

6.S966: A Graduate Section for 6.034

Leader: Gerald Jay Sussman

This term I will experimentally run a graduate section of 6.034, the Introduction to Artificial Intelligence taught by Patrick Henry Winston. You will receive graduate credit if you sign up for 6.S966. However, if you sign up for 6.S966 you will be required to do a bit more work: in addition to attending the three lectures and one recitation of 6.034 each week and doing the 6.034 homework and quizzes, you will be required to attend an extra section led by me. This section will be on Fridays from 11:00AM to noon, just after the Friday lecture, in room 34-303.

While the final details for this extra section are not yet determined, each week you will be required to read a research paper selected to elaborate on the material presented in 6.034 for that week and write a one-page review of that paper to be handed in (on printed paper, not by email!) at the start of the Friday meeting. With that preparation we will have a discussion of the material of the week elaborated by the paper you have read and commented on.

Your weekly review should not be longer than one page. Your review should be readable by someone who has not read the paper that is being reviewed. The ability to write such a review is an important skill for you to develop. It is not helpful to include a pile of mathematical formulas or lots of code in your review. What I want is for you to learn to extract the essential take-away message of the paper:

1. What is the author trying to accomplish?
2. What technical methods is the author bringing to bear?
3. How successful was the resulting work?
4. Is there some lesson for us in the paper?

If you need graduate credit, you can drop 6.034 and sign up for 6.S966 (12 units) on registration day. If you are unsure about whether you want to take 6.S966, you can decide later. Either way, attend the first session, this Friday, 8 September. I will say more about what will be involved and answer questions.