Introduction to the GMT Colloquium

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Alex Lewis    Jordi Vermeulen

Utrecht University

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The primary purpose is to be introduced to a wide range of topics within the GMT programme and to practice giving scientific presentations.

Hopefully, as a side effect, it will get you interested in some new topics!
The course in a nutshell:

- Each student will give a presentation of ~30 minutes on a GMT-related paper.
- Approximately weekly sessions with 2-3 presentations.
- You need to attend 25 sessions.
- Thesis defences will be part of the colloquium! (But will not count as giving a presentation.)
You need to attend a given number of sessions, and present at least once.

The number of sessions you need to attend depends on when you started the GMT programme:

- **This year**: 25 sessions.
- **2014/2015–now**: 15 sessions.
- **2013/2014**: 10 sessions (excluding your own presentation).
It is recommended that you try to attend as many sessions as possible before starting your thesis!

Credits can also be obtained for attending conferences or workshops that are on topic, but please verify with us beforehand.
The course page can be found at
http://www.cs.uu.nl/docs/vakken/mcgm4/

Attendance can be tracked at
https://wwwsec.cs.uu.nl/cijfers/mcgm4/attendance.php
(link will also be on the course page).

Talks will be announced on the course page! We will not do this by email, considering we expect to have almost weekly sessions.
You need to find a paper that you want to present. The paper should be:

- On a GMT-related topic
- From a respectable journal/conference
- At least 50 citations
- Not covered in another course
- Check with us before getting started!
The presentations are individual! You should aim to have a presentation that is about 30 minutes long (excluding questions).

Please send the slides to us at least three “business days” in advance. We will briefly look over them and give some pointers on how they could be improved.
Recommended structure

Try to adhere to roughly the following structure:

- One slide with the relevant bibliographical information about the paper.
- ~10 minutes for describing and defining the problem statement and background. Includes motivation, related work and contributions.
- ~10 minutes for describing the technical content. How did the authors solve the problem? What problems remain open?
- ~10 minutes for describing later work that has built on this paper: extensions, generalisations, applications, etc.
Each student will be asked to fill out an evaluation form for each presentation. Try to focus on how the presentation could be improved; don’t just point out what you thought was bad.
Common mistakes

Don’t go into too much detail! You don’t have time to cover everything!

Try to give an overview of the method described in the paper, and go into some detail on one or two particularly interesting parts.

For more mathematical papers, don’t just show the formulas. Try to give the intuition behind them instead.
Don’t forget to include references! It is important to note when the source of a claim is not the paper being discussed.

Include references on the slide they apply to. For example, this document was made with \texttt{\LaTeX}\footnote{Leslie Lamport. \textit{\LaTeX}: \textit{a document preparation system}. Addison Wesley, 1994.}.
Common mistakes

Don’t put too much text/information on one slide! Your audience needs to be able to focus on what you’re saying, not reading a wall of text.
Common mistakes

Don’t use a presentation template that’s hard to read! Avoid slides that are too cluttered.

Try to stick with a template that has a bright background and dark text: this will generally be easily readable on a projector.

Avoid mixing colours that may be hard to distinguish on a projector!
Common mistakes

Don’t make all your slides just text! (Unlike this presentation!)

Mix in some images where appropriate.
Don’t make every slide a list of bullet points! Try to use them only when you’re actually listing a number of items, not as the default structure for every slide.
Contact

A.C.E.Lewis@uu.nl

J.L.Vermeulen@uu.nl