

# How to Write a Great Thesis?

Best (and worst) practices from choosing a topic to handing in

Dr. Roman Haas

With material from Dr. Elmar Juergens

In close cooperation with the Academic Advisors at TUM Computer Science

2011 – 2017



2017 – now



**TUM**



**CQSE**

Research collaboration  
with Prof. Pretschner

# Agenda

1. Why?
2. What's important?
3. Choosing a topic
4. Doing the work
5. Presentation

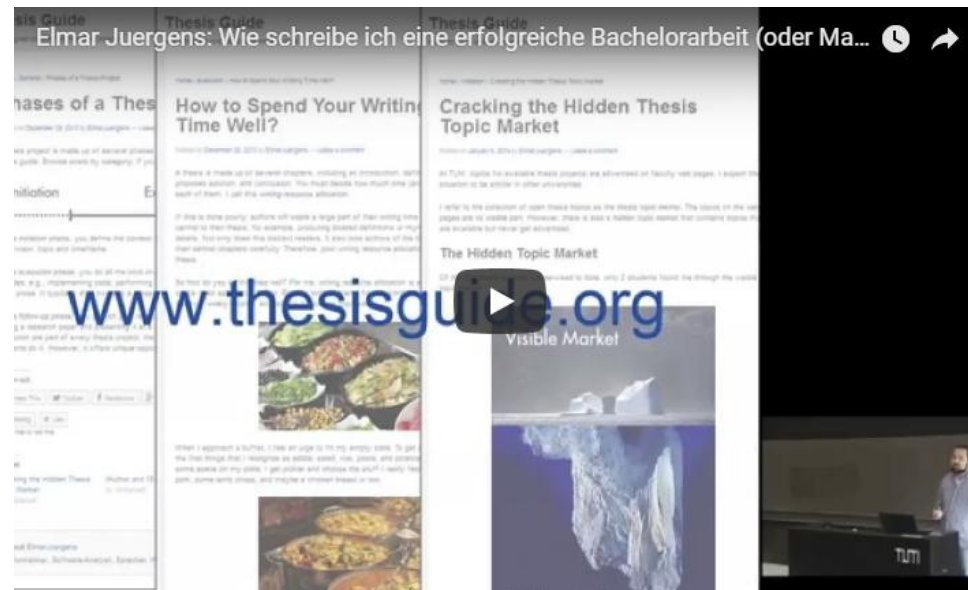


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- Slides
- Video
- Detailed Essays
- FAQ

## THESIS GUIDE

START HERE PREFACE CONTENT CONTRIBUTE ABOUT ME



# Agenda

1. Why?
2. What's important?
3. Choosing a topic
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5. Presentation



# Refactoring Suggestions for Long Methods



```
public void writeComment(final DatenDownload datenDownload) {
    if (datenDownload.film == null) {
        // kann bei EinmalDownloads nach einem Neuladen der Filmliste/Programmeustart der Fall sein
        return;
    }
    final Path filePath = Paths.get(datenDownload.arr[datenDownload.DOWNLOAD_ZIEL_Pfad_DATEINAME]);
    if (Files.exists(filePath)) {
        final String strFilePath = filePath.toString();
        String strComment = datenDownload.film.arr[datenDownload.FILM_BESCHREIBUNG];
        if (strComment != null) {
            //no need to write spotlight data when there is no description...
            if (strComment.isEmpty()) {
                return;
            }
        }

        //replace quotation marks...
        strComment = strComment.replace("\"", "\\\"");

        final String script = "tell application \"Finder\"\n"
            + "set my_file to POSIX file \"" + strFilePath + "\" as alias\n"
            + "set comment of my_file to \"" + strComment + "\"\n"
            + "end tell\n";

        try {
            final ProcessBuilder builder = new ProcessBuilder("/usr/bin/osascript", "-e");
            builder.command().add(script);
            builder.start();
        } catch (Exception ex) {
            if (daten.getMediathekGui() != null) {
                SwingUtilities.invokeLater(() -> {
                    final ErrorInfo info = new ErrorInfo(null,
                        "<html>Es trat ein Fehler beim Schreiben des Spotlight-Kommentars auf.<br>" +
                        "Sollte dieser häufiger auftreten kontaktieren Sie bitte " +
                        "das Entwicklerteam.</html>",
                        null,
                        null,
                        ex,
                        Level.SEVERE,
                        null);
                    JOptionPane.showMessageDialog(daten.getMediathekGui(), info);
                });
            }
            Log.errorLog(915263987, "Fehler beim Spotlight schreiben" + filePath.toString());
            //AppleScript may not be available if user does not use the official MacApp.
            //We need to log that as well if there are error reports.
            try {
                if (!System.getProperty("OSX_OFFICIAL_APP").equalsIgnoreCase("true")) {
                    logUnofficialMacAppUse();
                }
            } catch (NullPointerException ignored) {
                logUnofficialMacAppUse();
            }
        }
    }
}
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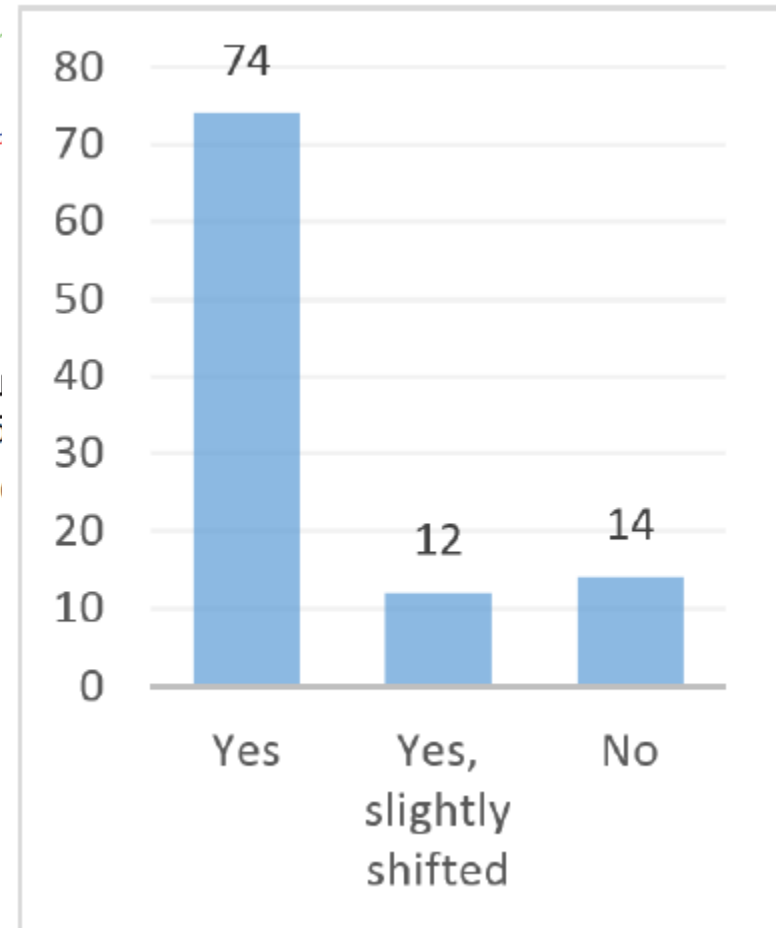
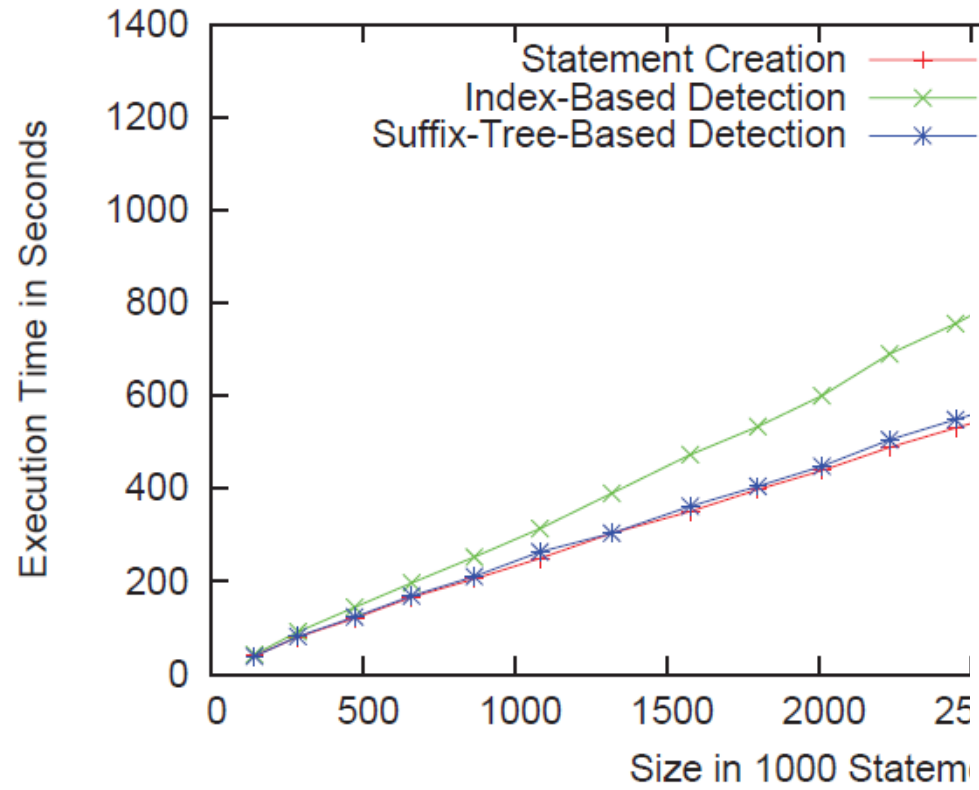
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                        "das Entwicklerteam.</html>",
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                        null,
                        ex,
                        Level.SEVERE,
                        null);
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                });
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                    logUnofficialMacAppUse();
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            } catch (NullPointerException ignored) {
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            }
        }
    }
}
```

