

# TDDD89

## Lecture 6 Feedback and Outlook

Christoph Kessler  
and guest lecturers



### Agenda:

#### 15:15 Part I:

- **General feedback on Academic English** by Shelley Torgnyson
- **During the Extended Break until 16:00:**  
Individual Q&A on Academic English feedback  
in four breakout rooms
  - Shelley Torgnyson
  - Mikael Svensson
  - Emile Bellewes
  - Brittany Shahmehri

#### 16:00 Part II:

- **Stylistic issues; LaTeX and BibTeX hints**
- **TDDD89 Final Steps: UPG1 submission**
- **Exjobb process and upcoming IDA-deadlines**
- **Some final advice**

#### **17:00 Test of critical thinking skills among LiTH students**

(ca. 20min, optional, by IEI colleagues. Not part of TDDD89)

# Feedback on Academic English in ETP Introductions

By Brittany Shahmehri ("Brittany", from A2\_zaish38\*\_ramib27\* to edvni58\*&kasag01\* in Lisam alphab. order)  
Shelley Torgnyson ("st")  
Mikael Svensson ("MS"),  
Emile Bellewes ("EB")

see your feedback on Lisam (submission of 21/11, Lisam text and PDF comments)

Our grading-rubric colors are mapped to Lisam "grades" as follows:

- 1 = red
- 2 = orange
- 3 = yellow
- 5 = green

**This feedback is for your information only:**

- to be considered when **revising your ETP for the UPG1 submission.**
- **No re-submission** to Shelley/Mikael/Emile/Brittany
- Will not affect UPG2 passing (submission was sufficient)

**Questions on your feedback?**

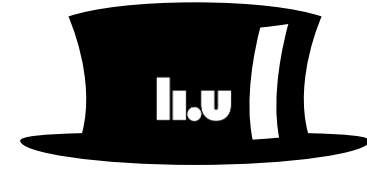
- Ask Shelley / Mikael / Emile / Brittany during the **extended break until 16:00** in **breakout rooms**

TDDD89

# Some Stylistic Issues with LaTeX and BibTeX Hints (on special request)

Christoph Kessler

# Write "with your LiU-hat on"



- No advertising nor endorsement of the company or its products
- Stay neutral – write from the LiU-student perspective, not as a representative of the company
  - Even if you are also employed there (or even own the company)
  - Rephrase the company's project description in your own words
- Recommended to *not* start Section 1.1 (Motivation) with the company description

# Keeping distance; Pluralis majestatis

## Never use "I" in a scientific thesis or paper

(except, maybe, in the preface where you sign with your name).

- Instead, we use the so-called *pluralis majestatis*, that is, "**We**".
  - "**We**" is used in the sense of "the author(s)" and sometimes also in the sense of "the reader and the author together as a team".
- Examples:
  - "*We* have shown in previous work [3,4] that..."
  - "*We* will see that..."
  - "Let *us* consider now ..."

## Never use "you" to directly address the reader, and never command the reader by using imperative form.

- Keep the distance:
  - "The reader may have noticed that ..."
  - "We refer the interested reader to ..."

# Descriptive Title

- Scientific authors want their publications to be easily found by others.
  - When searching broadly for potentially related work (see Lecture 3), the *title* of a publication is the only piece of information that may really be read when quickly scanning a list of search results.
- Choose a *descriptive* title (and if possible, *without abbreviations/acronyms*), even if the title becomes a bit longer.  
Avoid company-specific jargon.

- Example:

*Parallelization of the TSS interpreter*

vs.

*Parallelization of the interpreter in a test system for mobile telecommunication components*

# Overlong headings?

- Overlong chapter or section titles lead to ugly line breaks in the headings and in the table of contents

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### 3.2. A high-performance framework for a network programmable packet processor using P4 and FPGA

Comparing the architecture to other works, the authors found that their solution had greater throughput (millions packet processing per second) and less processing delays (average processing time used in classifying a single packet). Furthermore, the resource consumption was constant and consumed about 4.3% LUTs, 1.9% FFs and 1.3% of memory blocks from

- **Solution:**

Use the optional short-hand argument

in `\chapter[Short chapter title]{Leeeeeeeeengthy chapter title}`,  
`\section[...]{...}`

# Referencing chapters, sections, figures, tables, algorithms, etc.

- *"see **Figure** 3 for ..."* - *"as shown in **Section** 2.3"*

Here, *"Figure 3"* is a proper name, and thus, the first character is capitalized.

– In LaTeX source: ... see **Figure**~\ref{fig:somegreatfigureID} for ...

~ = fixed space, forbids a line break here

- but:  
*"see the third **figure** ..."* - *"see the previous **section**"*  
Here, *"figure"* is an ordinary noun.

# Referencing chapters/pages in (monograph) books

pp. 26–31.

[3] S. Pemmaraju, S. Pemmaraju, and S. Skiena. *Computational Discrete Mathematics: Combinatorics and Graph Theory with Mathematica*®. Computational Discrete Mathematics: Combinatorics and Graph Theory with Mathematica. Cambridge University Press, 2003, p. 248. ISBN: 9780521806862.

~~[4] S. Pemmaraju, S. Pemmaraju, and S. Skiena. *Computational Discrete Mathematics: Combinatorics and Graph Theory with Mathematica*®. Computational Discrete Mathematics: Combinatorics and Graph Theory with Mathematica. Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp. 249–250. ISBN: 9780521806862.~~

[5] Federico Rossi, Rick Zhang, Yousef Hindy, and Marco Pavone. “Routine autonomous

- **Avoid duplicates in the list of references.**
- For annotating citations with specific page or chapter information, use the optional argument: ... see Pemmaraju et al. `\cite[p.~248]{Pemmaraju2003}`  
→ ... see Pemmaraju et al. [3, p. 248]
  - Exception: If citing different stand-alone chapters written by *different* authors in a collection book, cite each chapter separately by author and title instead (then the book’s authors are called *editors* instead)

# Referencing, rule of thumb:

- In the running text: as short as possible  
(no paper titles, no first names).
- In the bibliography: full details.

The work ~~*Static Deadlock Detection for Java Libraries*~~ by Amy Williams, William Thies, and ~~Michael D Ernst~~ [6] investigates how static deadlock detection can be done on libraries rather than complete programs, specifically for Java libraries. [...]



Williams et al. [6] investigate how static deadlock detection can be done on libraries rather than complete programs, specifically for Java libraries. [...]

- Short citation symbols → minimal disruption of the flow of reading

# Reference symbols and interpunction

... rendering, rigging, texturing, animation, simulation, compositing, motion tracking and video editing. [3] It has a Python API [2] that allow developers to modify parameters program-

video editing [3]. It ...

... has a Python API [2] that ...

that the distance measurements gained from the RSSI values are accurate. This might not always be the case, due to for instance interference by other radio signal sources that share the same radio frequency. [2]

the same radio frequency [2].

- Always have a blank space before `\cite{...}`
- *Never* put `\cite{...}` *directly after* the end of a sentence or even paragraph.
- Reference symbols should appear in the text *as close as possible* to the term/phrase [47] they refer to.

# Reference symbols: *et al.*

Firstauthor et al. [13] stated ...

**et al.** is an abbreviation for Latin *et alii* (= and others)

- used in the *running text* (not in the bibliography!) for 3 and more authors
- If using package *BibLaTeX*, author names can be rendered by `\citeauthor{ref}`,  
and setting `\maxcitename=2` automatically fixes the "et al." for 3 and more authors.

# Citing Properly

Another approach to mixed reality is described by Holger et al. [9]. In their study kinect sensors from Microsoft were used to capture a volume of 2.5 cubic meters. Kinect sensors

[9] Holger Regenbrecht, Jung-Woo (Noel) Park, Claudia Ott, Steven Mills, Matthew Cook och Tobias Langlotz. "Preaching Voxels: An Alternative Approach to Mixed Reality". I: *Frontiers in ICT* 6 (2019), s. 7. ISSN: 2297-198X. DOI: [10.3389/fict.2019.00007](https://doi.org/10.3389/fict.2019.00007). URL: <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fict.2019.00007>.

[10] Hamed Sarbolandi, Damien Lefloch och Andreas Kolb. "Kinect range sensing"

- **Only last names** of authors are given in the running text → described by Regenbrecht et al. [9]
  - If using BibTeX (recommended), the meta-word "and" separates the authors in BibTeX, not comma
    - (alternative author name format in BibTeX: author = {Regenbrecht, Holger and ...} )
  - If copy-and-pasting to BibTeX from other documents with references listed in **inverted** first-author-last-name-first format (Regenbrecht, Holger and ...), first- and second names might get swapped

# No long flat lists of citations, please!

- `\cite{refid1,refid2,refid3}` → [3,5,6]
  - By the way: If `\cite`-ing multiple items together in IEEE style, ascending order is preferred.
- From a background chapter:

A lot of loop transformations have been developed to increase data locality, for example [3,5,6,7,10,11,12,13,16,17,20,21,22].

Instead, more effort should be put into reviewing and structuring:

- Many loop transformations have been proposed in the literature of the last four decades. For instance, Kennedy et al. [10] give an in-depth treatment of loop interchange. Tiling of multidimensional loops is discussed in a seminal paper by Wolf and Lam [21]. Polychronopoulos [13] proposes cycle shrinking for loops with dependence cycles of static distances larger than one. Banerjee [5,6] gives an introduction to the theory of unimodular transformations. Ancourt and Irigoien [3] introduce the polytope model for the representation of index spaces, which is used in subsequent work by Lengauer [16], Xue [22], ... . For a comprehensive overview we refer to Wolfe's textbook [20].

# Bibliography (1)

- The bib-items in the bibliography should be **alphabetically ordered** by first author's last name
  - BibTeX does this automatically e.g. for bibstyles `plain`, `abbrv`, `alpha`.
  - Alternatively, they may be ordered in the order they appear in the text (BibTeX bibstyle `unsrt`)

# Bibliography (2) – BibTeX

- For **each** (non-web) bibliographical item, give at least the
  - **authors**,
  - **title**,
  - **year** of publication, and
  - **publisher**.

Additional fields are required depending on publication type:

- For **articles** (**@article**), give also **journal** name, **month**, **volume**, issue **number**, **pages**, and **DOI**.
- For papers in **conference** proceedings (**@inproceedings**), give also the proceedings **booktitle**, **pages**, and **DOI** of the paper.
- For a PhD or master **thesis** (**@phdthesis**), give the name of the university (**school**), thesis **number**.
- For a technical **report**, give the report **number**, and name and **address** of the organization.

Listing the ISBN/ISSN is very uncommon in scientific articles.

Funding information does not belong into the bibliography (bug in DiVA).

- Usually, you can download a **curated BibTeX entry** from the **publisher's** original publication page (via **DOI**)
  - NB: BibTeX entries auto-generated by search engines (e.g. *Google Scholar*) may be wrong or incomplete

# Bibliography (3) – BibTeX

- For a **web document** (such as online documentation) (`@misc`), give the author (if known), the year, the URL (use `\url{https://aa.bb.cc/~dd/ee}` with LaTeX packages `url` and `hyperref`), and the organization (e.g. university, research institute or company).
- URLs in BibTeX / Bibliography should not contain **browsing history** (e.g. the prefix for LiU library access) `\url{https://link-springer-com.e.bibl.liu.se/book/10.10...}`
  - Prefer the universal access via the DOI if known, e.g., DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-91734-4\_27 → `\url{https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-91734-4_27}`
- If giving the DOI in BibTeX, the URL is redundant with IDA's template (**skip**)

