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
  - THINK: a really good related work section in an academic paper
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
  - THINK: how you would critique a related work paper in your own writings if you were using it to motivate your work
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