# Agenda

1. Why?
2. What's most important?
3. Choosing a topic
4. Doing the work
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# Roles

Author



Supervisor



Examiner



# Roles

## Author

- Creates solution
- Implements code
- Writes text
- Presents work

## Supervisor

- Invents topic
- Feedback for work
- Evaluation



## Examiner

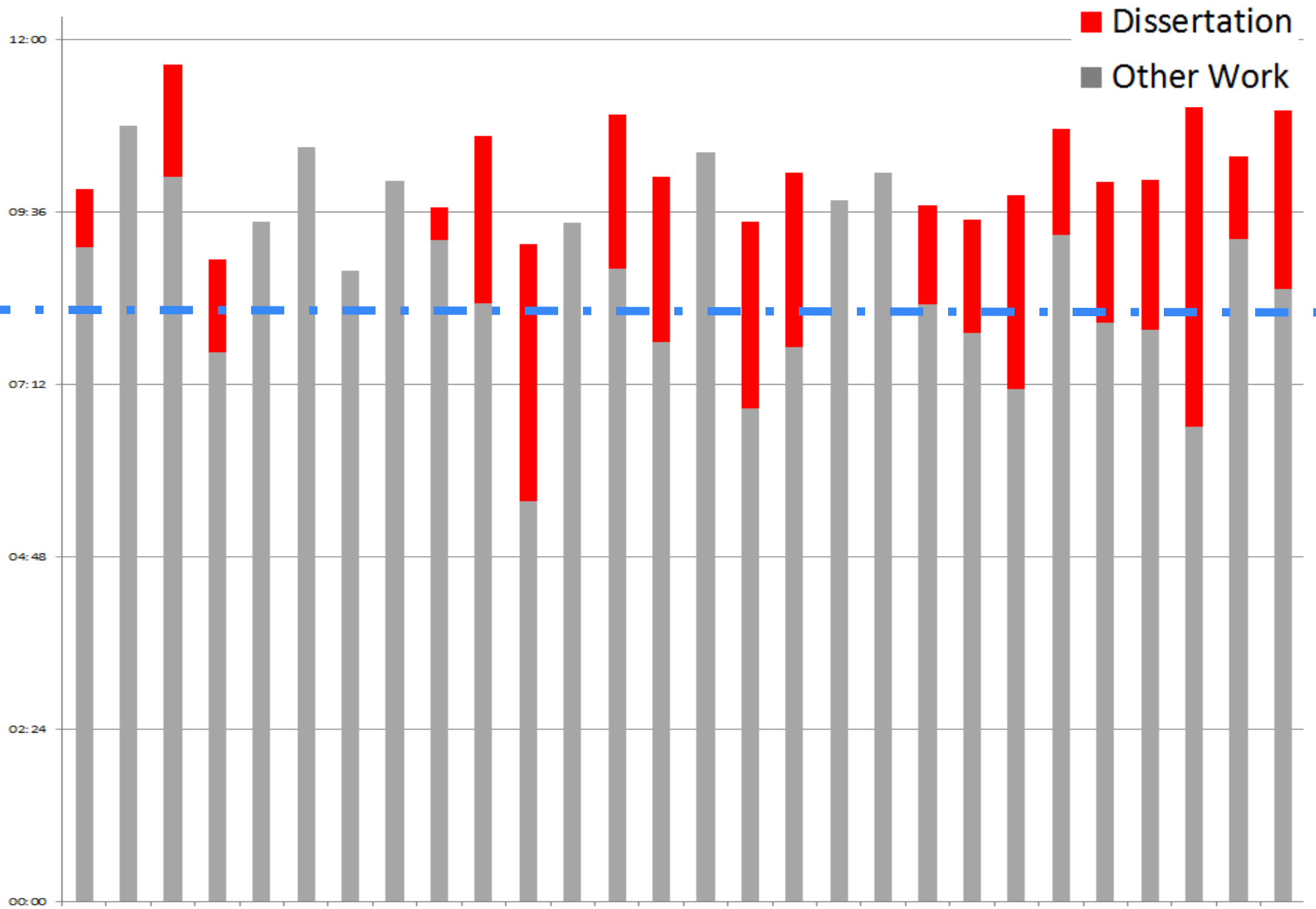
- Feedback topic
- Formal Evaluation

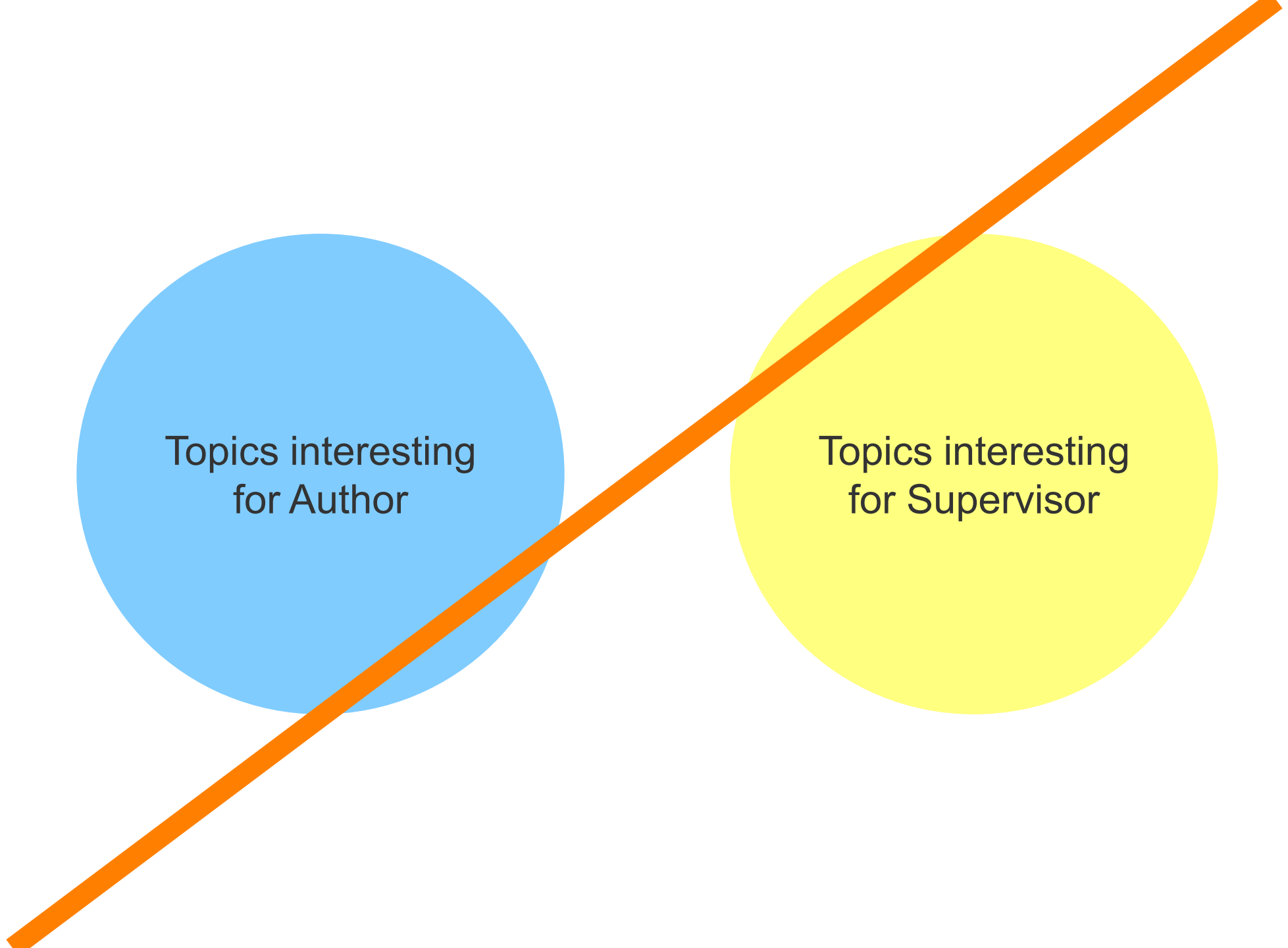


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# Sources

- Courses of studies
- Chair webpages
- (Old) topic descriptions

Ask potential supervisors! They are looking forward to your initial application!

# Thesis Application is an Application!

You should address two important points:

- Motivation: why are **you** interested?
- Strengths: why should **you** work on the topic?

Often helpful:

- Transcript of Records
- CV

# What if I don't have a Topic in Mind?

- Ask potential supervisors for ideas
- As a supervisor, I do **not** expect
  - Students to come up with thesis topics
  - Students to apply only for documented topics



**From:** Roman Haas  
**To:** Elmar Juergens  
**Date:** 10.12.2013

Hallo Herr Juergens,

ich studiere Informatik an der TUM im fünften Semester und möchte im kommenden Sommersemester meine Bachelorarbeit schreiben. Ich interessiere mich für Software Engineering-Themen wie z. B. Tests, Analyse, Softwarequalität und habe im Rahmen meiner Werkstudententätigkeit auch erste Erfahrungen in diesen Bereichen gesammelt. Beispielsweise beschäftige ich mich damit, Tests einer Komponente in einem Flugsimulator zu automatisieren. Außerdem habe ich im Sommer bei der Ferienakademie an einem Kurs zum Thema "Programmanalyse" teilgenommen, der mir viel Spaß gemacht hat.

