Thesis\(^1\) Outline

1. Introduction

*The Problem:*

The research question/issue

*The Method:*

The approach to solving/advancing it: experimental, practice based, analytic etc.

*The Outcomes:*

Contributions to knowledge:- the kinds of things that are expected to arise from the work that will be new and will advance understanding or practice internationally. The value of these outcomes will be to one or more community (computer scientists, artists, theoreticians etc) and it is important to be clear who they are.

2. State of the Art Review

Literature Survey of the area(s) of study – a critical review in the context of the stated research question and related issues. Who is doing what? Who has done what? Who first did it or published it? Taken from published papers, research monographs, catalogues etc. Based on primary sources. Offering a, probably new, structured view of the field of study

3. Methodology

Description and justification of the research methods used. Normally, the methods will be selected from known and proven examples. In special cases the development of a method may be a key part of the research, but then this will have been described in section one and reviewed in two.

4. Foundation work

Earlier work done (possibly with others) that provides a foundation or significant background – revisit and reassess this in the light of the research focus of the PhD. This chapter will not be needed in some PhDs where the work is from a fresh start.

5. New Studies

Description of the new studies/software/artwork and the process of production. What has been done, how was it achieved and what was the rationale? This can be, for example, a report on the design and execution of a set of experiments, the development of an innovative software system or the making of innovative art works. In a practice based PhD an artwork might be presented for examination. If

\(^1\) The thesis consists of text and other material that can be archived in the library
so, this chapter will illuminate it by explaining, at the very least, what is important and new about it.

6. Results

Evaluation of the new software/artwork or analysis of the results or processes of the new studies. Placing the new results in the context of Chapter 4. The outcomes as promised in chapter 1.

7. Conclusions

A wider perspective- implications for other broader areas and domains
Future Work and Outstanding Questions

8. References/Bibliography (including published papers)
Overall Work Plan

Year 1
Complete Chapter 2: state of art report
First draft Chapter 3: methods
First draft Chapter 4

Year 2
Complete Chapter 3
Complete Chapter 4
Complete Chapter 5

Year 3
Complete Chapters 1, 6, 7
Update Chapter 2

SAMPLE