

Dissertation Examples: Computer Science

About this document

This PDF lists 5 **computer science dissertation examples** and thesis examples (2019–2026), each a complete, openly licensed document you can read in full, with a note on what it does well and who it is useful for. Use them to see how a finished dissertation is structured and argued at your level before you write your own.

By [Derek Jansen](#) (MBA) · Reviewed by [Eunice Rautenbach](#) (DTech) · Grad Coach · October 2026

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Computer science dissertations

1. Understanding and Mitigating Hallucination of Language Models in Software Engineering

Bonan Kou · PhD · Purdue University · 2026 · 162 pages

APPROACH Machine learning, Empirical study

WHY WE PICKED IT

The best golden thread in the collection, and you can see the whole of it in about five minutes. Section 1.1 puts the whole claim in a single sentence: hallucination of large language models in software engineering can be understood and mitigated by external guidance, self-reflection, and implicit signals. Sections 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 are then those three clauses in order, one per study, and each becomes a chapter.

And section **6.1 is called "Revisiting the Thesis Statement"**, which closes the loop by returning to that exact sentence and saying what the three studies did and did not establish about it. State the claim, structure the work by its parts, come back and answer it. If your chapters feel like separate projects that happen to share a topic, read chapter 1 and chapter 6 here back to back and you will see what is missing. The related work chapter is also unusually well organized, sorted into four themed sections with subsections rather than run as a chronological parade of studies, which is what makes a literature review feel like an argument.

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2. Systematic and Scalable Memory Safety Assurance for Embedded Software Systems

Paschal Chukwuebuka Amusuo · PhD · Purdue University · 2026 · 166 pages

APPROACH Systems engineering, Paper-based thesis

WHY WE PICKED IT

A paper-based engineering thesis whose study chapters all run the same internal skeleton, and the skeleton is the lesson. Chapter 3 carries its fullest form: Summary, Introduction, Background, Related Work,

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Knowledge Gaps and Research Questions, then results reported against those questions by number (RQ1-3, then RQ4), Discussion, and **Limitations and Threats to Validity**. Two of those headings are worth stealing whatever your field.

Deriving the research questions in a section explicitly about the knowledge gaps means the reader never has to take on trust that the questions follow from the literature; they watch it happen. And "threats to validity" as a standing section per study, rather than one limitations paragraph at the end of the thesis, is a software engineering convention that reads as confidence rather than weakness. Chapter 1 also splits section 1.1 "Context and Problem Statement" from section 1.2 "Thesis", which keeps the situation and the claim from blurring into each other the way they usually do.

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3. Rethinking Software Supply Chains in the Age of Generative Systems: A Case Study of Use-Case-Oriented Regeneration

Tanmay Singla · Master of Science in ECE · Purdue University · 2026 · 89 pages

APPROACH Case study

WHY WE PICKED IT

Eighty-nine pages, and included partly to make a point about scope. It is a case study rather than a benchmark sweep, it carries a glossary before the abstract, and it uses the same Purdue skeleton of a context and problem statement followed by a section headed Thesis Statement.

Read it if your topic is moving faster than your write-up: the subject is what generative systems do to software supply chains, which is about as current as a thesis can be, and it shows that a defensible Master's contribution on a fast-moving topic is a well-bounded case study rather than an attempt at coverage. The glossary is a small thing worth copying whenever your field's vocabulary is younger than your examiners.

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4. Evaluating Traffic Reshaping Attacks Against Machine-Learning-Based Network Intrusion Detection Systems

Luke Bushur · Master of Science · Purdue University Fort Wayne · 2026 · 124 pages

APPROACH Machine learning, Security evaluation

WHY WE PICKED IT

The most copyable Master's-level engineering structure here. Chapter 1 is short and has only three sections: background and motivation, research questions and contributions, thesis organization.

Chapter 2's literature review is then organized as exactly the four things the study needs to stand up, one section each: the datasets, the systems being attacked, the attacks, and the existing defenses. Nothing is reviewed that the study does not later use, which is the discipline most literature reviews lack. Chapter 3 is called System Design and is broken into modules, each with numbered sub-steps for packet parsing, metadata extraction, vector construction and feature generation. If you are building something and cannot

work out where the "methodology" goes, this is the answer: the design of the artifact is the methodology, written so somebody else could rebuild it.

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5. Encoding IP Address as a Feature for Network Intrusion Detection

Enchun Shao · Master of Science · Purdue University · 2019 · 64 pages

APPROACH Machine learning, Feature engineering

WHY WE PICKED IT

Sixty-four pages, and the most useful chapter 1 in the collection for anybody who has been told their introduction is vague. It has separate numbered sections for the statement of the problem, the scope, the research question, the significance, the assumptions, the limitations and the delimitations.

If you have ever tried to work out what the difference is between a limitation and a delimitation, here is a short thesis that does both in a page, in context: a limitation is a constraint you did not choose, a delimitation is a boundary you did. Chapter 3 is the other reason to read it. It is a data pipeline written down step by step, from loading and merging the source databases through converting labels to numbers, handling class imbalance, and then three treatments of the same variable, an IP address: as a binary number, as four split numbers, and as one-hot encodings at three different bit widths. Somebody else could rerun this from the text alone, which is the actual standard for a methodology chapter and one that long theses often meet less well than short ones.

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How to use an example dissertation

An example is a map of how one study was put together, not a template to copy. These four steps get the most out of one.

- 1. Read the abstract and the contents first.** They show the shape of the whole document before you spend an hour in it.
Recommended reading: [Dissertation and thesis structure](#)
- 2. Read the chapter you are writing next.** Look at how it opens, how it is organized under headings, and how it ends.
Recommended reading: [How to write the methodology chapter](#)
- 3. Check the level and the field.** A doctoral thesis goes further than a master's dissertation, and fields differ in what they expect.
Recommended reading: [What is a dissertation?](#)
- 4. Follow your own handbook over any example.** Where an example and your program disagree, your program wins.
Recommended reading: [Every example in the collection](#)

Used this way, two or three good examples teach you more than any amount of general advice.