

CS 4100, Spring 2012
In-Class Writing 2
Reading a Research Paper
March 9, 2012

The purpose of this assignment is three-fold:

- To read a quality computer science research paper.
- To become more comfortable with the techniques described in the handouts to read a scientific research paper.
- To practice evaluating whether a paper might be worth reading in detail.

Consider the paper:

PLOW: A Collaborative Task Learning Agent

James Allen (Institute for Human and Machine Cognition), Nathanael Chambers (Stanford University), George Ferguson (University of Rochester), Lucian Galescu and Hyuckchul Jung (Institute for Human and Machine Cognition), Mary Swift (University of Rochester), and William Taysom (Institute for Human and Machine Cognition). In Proceedings of AAAI'07, Outstanding Paper Award, Vancouver, Canada, July 2007.

Using the handouts on how to read scientific research papers, look over this paper and write a paragraph that summarizes “setting the scene” as discussed in class.

Setting the Scene:

- Problem: what is the research problem, what are the authors interested in?
- Assumptions: what assumptions are they making to make the problem tractable?
- State of the Art: what other work has been done on this problem and how is the current work different or better?

Note that further analysis would entail:

Nuts and Bolts: what did they do, how did it work?