



DB&IS Seminar
Summer Semester 2026

Lehrgebiet Informationssysteme
RPTU Kaiserslautern

Organizing Groups

- **Databases and Information Systems (DBIS)**
<https://dbis.cs.rptu.de/>
- **Heterogeneous Information Systems (HIS)**
<https://his.cs.rptu.de/>
- Main contact for *organizational* matters: Gianna Nicolai (gianna.nicolai@cs.rptu.de).
- For further email addresses and rooms see websites.
- Please include [\[db-seminar\]](#) in the subject of your emails.

Aim of This Seminar

- Critically read and understand a research paper.
- Find and classify related work.
- Prepare a presentation and give a talk on a research paper.
- Learn novel concepts and recent developments of databases and information systems.

Process: Reading and Understanding the Paper

- Research papers are dense texts written by experts for experts.
- You are the budding experts!
- There is no golden rule for reading papers. Depends on
 - the community
 - the type of paper (theory, system, ...)
 - your experiences

reading a research paper

Web Bilder Videos Nachrichten

Deutschland Sichere Suche: Moderat Irgendwann

Reading Research bei Amazon.de - Niedrige Preise, Riesenauswahl WERBUNG

Kostenlose Lieferung möglich
Prime Video, Prime 30 Tage testen, Angebote des Tages
www.amazon.de/Reading-Research | Werbung melden

PDF: How to read a research paper. - Computer Science
careful **reading**. When you read a **research paper**, your goal is to understand the scientific contributions the authors are making.
<https://eecs.harvard.edu/~michaelm/posts/scripts/ReadPaper.pdf>

How to Read and Understand a Scientific Paper: A Step-by-Step Gu...
Reading and understanding **research papers** is a skill that every single doctor and scientist has had ... How to Read and Understand a Scientific Paper: ...
<https://huffingtonpost.com/jennifer-raff/how-to-read-and-understand-...>

Infographic: How to read a scientific paper - Elsevier Connect
Much of a scientist's work involves **reading research papers**, whether it's to stay up to date in their field, advance their scientific understanding, review ...
<https://elsevier.com/connect/infographic-how-to-read-a-scienti...>

How to (seriously) read a scientific paper | Science | AAAS
When **reading papers**, ... If the **paper** is vital to my research—and if it is theoretical—I would reinvent the **paper**. In such cases, ...
<https://sciencemag.org/careers/2016/03/how-seriously-read-scient...>

How to Read a Research Paper - YouTube
Ever wondered how I consume **research** so fast? I'm going to describe the process I use to read

Process: Reading and Understanding the Paper

- Four more weeks for understanding the authors' contributions.
- Guideline for reading and understanding:
 - Recognize the research problem authors have addressed.
 - Understand the authors' contributions to the problem.
 - Raise appropriate questions and find limitations of the paper.
[e.g., are authors' assumptions to propose the solution reasonable?,
the logic of the solution justifiable?,
is there any simpler way to approach the solution?, etc.]
- Have a look on the related works of the paper for better understanding of the scope of the research problem.
- Think: Your supervisor might ask you to tell in 4-5 sentences what the paper is about.

First Appointment with Your Supervisor

- Schedule an appointment with your supervisor, to take place **not later than 13.05.2026**.
 - Before that meeting, write a short (5000-5500 characters) summary. For this, you find a template on the seminar webpage.
 - Send the summary to the supervisor before the appointment.
 - Also send before the intended outline (incl. rough timeline) of your presentation to discuss it with your supervisor.
- **Each student must show a solid understanding of a paper and outline of the presentation slides.**

Short Introduction Talks

- Introduce the topic and main idea to all seminar participants.
- Short talk, 5 minutes, a maximum of 3 slides (excluding title slide).
- Mandatory participation.
- Date:
 - TBD (probably between 18. and 22.05.)
 - Shortly after the supervisor meetings.

Short Introduction Talks

Goal

- Not graded.
- Presenters see if they can convey the scientific problem and get some presentation experience.
- Audience provides feedback on slides and presentation style.
 - Students are encouraged to give feedback to their peers.
- Incorporate the feedback when preparing your final (long) presentation.

