Seminar Fall 2019

Research Topics in Software Engineering
Peter Müller, Markus Püschel, Zhendong Su, Martin Vechev

Teaching assistants:
• Gagandeep Singh (MPü)
• Alexandra Bugariu (PM)
• Federico Poli (PM)
• Pinjia He (ZS)
• Ting Su (ZS)
• Pavol Bielik (MV)
• Marc Fischer (MV)
• Mislav Balunovic (MV)

https://acl.inf.ethz.ch/teaching/master-seminar/2019/

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

1. Check your presentation date
2. Study your paper(s)
3. Create draft presentation
4. Meet advisor, get feedback

Preparing a Talk: Start Early

- Preparing a good presentation takes time
- Start early!
Preparing a Talk: Study Paper

- 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 software associated with paper if available
- Consult with TA if questions

Preparing a Talk: Create Draft

- Explain the motivation for the work
- Clearly present the technical solution and results
  - Use your own example, not the one in the paper
  - Create your own visualizations
  - Include a demo if appropriate
- Outline limitations or improvements
- Focus on the key concepts
  - Do not present everything
  - Focus on the key ideas and technical parts and explain them well
  - Do not trivialize
Preparing a Talk: Get Feedback

- Prepare for the meeting
  - Schedule early
  - Send slides (complete draft) 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?

- We will take into account:
  - the difficulty of the paper
  - suggestions you received from your TA
  - time you had to prepare

- Participation in rest of seminar
  - Did you ask good questions?
  - Did you attend all sessions?
Feedback

- We will discuss strengths and weaknesses of your talk in class
- 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 8
  - 22 presentations in total

- Website with detailed information (Read!) and schedule
  - [https://acl.inf.ethz.ch/teaching/master-seminar/2019/](https://acl.inf.ethz.ch/teaching/master-seminar/2019/)