Journal Club
“Syntopical” was coined by M. J. Adler, the author of “How to read a book”.

Three levels of reading

- **Inspectional Reading**
  - To get information

- **Analytical Reading**
  - To achieve understanding

- **Syntopical Reading/writing**
Inspectional Reading

• Abstract
• Conclusion
• Figures and tables
• Goal: to define the problem that the author is trying to solve
Analytical Reading

• Determine the author’s message
  – Motivation
  – Approach
  – Argument
  – Solution

• Read between the lines, and write between the lines, too

• Interact with the author
  – Question
  – Agree, disagree, or suspend judgment
    • Bacon: “Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.”
    • Adler: “Disagreement is futile agitation unless it is undertaken with the hope that it may lead to the resolution of an issue.”
Syntopical Reading/Writing

• Different papers on the same subject are compared, contrasted, and organized into a whole, NOT just a collection of papers
  – A difference between a heap of bricks, on the one hand, and the single house that they constitute, on the other
# Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>JL, ND</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>RL, YX</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CL, YY</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>YL, SP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>(CT), (JJ)</td>
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</tbody>
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- Starting from August, RL will send the group members a list of new journals published during the previous month.
- The speakers of the month are free to choose a paper of interest from the list, or an older paper, or multiple papers on the same topic.
- The speakers shall send the audience the links of the papers being chosen at least 3 days in advance, so that the audience have time to read.
- 20-30 min for presenting, 10-20 min for discussion.

Algorithm: \( \text{abs} ( \text{byte (first name initial)} - \text{byte (last name initial)}) \mod 5 + 8 \)
Get the most out of the journal club

• Speaker
  – Presenting as if you are the author

• Audience
  – Reading before meeting
  – Reading as if you are the referee
  – Asking questions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Speaker Benefit</th>
<th>Audience Benefit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inspectional</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>★★★</td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical</td>
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<td>Syntopical</td>
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