Writing papers and giving talks
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Presentation

Paper

References
How to prepare a good presentation

- Do not be too ambitious.
- You are an expert, most people in the audience know less about the topic you will present.
- Your talk should finish on time.
- Do not put too much text on your slides.
- Whenever possible include images and graphs, instead of text.
- You should be able to explain every word that is on your slide.
- Practice! Practice! Practice!
  - If possible give the talk to a friend.
  - Talk to a mirror.
How to give a good talk

- Do not only read text from a paper.
- Talk freely.
- Look at the audience.
- Leave enough time for the audience to look at slides especially when presenting graphs and images.
  - Remember: they might see this for the first time.
Structure of your talk

- Title slide
  - your name,
  - title,
  - date.
- Overview slide: What will you talk about?
  - Motivation,
  - Results,
  - Summary,
  - References.
How to get started?

- Analyze the material given to you by your supervisors.
- Analyze your topic.
- If the material provided to you is not sufficient or you do not understand it, try to find more material:
  - somewhere on the internet,
  - in the library,
  - if you really did an effort and the above failed, consult with your supervisor.
- A good starting point is always Wikipedia. However, this is not a citable, scientific source.
Structure of a paper

- Title,
- (list of) authors,
- Abstract,
- Introduction,
- the stuff in between,
- Summary/Conclusion
- References
Usually the title of your paper is the topic that was provided to you.

If you change the title, make sure it is informative and provides some information about the topic you will discuss in the paper.
The ad and trailer for the paper: it has to be an executive summary of your work in such a way as to attract attention and get the reader to read more.

Informative, but short.

Provide a *high level* description of the content of the paper.

Self contained and not point to other parts of the paper.

Should not exceed 200 words.
Introduction

- Provides clear motivation to questions studied in the paper.
- Provides a clear description of the content of the paper.
- Discusses related work.
- Should survey the whole paper, and therefore forward reference every important part.
- Should be 1-2 pages long.
Should describe what you did **not** do.

Describe what things are missing and where to look further.

Should emphasize, why this work is important and represent your opinion about the topic.
References

- Have to be correct, complete, and accurate.
- Only add references that are really used in the paper.
- Cite in the paper where appropriate.
- Everything that is not your own, genuine work must be cited.
- Avoid citing webpages.
- Do not use Wikipedia in the references.
Your paper should tell *one story* and should have a clear structure.

Papers are not suspense thrillers, so you need to make sure the reader can follow your thoughts at all times.

Start working early on your paper.

Ask a friend to proof read it.

The first friend is the spell checker.
Give a strong visual structure to your paper using:
- sections and sub-sections
- bullets
- laid-out code

Find out how to draw pictures, and use them.

Use simple language.

Use the active voice, passive voice kills the paper.

Once you fixed a notation, do not change it.

Do not overload notation.
References

- How to write a great research paper, Simon Peyton Jones, Microsoft Research, Cambridge, England
- How to write a paper, Oded Goldreich, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel