Seminar

Software Engineering Seminar

Markus Püschel

Teaching assistants:
- Michael Fäs
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- Alen Stojanov
- Arshavir Ter-Gabrielyan
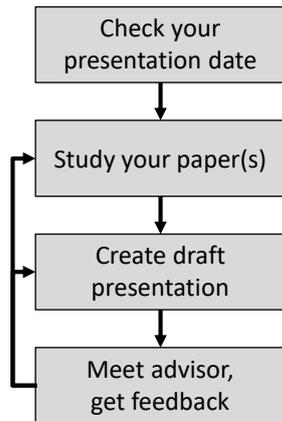- Luca Della Toffola

Fall 2017
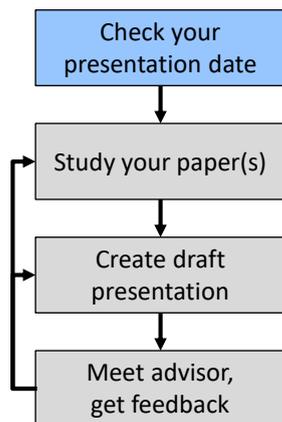
ETH *zürich*

Objectives

- **Learn how to *present* technical work**

- **Learn how to *understand* and *assess* research papers**

- **Learn about *research* directions in the area**

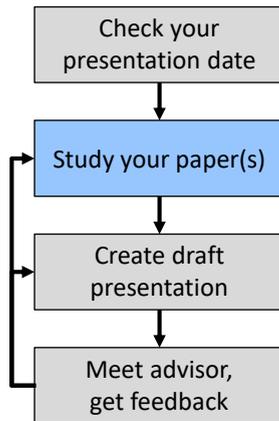- **We have no specific subtopic this year**
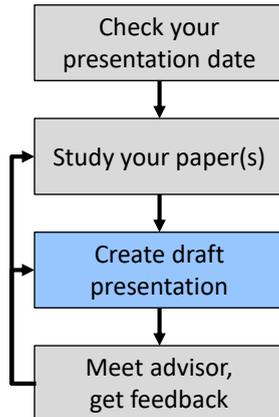
Preparing a Talk

Preparing a Talk: Start Early

- **Preparing a good presentation takes time**
- **Start early!**

Preparing a Talk: Study Paper

```
┌──────────────────────┐
│   Check your         │
│ presentation date    │
└──────────────────────┘
          │
          ▼
┌──────────────────────┐
│ Study your paper(s)  │
└──────────────────────┘
          │
          ▼
┌──────────────────────┐
│   Create draft       │
│   presentation       │
└──────────────────────┘
          │
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┌──────────────────────┐
│   Meet advisor,      │
│   get feedback       │
└──────────────────────┘
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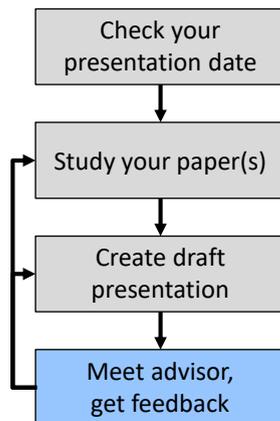
- **3 'C's of reading**
  - *Carefully:* look up terms, possibly read cited papers
  - *Critically:* find limitations, flaws
  - *Creatively:* think of improvements
- **Try examples by hand**
- **Try tools if available**

- **Consult with TA if questions**

Preparing a Talk: Create Draft

```
┌──────────────────────┐
│   Check your         │
│ presentation date    │
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┌──────────────────────┐
│ Study your paper(s)  │
└──────────────────────┘
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┌──────────────────────┐
│   Create draft       │
│   presentation       │
└──────────────────────┘
          │
          ▼
┌──────────────────────┐
│   Meet advisor,      │
│   get feedback       │
└──────────────────────┘
```

- **Explain the motivation for the work**
- **Clearly present the technical solution and results**
  - Use your own example, not the one in the paper
  - Include a demo if appropriate
- **Outline limitations or improvements**
- **Focus on the key concepts**
  - Do not present all of the details

Preparing a Talk: Get Feedback

```
┌─────────────────────┐
│   Check your        │
│   presentation date │
└─────────────────────┘
          │
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┌─────────────────────┐
│  Study your paper(s)│◄───┐
└─────────────────────┘    │
          │                │
          ▼                │
┌─────────────────────┐    │
│   Create draft      │◄───┤
│   presentation      │    │
└─────────────────────┘    │
          │                │
          ▼                │
┌─────────────────────┐    │
│   Meet advisor,     │────┘
│   get feedback      │
└─────────────────────┘
```

- **Prepare for the meeting**
  - Schedule early
  - Send slides in advance
  - Write down questions
- **Make sure you address feedback**
  - Take notes

- **Meeting is mandatory!**
  - At least one week before the talk

Grading

- **Quality of your presentation**
  - How well did you understand the material?
  - How well did you present it?
  - How well did you answer the questions?
  - Be prepared to explain technical terms
- **Participation**
  - Did you ask good questions?
  - Did you attend all sessions?
- **We will take into account:**
  - the difficulty of the paper
  - suggestions you received from your TA
  - time you had to prepare

Feedback

- **We will (briefly) discuss strengths/weaknesses of your talk in class**
  - Let us know upfront if you'd prefer not to

- **You can arrange a meeting with your TA to get feedback**

Schedule

- **We will meet once a week, with two presentations per session**
  - *Next meeting on October 11*
  - 22 presentations in total

- **Website with information and schedule**
  - http://people.inf.ethz.ch/markusp/teaching/252-2600-ETH-fall17/course.html

- **Paper assignment**
  - Round robin
  - Say if you don't mind an early slot