Haben Sie noch Themen für eine Bachelorarbeit aus den Bereichen Software Engineering/ Testing/ Analyse?  
Falls ja, könnten wir uns mal auf einen Kaffee treffen, um uns darüber genauer zu unterhalten?

Danke für Ihre Antwort!

Viele Grüße

Roman Haas

**From:** Luca Weber  
**To:** Prof. Dr. Bauer  
**Date:** Today

Dear Professor Bauer,  
I am currently in my 6th semester of studying Informatics (Computer Science) at the Technical University of Munich and plan to write my Bachelor's thesis during the upcoming winter semester. Having followed your chair's recent research contributions and focus on the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and modern software engineering practices, I am highly motivated to apply for a thesis position under your supervision. The integration of AI capabilities into the software development lifecycle—whether through intelligent code generation, LLM-based refactoring, or automated defect and code smell prediction using machine learning—presents one of the most compelling innovation areas in computer science today. I am eager to contribute to this paradigm shift by dedicating my thesis specifically to the field of "AI for Software Engineering". Throughout my undergraduate studies, I have consistently aligned my academic focus with software engineering and code quality. In the seminar "Software Quality" (Grade 1.3), I conducted deep-dive analyses into automated structural testing and architectural refactoring paradigms. Furthermore, during the practical "Software Engineering Lab" (Grade 2.0), I successfully put agile principles into practice, contributing as a core backend developer within a full-semester Scrum environment. To support an AI-focused engineering thesis, I bring robust practical programming skills to the table.