# Bibliography (4) – BibTeX

- BibTeX automatically un-capitalizes all but the first word in the title field!

```
title = {A Great Paper about GPU Programming},
```

→ A great paper about gpu programming. 😞

- Frame acronyms etc. by {...} to prevent that:

```
title = {A Great Paper about {GPU} Programming},
```

→ A great paper about GPU programming. 😊

# TDDD89 Final Steps

# TDDD89 Final Steps

- For **UPG2** (seminars), all seminars must be passed (webreg).
  - Late complementations only during re-exam periods
- If you have passed at least 3 seminars, we will sign you up in Webreg for **UPG1**
- After Seminar 5, revise and extend your extended thesis plan.
- Remove unused chapters from the thesis template and any template placeholder text, as it will generate hits in URKUND/OURORIGINAL
- The final extended thesis plan is expected to have at least **10 pages** in total
  - 3-4 chapters
  - + references
  - 2-3 pages Introduction
  - 3-5 pages Background and Related Work (can be 2 chapters)
  - 2-3 pages Project Plan (Method, Time plan, Milestones, Risk analysis)
  - 1-2 pages References (incl. at least 4 peer-reviewed publications)
- **Submit by 11 January 2026** via the Lisam submission link for UPG1, which includes an automated submission through URKUND/OURORIGINAL.

# Example

## Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	iii
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	iv
<b>Contents</b>	iv
<del><b>List of Figures</b></del>	<del>v</del>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	1
1.1 Motivation	1
1.2 Aim	1
1.3 Research questions	2
1.4 Delimitations	2
<b>2 Background</b>	3
2.1 Virtual Reality	3
2.2 Virtual Reality learning environments	3
2.3 Unity	3
2.4 Storyboard	4
2.5 E-learning	4
<b>3 Related Work</b>	5
3.1 Learning environments in virtual reality	5
<b>4 Project plan</b>	7
4.1 Method	7
4.2 Project time plan	8
4.3 Milestones	9
4.4 Risk analysis	9
<b>Bibliography</b>	11
<b>Appendix: Revision notes</b>	13

(from an extended thesis plan,  
TDDD89 2021)

# The End?

*“Now this is not the end.  
It is not even the beginning of the end.  
But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”*  
– Winston Churchill

# Starting the Real Thesis Project

First steps.

See also the slides from the D/U/IT exjobb information meeting 11/9 presented by Oleg Sysoev (IDA) and Per-Erik Forssen (ISY) [sent by email from Johanna M, 11 sep 2025] and the IDA/ISY exjobb information pages

# Starting the Thesis Project

1. If you have several **re-exams** or other course work left *after* mid of January, we recommend you to not start with the thesis project in January yet and complete these first.
2. Find a (real) **topic** if you have none yet.
  - Check the IDA/ISY exjobb pages, exjobb.liu.se, company pages etc. for open topics
  - or ask directly a professor/senior researcher at IDA/ISY about open topics in your area(s) of interest.
3. Sign up in **Wexupp**
  - Project description →
  - If applicable, attach or integrate your latest TDDD89 ETP.

For **external** exjobb projects for which you need to find an examiner:

- Start of external exjobb projects in batch at beginning of each lecturing period, for vt1: **19/1/2026**
- Wexupp IDA deadline for external (industry) exjobb projects: **15/12/2025**
  - <https://liuonline.sharepoint.com/sites/student-under-studietiden/SitePages/IDA-examensarbete.aspx>
- Notification about assigned examiner in early January

No restrictions/deadlines for **internal** exjobb projects

and for external exjobb projects where you have already found an examiner

(who has approved the topic and your required background knowledge for it). :

- Just agree with your examiner and indicate your examiner in wexupp.

# External thesis projects at IDA: Project specification for Wexupp

Describe the project **in your own words**. Do not just copy-and-paste the company's text.

- **Introduction**

- What is the project about, in brief? What is the main subject area of the project?  
Is the project being carried out on behalf of a company or a research group?

