

Writing the Seminar Report

Seminar „Character Animation“ (SS 2008)

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DFKI-EMBOTS

Deadlines + Format

- Important dates
 - Prefinal version: **7 August 2008**
 - Feedback: 1-2 weeks later
 - Time for corrections: 10 days after feedback (send us an e-mail if you're on vacation)
- Format
 - language: English
 - size: 10-15 pages
 - format: Springer LNCS (link on seminar page)
 - hand in PDF or MS Word
- Consider the report a “mini thesis” (Bachelor/Master)

Report Structure

- Title page
- Body
 - Introduction
 - Main Text
 - Summary / Conclusion
- Bibliography

Report Structure: Title Page

1. Title page

- Title of your topic
- Seminar title, location (Saarland University), time (SS 2008)
- Your name
- Your supervisor's name

2. Abstract (10-12 lines)

- shortest possible summary
 - 1-2 sentences about motivation and problem statement
 - point out most important methods used to solve problem
 - 1-2 sentences about results and conclusion
- check and double-check: no sentence should be superfluous!
- writing a good abstract is a form of art

Report Structure: Body 1

3. Introduction

- What is the problem?
- Why is it important to solve the problem?
- Clarify terminology
- List related work
- **Short summary**

Report Structure: Body 2

4. Main Text

- Aim for clarity and simplicity
(check: would somebody else understand this?)
- Use visual helps (diagrams, drawings)
- Make transitions between subsections
 - end of Section 3.2: „Now that we clarified X, we will present three solutions of X in the next three sections.“

Tips:

- Do a consistency check:
 - Try to stick to one concept name (e.g. limb/bone/segment) if you have options
 - Only talk about concepts you have introduced before
- Be careful with generalizations like „method A is now the standard method for...“ or „the field of ... is the most important research area today“
 - Do you really know this?

5. Summary / Conclusion

- Refer back to introduction
- **Another summary**
- Optional: own opinion, comparisons, evaluation

6. Bibliography

- Use a consistent format
- Make sure every reference is also used in the intro / main text (rule of thumb: insert a reference to paper A the first time you mention this paper)
- PLEASE: do not cite Wikipedia (instead, assume people know how to type in a search term in wikipedia)
- cite web pages only if they are really important, otherwise put in footnote