Reading Assignments
Reading Assignments
What’s that all about?

• Some weeks you’ll be asked to read and write about
  • Applications, implementations, technical architectures, approaches, interaction techniques, etc.

• Deliverables
  • Due in class the week after a reading is assigned
    • One page summary
      • 10 point font, 1.5 line spacing, times new roman font family
      • Name, and GTID please!

• You’ll receive them back, with a numeric score
  • 3 points excellent, 2 points average, 1 point needs improvement
Reading Assignments
What am I going to write about?

- One page deliverable
  - One paragraph summarize the reading
  - One paragraph analyzing/reflecting/critiquing the paper
  - Please make each section clear (Summary, Analysis)
- No late turn ins accepted for the reading summaries
  - Unless there’s a good excuse
    - And I mean good
- See schedule for readings
Reading Assignments

Summaries

- The summary is an exercise in being a perceptive reader
  - Discussion of not just what the article has said, but *why that matters*

- A “1” grade summary
  - Vague
    - Some spotty coverage of a few of the points in the paper, or just restates the abstract

- A “2” grade summary
  - Tends to follow the paper structure, without much else
    - Covers more of the points
    - But is not analytic
Reading Assignments
Successful Summaries

- A “3” Summary will
  - Begin with a statement about the paper’s overall objectives
    - Do not repeat what the author has said
  - Provides context for the contributions of the paper
  - Identifies the significance of the paper
  - Covers the majority of the major points in the paper in succinct specifics
Reading Assignments

Technical analysis

- Unpacking the positioning of the paper
  - An exercise in seeing through the (sometimes implicit) assumptions that the authors make

- A “1” Grade paragraph
  - Vague, without any real depth

- A “2” Grade paragraph
  - Only focuses on surface-level features
    - E.g., it’s written in C++ and runs on Windows. But why is this important?
    - Repeats points from the paper without any new reflection on your part
Reading Assignments

Technical analysis

- A “3” Grade paragraph
  - Gets at the assumptions of the system and why it matters
  - Does the system’s architecture make it more/less suitable for certain environments or situations?
  - Are there “flaws” (or unconsidered assumptions) that constitute a weakness of the system? Perhaps that the authors themselves have not stated?
  - If you were writing your own paper and citing this in the related work, how would you position your work against it?
- Integrates discussion from class and paper (and other papers) together
  - Sometimes resulting in a question or finding conflicting viewpoints
Why These Readings?

- Practice reading and critiquing technically-oriented papers
  - Good (and necessary) skill
- This shouldn’t be an overly onerous part of the class
  - Some readings more fun than others, but that’s life
- Good body of knowledge for the HCC PhD qualifier exam