

VLDB 2014 Ph.D. Workshop — An Overview

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ABSTRACT

The VLDB 2014 PhD Workshop is an one-day event to be held in Hangzhou, China on September 1st, 2014, in conjunction with VLDB 2014. The aim of this workshop is to provide helpful feedback, useful information and networking opportunities that can benefit the students' dissertation work as well as their long-term career. The selection process and the workshop program were carefully designed with this specific goal in mind. The accepted submissions are included in the online proceedings for the Workshop at http://www.vldb.org/2014/phd_workshop_proceedings.html

1. INTRODUCTION

The VLDB 2014 PhD Workshop is for doctoral students at all stages of their their PhD work, particularly those with a clear topic and research approach, and have made some progress, but who are not so far along that they can no longer make changes. The main objectives of the Workshop are: (1) Providing a supportive setting for feedback on students current research and guidance on future research directions; (2) Offering each student comments and fresh perspectives on their work from researchers and students outside their own institution; (3) Promoting the development of a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research; and (4) Contributing to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers and conference events.

2. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The workshop program includes a variety of activities — before, during and after the workshop. We chose to depart from the traditional conference-style presentations and in favor of a highly interactive program with substantial time for discussion and questions by participating researchers and students. Although many fine pieces of work had to be rejected due to lack of space, we feel that being accepted into the Workshop is an honor and thus this highly selective process is appropriate. Our hope is that this program will be

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adopted by future VLDB PhD Workshops and make it a truly sought after opportunity by doctoral students.

Prior to the workshop: We assigned each student a buddy. The buddy is required to read the student's work prior to the conference and lead the discussion session for that student's work during the workshop. This will help the students to get to know each other and ensure that the giving and receiving of thoughtful commentary by the workshop participants. We also collected common questions of interest from the students for generic panel discussions during the workshop.

During the workshop: The workshop program consists of one keynote talk, technical sessions, a panel session, and social programs. The keynote talk will be given by a well-known senior researcher. The technical sessions consist of technical talks with highly interactive discussion session. We allocated substantial amount of time for each technical talk to ensure enough time for feedback specific to the work. In addition to the work itself, we will also discuss the poster for the work and provide feedback on the poster presentation. The panel session is the opportunity for a panel of researchers to provide their insights on the common questions collected from the students. The social programs, including student lunch and group dinner with best paper award session, is to encourage interactions of the students and researchers participating in the workshop.

After the workshop: We provide the students with the opportunity to present their work at a special poster session at the main conference. This not only allows them to interact with the boarder VLDB participants but also provide a unique opportunity to immediately incorporate what they have learned from the workshop into actual use.

3. RESULTS

The accepted work to the workshop is a refreshing blend of experience and youth as the next generation of database researchers begin to contribute. The workshop allows the upcoming generation of database researchers to share their work and get to know each other. It also allows the rest of the database community to meet future colleagues and find out about new emerging ideas.

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