Journal club minutes - Aug 8th - Club 1 year overview & planning

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Aug 8th 2018 - Journal club meeting minutes
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This week we review the results of the survey, the meeting with senior people, and plans for the next year of journal club.
Cake was indeed supplied.

Topics:

- Feedback from survey and senior meeting
- Summary of key points from both
- Attempt at a solution
- Schedule for next year

Details

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Results from survey
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- It was better when we had guidance from someone rather than just the club.
- Thoughtful discussion should be prioritized over covering all of the paper content. Light skimming of the paper was good for no one.
- More white-board activity, less pedagogy.
- We should better plan how to spend our time before each session so stuff isn't squeezed at the end.
- Moderator should cut down superfluous chatter.

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Notes from senior chat
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Present: Marjorie, Laura, Maurice, Simone

Main points:

- Those who attended were under the impression that people come to journal club to

learn something from other people and that the onus should be shifter more onto each attendee rather than just the person leading the paper.

- Q: We should decide whether the purpose of this meeting is to read an ATLAS paper or to develop critical thinking? I said that it started out as the former but it's now progressed towards the latter and I'd like to develop that more.
- The attendees noted that we have too diverse a range in ability to often have a thorough discussion and we should consider limiting invites to 2nd year students from now on. Or at the very least require that participants have taken a particle class (at undergrad or post-grad) to attend.
  - Neha says: we can tell people ahead of time what they might need to know.
  - Rebecca expresses concern that this is again too much work. Instead, what about a starter pack on commons page for people to read? e.g. chapter of Thomson, some of griffiths? We should work on that together. Rebecca will follow up on mattermost.
  - All prefer to keep the club inclusive and direct people to extra material where necessary.

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Summary & solution
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Key points:

- More structure.
- More discussion
- More involvement and critical thinking

Plan: complete overhaul of the format.
First 15 minutes of a session: The chair for next week's session presents an overview of what they think are the key issues to focus on for this paper. Then they put up a series of questions (can be a text doc or a slide, whatever) that they want the group to think about for next time.

Last 45 minutes of a session: We go over last week's questions and discuss.

Benefits:

- Attendees have time to think about and look into specific topics related to the paper. No more 'broad reading'.
- Tighter focus should make for better discussion.
- People can no longer rely on the 'chair' to tell them everything.

Possible downsides/things we'll have to look out for:

- Initially, this is more work for the chair (but should be mitigated by less work for each session)
- If people don't put the work in, this will be horrible
- The questions have to be well thought out

I think it's a really interesting idea and that we should trial it for a few months!

Comments:
Neha and Xiangyang think that instead of the chair having to think of the questions the chair should use some of their own and pick suggestions from lattermost in addition.
I like this idea a lot. We will trial it and see how it feels with the next paper.

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Paper schedule
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- First: we are taking a 3 week break and resuming in September

Paper/theme
b-tagging
Higgs width
Top discovery (CDF & D0 papers, compare/constrast)
W-mass (one focus could be what variables we needed to define to measure it, e.g. MT)
Pentaquark resonances in LHCb (Dalitz plots, change-of-frame. angular stuff)
PDFs: HERA/fixed target experiments, W+charm
Combined performance muons: the first ATLAS Z->mumu paper had to think a lot about this
Spin paper: Babar/Belle-II sin(2Beta) with K-short
LEP paper: invisible z-width with neutrinos
A fun older paper: when UA1 thought they found SUSY
Trigger paper

Jet cleaning paper
ttH->gamGam : good techniques
fake lepton in ttH->multiLepton or make this performance
PRW paper? Sam suggests.

Meeting was then hijacked by Sam & Xiangyang with a CI/travis/git agenda ;)