Alongside an advanced command of Java—demonstrated by my personal open-source tool "CleanTask," which implements rigorous Test-Driven Development (TDD) via JUnit—I program extensively in Python. My GitHub project "E-Sports Match Analyzer" highlights my experience with automated REST API data aggregation, statistical analysis, and algorithmic visualization using Pandas and Matplotlib.

This combination of a firm grounding in classical software architecture and end-to-end Python engineering provides a solid foundation for accelerating my onboarding into your chair's ongoing research initiatives. I am highly flexible regarding the exact problem scope—be it evaluating large language models for synthetic test case generation or designing telemetry-driven ML models—and look forward to dedicating my energy to a challenging topic.

Thank you for considering my application. I have enclosed my CV and a provisional transcript of records, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss potential research topics with you in a personal meeting.

Sincerely,

Luca Weber

**Luca Weber**  
Undergraduate Computer Science Student

Schellingstraße 15, 80799 Munich, Germany  
Phone: +49 151 12345678 | Email: luca.weber@tum.de  
GitHub: github.com/luca-weber-dev  
Date of Birth: May 14, 2001

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**EDUCATION**

**Technical University of Munich (TUM)** 15/2023 – Present  
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Informatics  
Current Semester: 6th Semester • Expected Graduation: 09/2026  
Current GPA (Cumulative Grade): 2.4

**Relevant Courses & Achievements:**

- Seminar "Software Quality": Grade 1.3  
Focus on code smells, structural refactoring, and automated software test coverage.
- Lab Course "Software Engineering Lab": Grade 2.0  
Full-stack agile development of a web application within a Scrum team; backend architecture focus.
- Lecture "Algorithms and Data Structures": Grade 2.7

**Jakob-Fugger-Gymnasium, Augsburg**  
General Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Abitur) 09/2012 – 06/2020  
Final Grade (GPA): 2.3

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**PERSONAL PROJECTS (GITHUB)**

**Project "CleanTask" (Java)** Repository  
Description: A lightweight, command-line-based task management utility application.  
Focus: Rigorous application of Clean Code paradigms and Test-Driven Development (TDD) using JUnit. Successfully translated and validated theoretical concepts from the "Software Quality" seminar.

**Project "E-Sports Match Analyzer" (Python)** Repository  
Description: Automated score querying and evaluating public gaming match data via external REST APIs.  
Focus: Practical data processing and analytical visualization (Pandas, Matplotlib). Bridges personal interest in gaming with modern programmatic engineering practices.

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**SKILLS & INTERESTS**

**Programming:** Java (Advanced), Python (Advanced), SQL (Basic Knowledge)  
**Tools & Methods:** Git, JUnit, Core Fundamentals of Scrum & Agile Software Development  
**Languages:** German (Native), English (Fluent / CEFR Level C1)  
**Interests:** **Software Engineering:** Scripting automation workflows and building desktop projects. **Gaming:** Competitive strategy games (focus on collaborative problem solving).

\*\*\* FAKE DOCUMENT / UNOFFIZIELLES MUSTER / VALIDATION VOID \*\*\*

**TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH**  
Department of Informatics

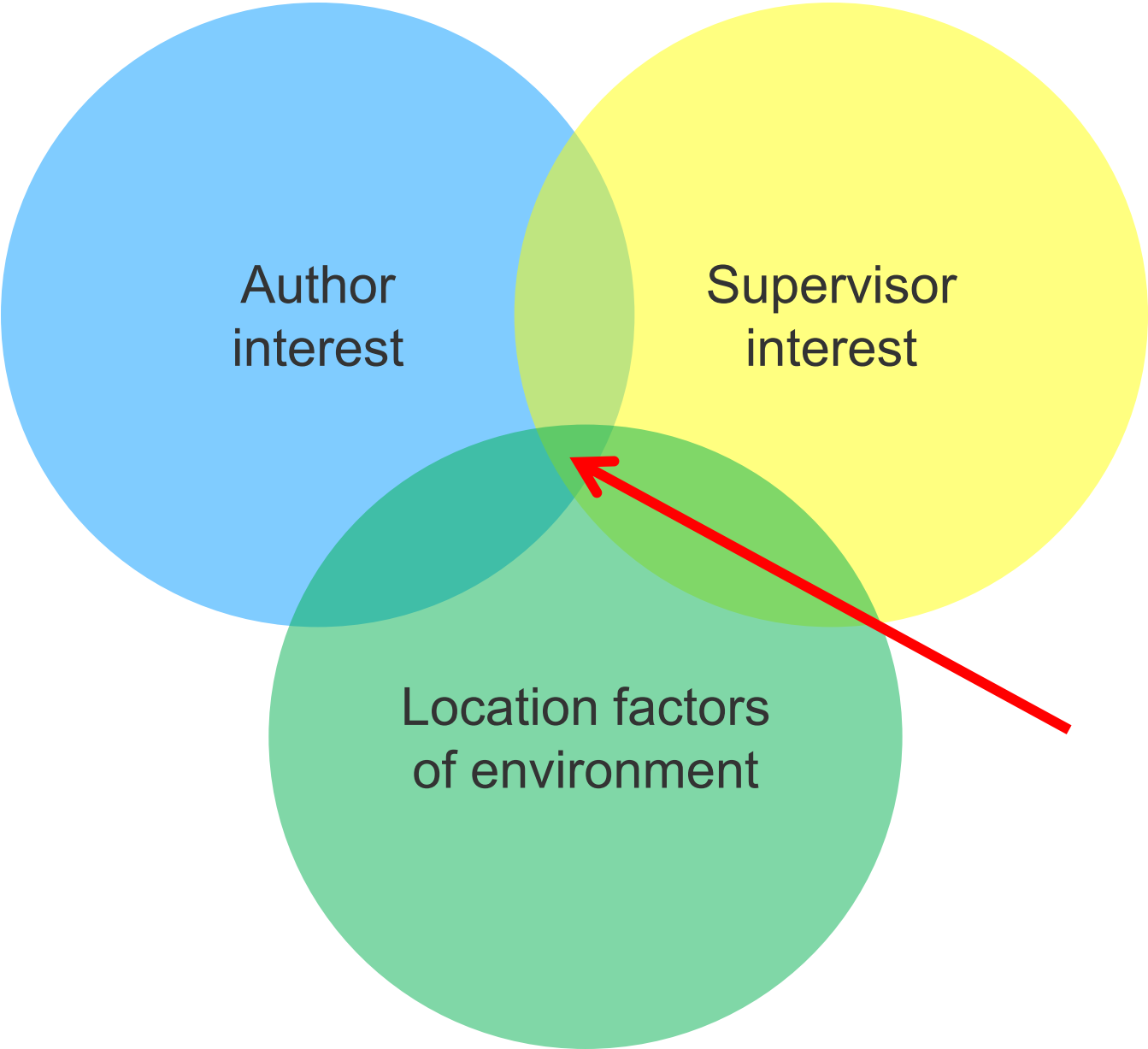
**TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS (EXEMPLARY)**

