any modeling approach is acceptable: small models, rule-based systems, or LLMs.
- Be aware that LLMs may have difficulty with relational databases.
- Assume users have some familiarity with database concepts.

4. Meeting Schedule

- Sirui may not be able to attend every meeting in person.
- Meetings with Sirui will be held weekly or fortnightly, depending on availability.
- Sirui will share her availability on Teams.
- Thursdays may be a good option for regular check-ins.

5. Immediate Next Steps

Step 1 – Organise Availability with When2meet

- Set up a When2meet poll for the team.
- Use the poll to:
    - Identify common times for internal team meetings.
    - Propose suitable slots for meetings with Sirui.
- Once availability is confirmed, schedule recurring meetings.
- The When2meet link will be sent out to the Teams chat, with a reminder sent to WhatsApp.

Step 2 – Begin Technical Work

- Wait for Sirui to send the SPIDR dataset.
    - In the meantime, familiarise the team with relational database structures in preparation for the dataset.
- Meanwhile:
    - Read up on multi-agent systems—what they are and how they're trained.
    - Review academic papers and examples in similar contexts.

Next Steps Needed

1. Send out When2meet link to Teams chat with a reminder on WhatsApp
2. Confirm team and client availability for meetings. Organise reoccuring meetings for both
3. Await Spider dataset from Sirui
    - Paper: https://aclanthology.org/D18-1425.pdf
    - Dataset: https://yale-lily.github.io/spider
4. Begin background reading on multi-agent systems: What they are and how they are trained
5. Familiarise team with relational database concepts and structures

Next Meeting Name: TBC

- **Date & Time:** 9:30am Thursdya 7th August
- **Location / Platform:** Teams
- **Next Meeting's Minutes to be prepared by:** Laine Mulvay

This Meetings Minutes prepared by: Laine Mulvay