

Computing Science



CS4040 Example Report Structure

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Signed:

Date: March 6, 2014

CS4040 Report

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The abstract is *an expansion of the title and a contraction of the report*. Suggested length 100-150 words.

1 Introduction

The aim of the introduction is to

- Give a *brief* overview of the area of research interest in this report. For example, if you are evaluating an encryption algorithm, you could use references to on-line sources, e.g. [2], or textbooks, e.g. [1]. Keep this to around 200 words.
- Say what you are going to investigate in the report and why it is interesting. Around 200 words.
- Provide a brief précis of the remainder of the report. For example, “This report is organised as follows. In Section 2 we provide an overview of the ALG1 and ALG2 algorithms, outlining their different approaches to solving ProblemX, and present related work. We then present the research question addressed in Section 3...”

Please don’t treat these guideline lengths as a target.

2 Background and related work

A review of related work. A figure giving an illustration of the algorithm, system or whatever you’re investigating here is always a good idea.

Guide length: 1250 words.

3 Research question

Given the problem context (Section 1) and background (Section 2), you should now be in a position to present what you have investigated. **Pose this as a question.**

Then you should present your approach to addressing this question.

Guide length: 1000 words.

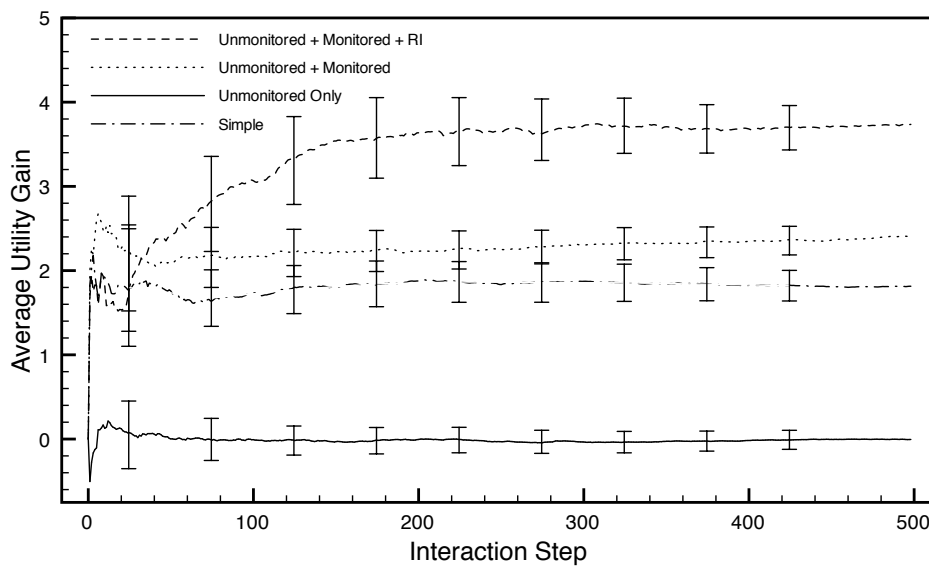


Figure 1: Some results.

4 Experimental Design

What are your hypotheses? How are you going to test them? What is your target population? What are your datasets; i.e. your sample of the target population. What are the dependent and independent variables?

Guide length: 750 words.

5 Results

Present the results. A good way to organise this is via subsections for each hypothesis you tested. Include graphs of results (e.g. Figure 1), tests of significance, etc. If you have negative results, include them. A negative results is just as informative and useful as a positive one, sometimes more so.

Guide length: 750 words.

6 Discussion

What do the results say? What have you learned from the experiments? Have you identified a correlation between variables, or causation? What are the limitations of what you've done? What further experiments might be of benefit?

Guide length: 500 words.

7 Conclusion

What have you done and why? What have you shown through your experiments?

Guide length: 150 words.

References

- [1] W. Stallings. *Cryptography an Network Security: Principles and Practice*. Prentice Hall, 5 edition, 2010.
- [2] Wikipedia. Cryptography. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptography>, November 2012.