- **Problem statement**

- What is the *scientific problem* that you are supposed to solve in the project?  
Why is that problem interesting?  
What will we have learned in the relevant subject area when the project is completed?

Reuse ETP *Introduction* section if applicable

- **Method**

- How do you plan to solve the stated problem?  
How do you plan to validate and assess the project results?  
Methods include literature studies, simulations, experiments, user studies, and mathematical reasoning.

Extend *Project plan* section of the ETP accordingly

- **Self-assessment: Why you?**

- How does the project connect to the courses you have studied, especially **advanced-level courses**?  
How do you meet the requirement of knowledge of relevant scientific methods?

See Lecture 5 (Methods)

- **Resources**

- What resources will you need to implement the project apart from your work effort?  
Do you need access to special hardware or software, data sets, or test subjects?  
How will you cover these needs?

NEW (additional section/appendix)

Extend *Project plan* section of the ETP accordingly

# Starting the Thesis Project (cont.)

4. Meet with your examiner, who needs to approve that the topic is suitable for a thesis project at advanced level.

**DO NOT START A THESIS PROJECT BEFORE YOU HAVE AN EXAMINATOR AND GOT HIS/HER APPROVAL OF THE TOPIC!**

5. Book a **startup meeting** with examiner, local supervisor (company) and LiU academic supervisor.
6. **Register at TekFak** via your study counsellor for your program's exjobb course code (e.g. TQDT33).
7. Deadline for the **(real) thesis plan** is 2 weeks after project start, to be read and approved by LiU supervisor first, then by the examiner.

For the further steps, see the IDA resp. ISY exjobb pages.

For questions about the IDA process:

- If you already started your thesis project at IDA, use your **personal support link** (PSL) to reach out to the exjobb-secretary on duty.
- Otherwise, contact the department's thesis coordinator, [exjobb @ ida.liu.se](mailto:exjobb@ida.liu.se)

# Some Final Advice ...

# Some Final Advice (1) ... for the thesis project

- Put effort in your **project plan**.  
It becomes a kind of contract between your company, your examiner, and yourself.
- For implementation-heavy projects, plan **sufficient time for the experimental evaluation**, its preparation and analysis (e.g., additional/refined experiments for identifying the root causes of observed performance anomalies or bottlenecks).
- Plan **writing** on your thesis continuously.
- **Read much** in the beginning, **keep searching** for more related work during the project.  
Keep a **copy** (hard/soft) of all articles you have read.
- **Keep contact** with your examiner and academic supervisor.
  - Status email every Friday afternoon: achievements of this week, problems, next steps
  - These will also be useful at the end, when writing the mandatory **reflection** about your thesis work.
- **Team up** with others doing a similar project.
  - Some divisions/examinators may organize such groups for projects starting in January.  
→ joint startup, feedback, batched half-time presentations, opposition within group.

# Some final advice (2) ... for later

- Most career paths are **employment-based** (i.e., **dependent** employee – even as a manager)
  - In industry, your company through your manager(s) sets the goals (e.g. what to work on)
    - And as a self-employed person, you instead depend on your customers ...
  - In academic research, “academic freedom” only relates to the *choice of research area / problems*, which is still constrained e.g. by external funding programmes and university priorities, and to the *presentation of research results*, which also follows some rules (e.g. peer-review)
- Permanently work on your **employability**:  
Keep *sharp* the only *weapon* that you have as a dependent employee (namely, the option – or need – of changing the employer!)
  - Keep a “red thread” in your CV
    - How will your planned next move look in your CV when applying again a few years later?
  - Try to avoid very short employment periods (and unemployment periods)
  - Keep a good professional relation to your boss
    - you will need him/her later, at least for a good reference
  - Try to be flexible (e.g., w.r.t. work location) – can open more career options
  - Collect merits (esp. in academia)
  - Never stop learning!



Best Wishes for a Successful New Year 2026!