Name: Luca Weber      Matriculation No.: 03798218 (Fictional)  
Date of Birth: May 14, 2001      Place of Birth: Augsburg  
Degree Program: B.Sc. Informatics      Current Semester: 6 (SS 2026)  
Enrollment: Winter Semester 2023/24      Status: Simulation / Sample Only

Module No.	Module Title	Semester	ECTS Credits	Grade
IN001	Introduction to Informatics 1	WS 23/24	6	2.0
IN002	Fundamentals of Programming	WS 23/24	6	1.7
MA001	Calculus for Informatics	WS 23/24	6	3.0
IN018	Discrete Probability Theory	WS 23/24	6	2.7
IN003	Introduction to Informatics 2	SS 24	6	2.0
MA002	Linear Algebra for Informatics	SS 24	6	2.7
IN004	Computer Architecture and Networks	SS 24	6	2.7
IN006	Introduction to Software Engineering	SS 24	6	2.0
IN007	Algorithms and Data Structures	WS 24/25	6	2.7
IN008	Fundamentals of Databases	WS 24/25	6	2.0
IN009	Basic Principles: Operating Systems	WS 24/25	6	2.7
IN011	Introduction to Theory of Computation	WS 24/25	6	3.3
IN010	Computer Networks and Distributed Systems	SS 25	6	2.3
IN019	Numerical Programming	SS 25	6	3.0
IN041	Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence	SS 25	5	2.3
IN014	Seminar: Software Quality	WS 25/26	5	1.3
IN012	Practical Course: Software Engineering Lab	WS 25/26	10	2.0

**Total ECTS Credits Achieved:** 114.0  
**Current Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):** 2.4

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Not Valid / Void      Sample Only - No Stamp



Author  
interest

Supervisor  
interest

Location factors  
of environment

## TUM

- Contact to research (PhD?)
- Easier to find supervisor
- Scientific publication more probable
- More visionary topics
- Experience in Supervision

⇒ Insight into scientific work

## Special Case

Spin-Offs/Research institutes: sometimes best of both worlds

## Industry

- Contact to company (Job?)
- Easier to find topic relevant in practice
- You might get paid
- Publication more difficult (Exception: Case study)
- Synchronization of supervisors requires more effort and is not easy
- Requires TUM agreement to supervise the thesis before beginning the work

⇒ Insight into Company

# CQSE



Development  
Operations

Services  
Audits  
Quality Control

Research  
Software Quality  
e.g., Coding, Testing



Register





[Jakob Rott](#) • [Dr. Roman Haas](#)

Jetzt anmelden

 Jakob Rott • Dr. Roman Haas

 TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology (Raum 01.09.014) →  09. Juli 2026

 ab 17 Uhr  kostenlos

Working Student for Software Development (m/f/d)

Student

München + 4

New

Working Student for Software Quality Consulting (m/f/d)

Student

München + 4

New

Come and enrich our team 🧑🏻💻  
Clone Detection is not the only  
thing we are good at.

Apply



# When does a topic suck?

If you cannot tell, whether a solution for it is good, or not.

Most important factors:

- Is there a clear problem statement?
- Is there a way to evaluate alternative solutions?

Why important?

- Helps you choose between alternatives
- Helps you convince your supervisor
- Helps your advisor to convince his professor (your examiner)

# Refactoring Suggestions for Long Methods



```

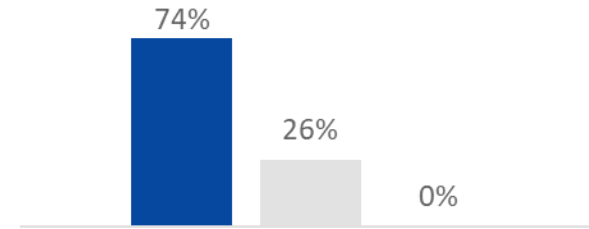
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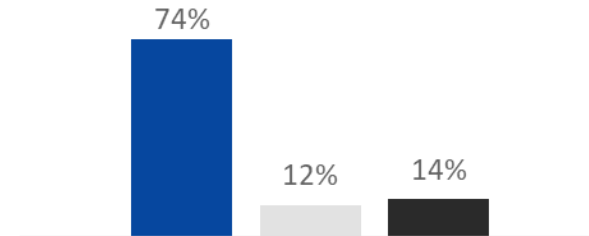
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                    }
                } catch (NullPointerException ignored) {
                    logUnofficialMacAppUse();
                }
            }
        }
    }
}

```



Which candidate would you use more likely for an extract method refactoring?

■ TOP 1 ■ TOP 2/3 ■ Random



Would you use the selected candidate for an extract method refactoring?

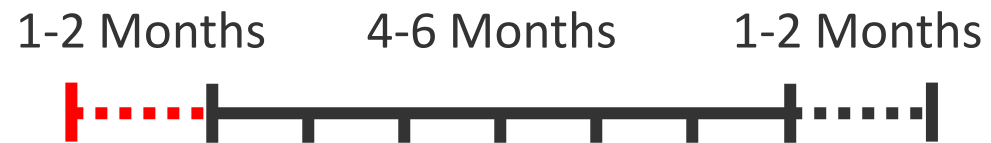
■ Yes ■ Yes, with slight modification ■ No

# Topic-Antipatterns

- Search my Literature
  - Implementation only
  - Choose my Tool
- 
- Lack of objective evaluation criteria
  - Hard to guide your own work
  - Publication difficult

