Tips for writing

Presented in the context of seminar reports

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A Quote

"Your manuscript is both good and original; but the part that is good is not original and the part that is original is not good"

Say what you mean and mean what you say

Your writing must be precise

Precision: Example 1

- "As a student, your feedback is important for a course"
  - Your feedback is a student

- You are a student, and your feedback is important for a course
- Because you are a student, your feedback is important

How much time does it take for writing?

"Having imagination, it takes you an hour to write a paragraph that, if you were unimaginative, would take you only one minute."

Let's go through a few samples picked up from previous seminar/MTP stage reports

You will notice that many of the following sentences suffer from multiple problems

- It is not clear that why it is used

- These name are meaningful enough to give hints about their functionality like addm3, jump, return, etc.

- So now the gcc team try is trying to move all high level optimization from back end to front end

- The result is that compilation time becomes higher, code size increases, code becomes hard to maintain, error prone and complicated.

- The predicate may be an empty string. Then it means that no test is to be done on the operand.

- As a part of the efforts towards improving garbage collection, a method had been developed, which, through static analysis, finds out the dead links at the earliest possible point, so that they can be nullified.

- Existing garbage collection techniques collects only the unreachable memory as garbage.

- Section 1.3 My Goal
  - My goal is to extend the existing theory and implementation..

- Electric fence helps you to detect memory accesses that overruns the boundary of allocated memory and read or write to freed memory

- On testing the program with *V* algrid, it will intercept all the memory reads and all the calls to memory management routines.

- The section 4.1 discusses..

- The name of all classes starts with C.

- The figure 4.2 shows…

- IR is basically a set of uses and defs which in turn is a set of objects of CAccessExpression which in turn is a list of integers, corresponding to an access path

- 5.2.1 What is Context?
  - By context of all, we mean the object on which the method is invoked, the parameters of the function call, and the public static attributes of different classes.
- Sometimes we may not have access to the byte code or at times it can be very expensive to do that.

The previous sentence actually had some bracketed material, which makes the sentence reappear on our list:

- Sometimes we may not have access to the byte code (as in the case of native method invocations) or at times it can be very expensive to do that(as in the case of calling a library method).

- Currently, the modules of the search engine described in chapter 4 are under various stages of development.

- No centralized thread or top-down organization is necessary in case of agents, on the other hand Objects are not autonomous; they are always controlled by some external thread.

- In opposite to server side filtering we have another model where we can filter outgoing messages of an object.

- Every application needs to communicate with the external environment for exchange of data. The system fetches input in some form, processes it to give some meaningful results, which are then given as output.

- Suppose 2 data items a and b occur in equal quantities in exactly the same sets of queries and have the same rate of change.

- In this method we collect a set of words that were typically associated with a target word, and then, during interpretation, replace the occurrence of the related words by the target word.

This was found at the beginning of a chapter

- In this chapter we are suggesting modifications for filter class and filter method declaration. We are also introducing two new keywords for defining the type of filter method arguments…..

Instead of the term 'We are suggesting', use: In this chapter, modifications to .. are suggested.
Similarly modify the second sentence.

This was found at the beginning of a section

4.1 Modules

Various modules of the search engine are shown in the figure 4.1.

4.1.1 Crawler module

…

In Section 4.1, prior to a take off for subsections, could you not write a better synthesis about what follows in the subjections? - RKJ

An Abstract

Our undestanding of evolution and life is constrained by having observed only a single instance of life, that on Earth. Because we cannot observe life on other planets, we are left with the alternative of creating artificial life forms on Earth. This project aims to create a virtual environment which can support a virtual world with artificial life forms that can interact with each other and evolve over time.

As if we are unable observe life on other planets and we know that it exists! But more importantly, notice that most of the abstract has been consumed by motivation. Note that abstract is not motivation. You must represent the essence of all your chapters in your abstract of the whole work. Abstract is different from conclusions. - RKJ

Another Abstract

- The theme of this seminar is "patterns" and "software architectures", which are an attempt to describe successful solutions to common problems. The long term goal is to develop a handbooks for software engineers. ….

Is the long term goal the goal of this seminar report, or is it a software architect's goal? - RKJ

a handbooks → a handbook

Constant Acknowledgement!

- I would like to thank my guide, Prof. Hard To Satisfy for his constant support and guidance.

Too good to be original!   - RKJ