Content

- Depends on the paper ;)
- Motivation for the problem of the paper and the papers contribution.
- Not: In-depth implementation or Evaluation

Process: Slide Preparation for the Main Talk

- Almost one month for making slides.
- Consult with your supervisor for any difficulties in slide preparation.
- Remember that you must explain the content of the slides to the supervisor.
- Send your No-left-TODO version of slides to the supervisor **at latest 19.06.2026**.
- **Each student must complete No-left-TODO presentation.**
- Revise the slides and incorporate the changes suggested by the supervisor.
- Send your Camera-Ready version of slides to the supervisor **2 days before** the presentation dates.

Process: Slide Preparation

Bachelor

- 30 minutes presentation.
- Explain the paper to your peers.

Master

- 45 minutes presentation.
- Roughly 30 minutes explaining the paper.
- Roughly 15 minutes situate related work in relation to your paper.
- No need for a strict separation of these two parts.
- For related work, specifically link the paper's content to the 2-3 most similar papers. Do not only cite the paper's related work section but have a look at the related papers.

Process: Slide Preparation

Always remember: **Most of the audience does not know the paper and wants to learn something!**

Good Practice

- Mention slide numbers.
- Cite papers correctly.
- **Do not copy!**
- Put a reference to the source of copied figures, equations, etc.
- Custom illustrations and animations can help.
- Prepare the presentation using Powerpoint (or alternatives like Libre Office) or Latex, whichever is easier for you!

Process: Slide Preparation

Good Practice

- Try to avoid including long sentences in your slides.
- Examples and figures are more preferable.
- A good presentation should tell a story.
- Do not use small fonts.
- Do not overfill your slides with text or figures.

Process: Presentation

- 30 (Bachelor) or 45 (Master) minutes will be assigned to each student for their talk on the assigned paper following a 15 minutes Q&A session.
- Talk and slides should be in English (don't worry—nobody here is native speaker).
- **Everybody** is expected to ask questions.

Process: Presentation

- Presentations should be 30 (Bachelor) or 45 (Master) minutes. Large deviations will affect the grading/passing of the seminar.
- When presenting, do not read from the slides.
- When presenting online, *do not read* from the slide notes.
- Practice your talk at home. Practice more than once!
- If needed, you can write or use a pointer tool during the presentation.

Process: Presentation

- Presentation dates:
 - TBD (probably between 20. and 24.07.)
- Participation in the presentations of the peer students is mandatory.

Submission of Final Report

- Submit a short report (4 pages). Report should include:
 - Motivation and problem statement.
 - Very brief discussion on main approach and experimental results.
 - Conclusion of the work in your own words mentioning strong and weak points of the paper.
 - Comparison of the paper to the most important related work, addressing differences/improvements/... Specifically link the paper's content to the 2-3 most similar papers. Do not only cite the paper's related work section but have a look at the related papers.
 - **For Master only:** Your opinion on the given paper and the related work in relation to each other.
 - Send your Final Report to the supervisor **in 2 weeks** from the date of presentation.
- **Do not copy and paste from the paper.**
- Use the \LaTeX -template.

Process: Grading / Passing

Grading/Assessment based on

- Quality of presentation slides and ability to explain the work of the assigned paper.
- Ability to answer and discuss the questions raised in Q&A session.
- Performance in engaging yourself in others' Q&A session.
- Evaluation on 4-pages report.

Process: Grading / Passing

Attention!

- Missing deadlines will not be accepted. All deadlines with respect to local time zone (Kaiserslautern).
- Attend all the talks.
 - In case of absence please contact us beforehand with valid reasons (e.g., illness or exams).

Misc: How to Fail the Seminar

- Miss a submission deadline.
- Copy text passages from your assigned paper.
- Copy text from other resources.
- Copy the presentation from, e.g., original authors.
- Not understanding the contents of your paper.

Summary

- Understanding → Introduction Talk → Main Slides → Presentation → Report.
- This slide deck and a list of deadlines are available on <https://dbis.cs.rptu.de/teaching/26ss/seminar.html>.
- Also, on this webpage you find more information and the schedule (eventually).