# Schedule

- Internal Thesis



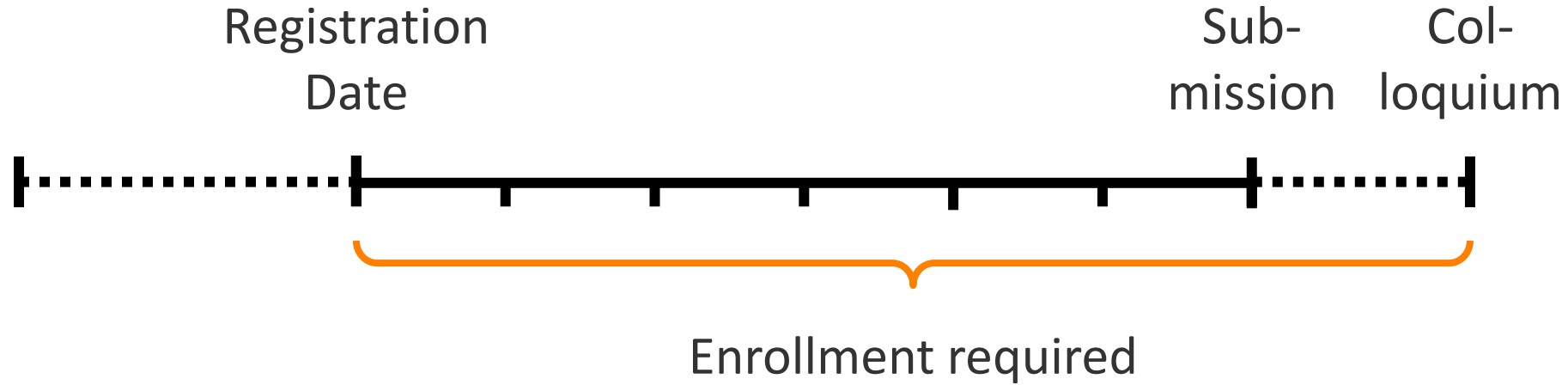
- External Thesis



- Spin-Offs/Research Institutes



# Enrollment



**No enrollment** required for colloquium held until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of lectures.

# Formal Registration



Technische Universität München  
Institut für Informatik  
Software and Systems Engineering  
Prof. Dr. Manfred Broy

Masterarbeit in Informatik

## Incremental Identification of Architectural Components from Code

The conformance of the actual implemented architecture (dependencies between source code artifacts) with the intended architecture is an important indicator for software quality. Static code analysis tools are available which identify architectural violations in the source code (architecture conformance analysis). These analyses require a model of the intended architecture which must be specified by an architect. In practice, the following problem occurs often: The code base has already grown over years and the architecture has silently evolved. Hence, the explicit knowledge about the intended architecture is lost. One means to recover the intended architecture is to follow the folder or package structure in the code base but also this is not always helpful, either because it is too flat or the package structuring concept does not reflect the desired logical architecture.

The aim of this thesis is to identify and evaluate methods for recovery architectural components in an incremental way: in most cases the architectural knowledge is not lost entirely, but some central key concepts which manifested in classes/types of the code are still known. These types could be a starting point to automatically identify strongly related types based on the dependency graph. These types might form an architectural component. The so identified component is added to the model of intended architecture and the architect selects a new starting type from the remaining unmatched types and applies the algorithm again. In the end, a complete model of the intended architecture should be retrieved.

The thesis comprises the following steps:

- Identify useful graph clustering algorithms from related work
- Apply the selected algorithms to example code bases with selected starting nodes (types). Ownmodified algorithms could be used as well.
- Evaluate the results of a single step for identifying a single component
- Evaluate the results after having applied the algorithm until all components are fully specified



Masterarbeit





## Theses

Here you can find an overview of the projects (Studienarbeiten) / theses you are completing / have completed at the School of Engineering and Design.

**No Works Found.**

### Contact persons

For technical problems, please contact support-  
koinon.asa@xcit.tum.de

Electrical and Computer Engineering  
bachelor@ei.tum.de  
master@ei.tum.de  
Phone: +49 89 289 22242

Informatics  
Contacts for the individual degree programs at  
www.cit.tum.de/en/cit/studies/students/advis

Mathematics  
infopoint@ma.tum.de  
Tel: +49 89 289 17577

# Formal Registration



Masterarbeit



Koinon



# Formal Registration



You can start the thesis on every day of a month



**My Advice: Register promptly.**

# When to Register?

- My advice: **Register promptly!**
- Still, there is no risk: you can withdraw without any consequences within the first third of your writing time.



- Extension
  - Because of Sick Leave: No problem
  - Because of other reasons: Potentially complex. Try to address using scoping

# Questions?



- Choosing a topic?
- Topic quality criteria?
- Internal vs. external thesis?
- Registration?

# Agenda

1. Why?
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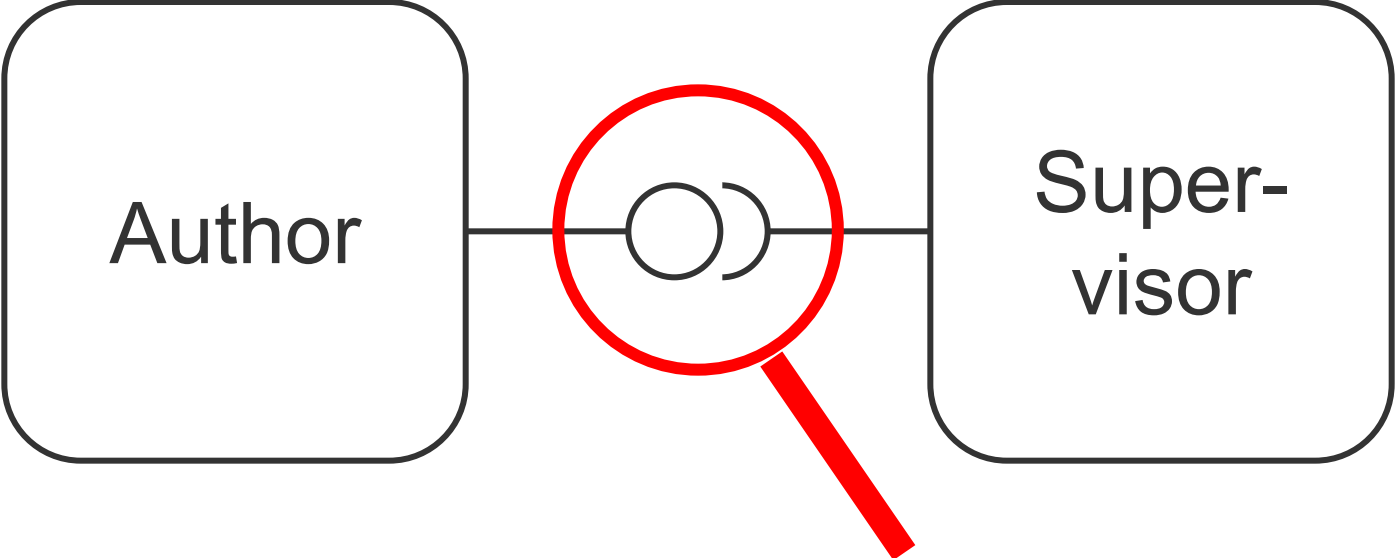
# What characterizes scientific work?

German: Wissenschaftliches Arbeiten: schafft Wissen.

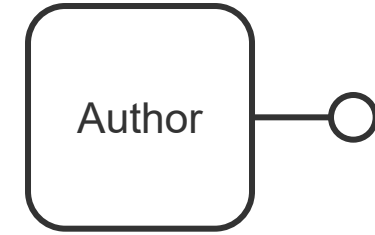
⇒ Scientific work creates knowledge

- Separate opinion / hypothesis from empirical results
- Separate your results from previous work

Goal: Enable reader to trace (or in some cases reproduce) your results.



