

# Seminar Winter Term 2015

## Beliefs and Causality

**Christoph Schwering** [schwering@kbsg.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:schwering@kbsg.rwth-aachen.de)





What is this seminar about?

- Robots etc. usually don't know everything
- Sometimes their beliefs are wrong
- Things happen in the world, things change
- What changes? How do beliefs change?
- Logical reasoning

Your task:

- Read paper(s) about a topic
- Write and talk about it
- Read and listen to the others



Five stages:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>1</b> Understand literature; explain to me       | 5 weeks          |
| <b>2</b> Write and submit the seminar paper         | 8 weeks          |
| <b>3</b> Review two fellow students' seminar papers | 3 weeks          |
| <b>4</b> Prepare final seminar paper and slides     | 2 weeks          |
| <b>5</b> Give talk, listen to others, ask questions | 11 February 2016 |



Given literature is a **starting point for own literature search**.  
You need to read a number of references to complete the picture!

- Develop your own examples to show deep understanding
- Criticize where appropriate; compare to other approaches
- Write about 20 pages (including references)
- English mandatory;  $\text{\LaTeX}$  highly recommended
- Use the template from the seminar website



Your review should help your fellow student to improve his seminar paper and prove that you read it thoroughly!

- Summary of the seminar paper ( $\approx$  3 sentences)
  - Things you liked about it ( $\approx$  1 paragraph)
  - Major comments (e.g., what's hard to understand?)
  - Minor comments (e.g., typos)
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- Reviewing should be **anonymous**
  - **Plain text** following the above structure
  - Do **not** annotate the seminar paper inline (no attachments)



Your talk should convey the **idea** and **intuition** as well as the **major results**, and show that you know what you're talking about.

- Use **examples** and **pictures** and abstract from formal details
- Try to offer something for everybody:
  - start gently with informal examples
    - to motivate problem and sketch solution (first 40%)
  - then go deeper into details (next 30%)
  - conclude at a high level of abstraction (last 10%)
- Slides should be in PDF;  $\text{\LaTeX}$  recommended
- Talk: 35 minutes (do **not** exceed!)
- Discussion: 10 minutes
- Practice your talk
- Be prepared for questions (perhaps with back-up slides)



We use a conference system (EasyChair) for the seminar

- Seminar paper must be submitted there
- Reviews must be submitted there
- Revised seminar paper must be submitted there
  
- Deadlines are **firm**
- You can update your submission until the deadline
- There's no excuse for missing deadlines
  
- <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sembc2015>



Up to **three weeks from now on** you are allowed to recede from the seminar without any consequences.  
A later rescission will be graded as a failed attempt!





- 1 Belief Revision by Sets of Formulas
- 2 Argumentation Theory and Belief Revision
- 3 Pearl–Halpern Model of Causality
- 4 Approximate Probabilistic Reasoning
- 5 Planning with Beliefs and Sensing

2015-10-05: Introductory meeting

2015-10-05: Get an EasyChair account<sup>1</sup>

until 2015-11-06: Discuss literature with me 4 weeks

2016-01-01: Paper submission deadline<sup>2</sup> 8 weeks

2016-01-22: Review deadline<sup>3</sup> 3 weeks

2016-02-05: Paper camera-ready version<sup>4</sup> 2 weeks

2016-02-11: Seminar talks

Keep the deadlines: (re)submit early and often!

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sembc2015>

<sup>2</sup>By this date you *must* have submitted

<sup>3</sup>By this date you *must* have written and submitted your reviews

<sup>4</sup>By this date you *must* have submitted your final seminar paper