Paper Review Form: PAPERTITLE

October 7, 2009

Paper Summary (no more than 250 words)

Provide a brief summary of the paper (3-5 sentences is usually enough). The aim is to demonstrate that you've read (and understood) the paper, so try to paraphrase and extract the essentials. At this stage you should aim to be objective; later sections allow for your own opinion.

Answer the following (no more than 750 words in total)

The Problem

What is the problem? Why is it important? What is previous work insufficient (or Why has the problem not been solved before, e.g. it's a new problem the authors have identified). This is your take on what the authors say in the paper (so again should be fairly objective). If the paper doesn't seem to tackle a particular problem, then focus on their primary motivation for the work. 1-2 sentences for each of the three questions is probably sufficient.

The Solution (or Approach)

What is their approach/solution? How does it solve the problem? How is the solution unique and/or innovative (if it is)? What are the details? Once more you should use the paper itself as the source to help you answer these questions—but, as in previous parts, please do not just copy sections from the paper. Instead you should focus on paraphrasing / synopsising, and extracting the essential details. Depending on the paper, you'll probably need 5-10 sentences here.

Evaluation

How do they evaluation their solution? What questions do they set out to answer? What does the evaluation stay about the strengths and weaknesses of their system? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the evaluation itself do you think? A total of 3-4 sentences should suffice here – we're looking for highlights, not a point by point reproduction of the evaluation section(s). Note that, rarely, systems papers may not have any evaluation: if this is the case, write 'N/A' below.

What you you think?

This is the fun part! Here you get to make a judgement on the paper (both the work and the paper itself). Do you think it's a good idea? A bad one? Why? Are the specific things that annoyed you? Or that you thought were cool? Or cool-but-flawed? Aim to construct an argument here which will convince others of your opinion. You must have at least 3 sentences here, but feel free to write as much as you like (subject to the overall word limit).

Questions for the Authors

Imagine you're attending a talk about this paper given by one of the authors. List at least 2 questions that you would like to ask. These should ideally be specific to the paper / research.