# Author Responsibilities



- Time management
- Request feedback
- Communicate problems
- Make decisions

To make supervisor happy, report in each meeting

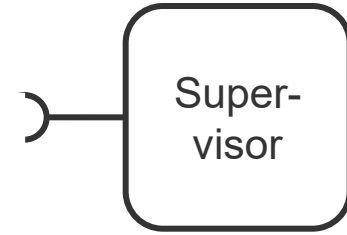
- Status last meeting
- What happened since then
- What you plan to do next, which problems you see

# Supervisor Responsibilities

- Topic definition and -clarification
- Scoping
- Giving Feedback




## Not Responsibility

- Micro-Management & Time management
- Take away decisions
- Proof-read complete work



# How often to meet?



-  Regular meeting
-  Meeting on demand
-  Feedback for outline

# Parts

1. Introduction
2. Fundamentals
3. Related Work
4. Solution Approach
5. Evaluation
6. Future Work
7. Conclusion

# Parts

1. Introduction
2. Fundamentals
3. Related Work
- 4. Solution Approach**
- 5. Evaluation**
6. Future Work
7. Conclusion



**> 2/3 of thesis**

OCTOBER 13, 2014 | ELMARJUERGENS | EXECUTION | EDIT

## Thesis Architecture

The outline is the architecture of your thesis. It decomposes your document into components (called chapters) with dependencies between them (called references). As for software, the architecture plays a crucial role for the success of your project.

Since text is hard to refactor (much harder than source code), it is tedious manual work to fix an outline that does not work properly later. Minimize this risk by 1) using a standard architecture and 2) early validation of a prototype (through supervisor feedback).

### Standard Architecture

A suitable *software* architecture allows the most important operations to be performed with high performance, even if this increases the cost of other operations. A search engine architecture, for example, is optimized for performance of search queries. Other text operations, say spell checking, are slow or not supported at all.

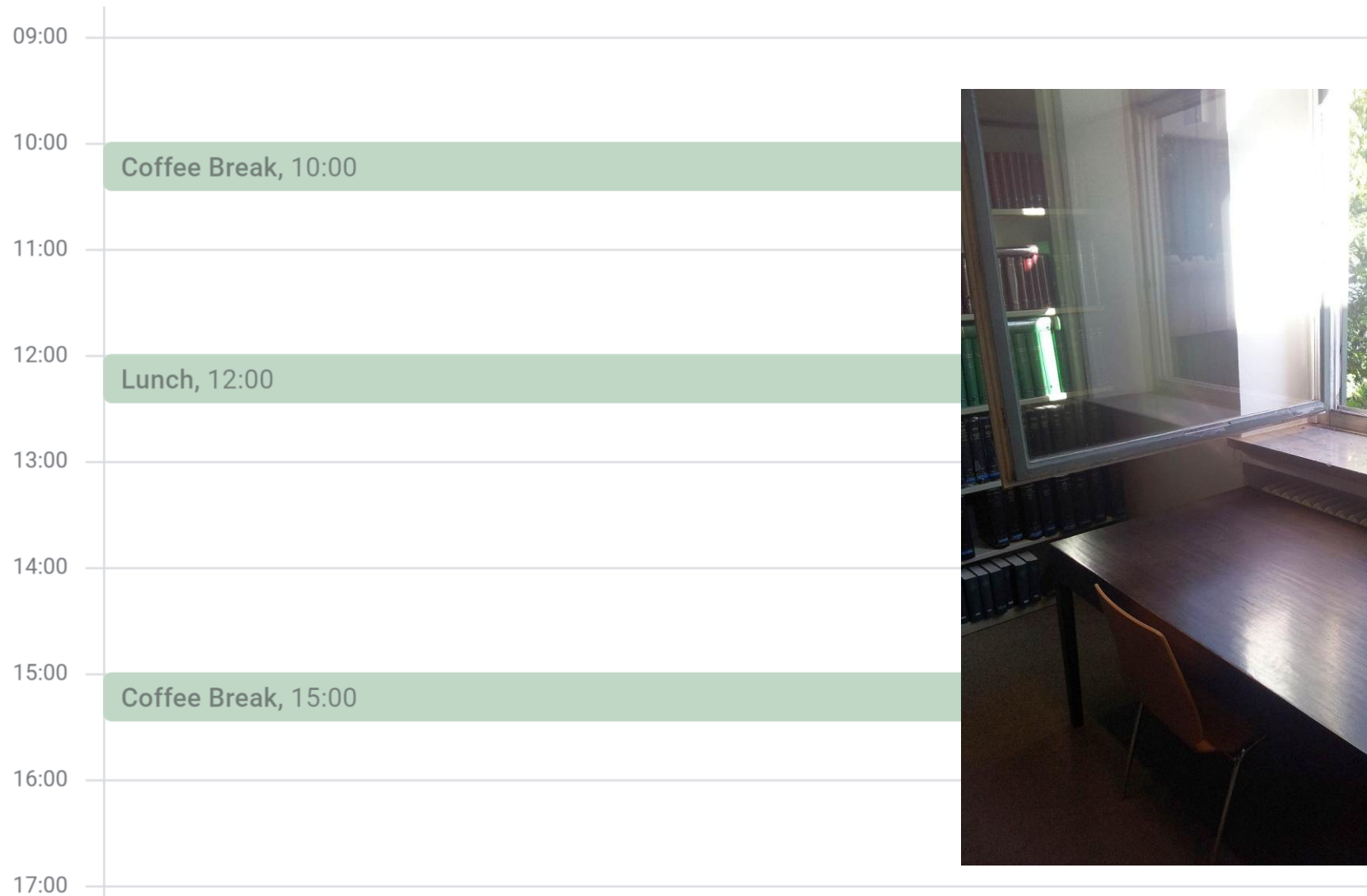
A suitable *thesis* outline allows a readers to answer the most frequent questions with high performance (i.e. without having to read the whole document). Which problem does the thesis solve? Did the approach work? What are its results and limitations? Which section should I read for details? Less important questions, say in which order the ideas occurred to the author, may not be answerable at all.

<https://thesisguide.org/2014/10/13/thesis-architecture/>

# Tools

- LaTeX
- Version Control System (including a backed up server)
- JabRef / Zotero / Mendeley / Citavi
  
- Template ([example](#))
- Formal requirements ([DE](#), [EN](#))

# Work Routine



# Questions?



- Interface Author / Supervisor?
- Supervision?
- Tools?
- Where and how to write?

