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Similarity Search in Large Databases

Kickoff Meeting – Oct 7, 2021

Why this lab?

- The lecture gives you basics and zooms in on selected solutions
- Problem:
  - not feasible to cover all relevant topics
  - new and better solutions are continuously being developed
- Goal of the lab:
  - understand and assess technical, scientific publications
  - learn about clever ideas and solutions not covered in the lecture

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Your job: 8 – 4 – 2 - 1

1. You will **attend at least 8 talks** given by your fellow students.
2. You will **write 4 extended abstracts** about selected talks.
3. Random: **2 / 4 abstracts** will be **marked.**
4. You will give **1 talk** (groups of 2-3).

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Talks

- Topic: research result of scientific paper on similarity search
  - list of scientific papers will be made available online
  - groups pick topic: first come / first served (Slack #ssdb-ps-2021ws)
- Talks are prepared in groups of 2-3 students
- 30 minutes talk + 15 minutes discussion
- There will be more than 8 talks (at least 10) – you choose!
- Attendance = audio + video! Please prepare the setup!

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Extended abstracts

- **Summarize** motivation, key contribution, and limitations of work
- **Two pages** – template will be available, unlimited references extra
- **You pick** the 4 talks you want to summarize
- **High quality writing** expected!
  - Should make sense for a reader that does not know the paper
  - Reader understands problem to solve and key ideas of solution
  - Language: concise; no typos, incomplete sentences, broken links …

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Preparing the talk 1/2

- Background / Motivation
  - give the context
  - intuition of the problem to solve / why is it important?
- Problem Definition
  - Short and precise: given …, the goal is to …
- State-of-the-art / research gap
  - Which solutions do exist? Why are they not good enough?

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Preparing the talk 2/2

- Key Ideas and Solution
  - What are the new idea in this work?
  - How do these ideas help to solve the problem?
  - Describe the solution (long pseudo-code is not a good idea here!)
  - Explain with examples and figures - running example if possible
- Experiments
  - How does the solution perform in practice?
  - Insights? Highlights and limitations?
- Main contribution
  - What does the paper add to the state of the art?
  - What can you do now that you could not do before?

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Course organization – project groups

- Form **project groups (2-3 students)** within 1 week (by Wed Oct 13)
- Depending on the number of participants, a second course group will be available in PlusOnline
- Your course group assignment **will not have an impact** on schedules, talks that you can attend, topics you can choose, etc.

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Schedule

- Will be made available when project groups and their topics are finalized
- Deadline group forming: Wed Oct 13
- Deadline topic: Wed Oct 20
- Talks will be 17:00 and / or 18:00
- First talk: earliest Nov 4

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Information & Discussion

- Course Website: https://dbresearch.uni-salzburg.at/teaching/

- All discussions in Slack – please do not send email
  - Slack channel and workspace → see website
  - Also questions about your paper in Slack channel
    - Use a thread for each problem
    - Make clear in your message which paper you are talking about