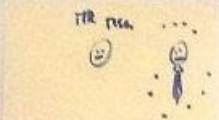
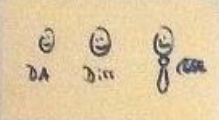
# Agenda

1. Why?
2. What's important?
3. Choosing a topic
4. Doing the work
5. **Presentation**

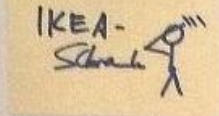




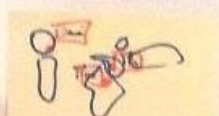
In late Spätag  
in Klassen  
und Betreu-  
er Arbeit



BA ermöglicht  
persönliches  
Wachstum

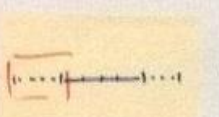
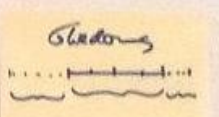
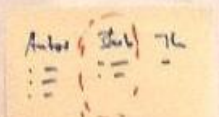
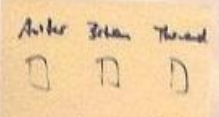
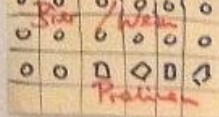


Arbeit Daniela  
Probleme + Arbeit



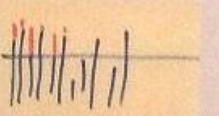
Transkript-  
Folie

Wichtigster Faktor  
für Wohlbefinden  
ist Betreuer



Sucht einen  
intelligenteren  
motivierteren  
Betreuer

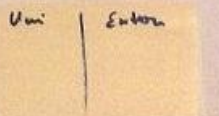
Erwartung: **Tom**  
- Uni wird dafür bezahlt  
- Ich habe mehrere  
Formate Arbeitbarkeit



Quelle  
- ...  
- ...

Formen  
- ...  
- ...

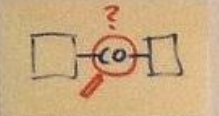
Überprüft die  
Gang der  
Planung



+ Struktur Arbeit  
Daniela  
→ Feedback

- Visualisierung  
Arbeit in  
→ Evaluation

Klärt Erwartungen  
an Betreuungs-  
verhältnis

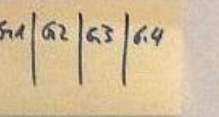
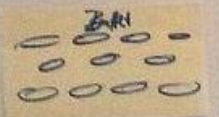


+ Thema → R  
+ Scoping  
+ Vertrauensperson  
+ Feedback

- Entscheidung  
Abwägen  
- Zeitmanagement  
- Kommunikation  
ganze Arbeit

□  
- Zeitmanagement  
- Feedback einholen  
- Rollen klären  
→ R

Erwartung Planung  
entscheidet über  
Qualität = Best  
der Arbeit



Versionenkontrolle  
LaTeX  
Job Ref



Feedback  
entscheidet  
für Rückmeldung



mit Betreuer



Teilweise...  
 Folie...  
 Tab...  
 Tab...

Text-Pyramide

Viele Präzedenzfälle  
Langweilig!

Gute Präzedenzfälle sind relevant & verständlich

Relevanz leitet von Problem ab

Klare Struktur ist Grundlage für Verständlichkeit

Gute Folien unterstützen die Argumente d. Redner

Präzedenzfälle bestimmen Qualität der Vorlesung

Anzahl

Rechner-Typen

Vorleser sind wichtigste Vorbereitungsphase!

Agenda

Agenda

Wichtigste Kriterien guter Vorlesung: Content

Präzedenzfälle

Zahlen aus der Praxis für Unit-Test-Cover

Paper

Wie stark: Findung...  
 Warnung...  
 Neue Fehler...

Was sind...  
 Erfolgsfaktoren...  
 Expertise...  
 Fundamentale...  
 Action...  
 Unterpunkte...  
 Parallel...  
 Nicht alle...

SW Langweilig

Typische Vorlesungsprobleme

Branching-Strategien

TS...  
 TS...  
 TS...

CD

Arch

Struktur...

Pair Programming

Pair Testen

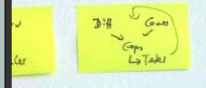
Dreh-Script...  
 Dreh-Script...

Legacy-Code

UIE-Test

Drill-Synthese

Prüfung...  
 Prüfung...  
 Prüfung...



Slow-Down...  
 Kommunikation...

Falsche...  
 Falsche...

Regressions...  
 Explorative...

Diffraktive...  
 Diffraktive...

Bei...  
 Bei...

Teil...  
 Teil...

Technische...  
 Technische...

Teil...  
 Teil...

Wichtig...  
 Wichtig...

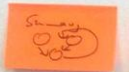
Wie...  
 Wie...

Wie...  
 Wie...

Vertikales...  
 Vertikales...

Es...  
 Es...

Unterstützung...  
 Unterstützung...



Planung

Ganz



MARCH 4, 2015 | ELMARJUERGENS | PRESENTATION | EDIT

## How to Draft Your Presentation

When I listen to a thesis presentation, I need to get the big picture before I care about the details. Until I have understood the problem statement, for example, I do not care how an algorithm works or how its average-case amortized runtime complexity beats existing solutions. Not even if it is presented with a nifty visualization.

In other words, if the big picture of a presentation—its structure—is messed up, no amount of clever visuals can save it. The first priority is thus to get the presentation structure right.

What do I mean by *presentation structure*? The presentation's composition of its constituent parts. How much time you spend on which part. Which one you focus on. Which thesis content you shorten, or leave out entirely. Whether you include an example,

presentation. Which running example. And so on.

Creating the structure is about making choices. Much like software architecture decisions, these choices are difficult to change later on. The goal of creating the presentation structure is thus to deliberately make and evaluate these choices early on, when they are still cheap to change.

When I prepared my first presentations, I always started by creating slides right away. This is a fundamentally bad idea, as it distracts from the structure.

As soon as I write my first letter on a slide, it has a font, a size, a color and a position. If I draw objects to form an info graphic, they have relative positions, alignment, proximity, contrast. All these properties force me to make choices. Or accept default settings, which are often ugly. Since ugly slides are irritating, they demand fixing. This ties up my time with tweaking. However, none of the visual properties of slides matter for presentation structure.

The key to focus on structure is to avoid details altogether. Use a medium that *does not allow details*. Thus shy slide-ware (Powerpoint and such) when drafting presentation structure.

My favourite drafting medium are whiteboard marker, post-its and a wall [1]. Since I am pretty clumsy with the whiteboard marker, and since the post-its are small, I simply cannot do details.

I use the process described by Nancy Duarte in her book *Resonate*. To make it tangible, I use examples from a presentation I did on presentation design [2].

**Brainstorm**



No signal  
01:30

Audience sees this

Next slide

The screenshot shows a Beamer presentation slide with a dark background. The slide is divided into two main sections. The left section, titled "Agenda", contains a list of five items: "1. Why?", "2. What's important?", "3. Choosing a topic", "4. Doing the work", and "5. Presentation". The third item is highlighted in red. Below the list is a horizontal timeline with a red dotted line under the first item and a solid black line under the others. The right section, titled "Next slide", contains a bar chart with a legend for "Dissertation" (red) and "Other Work" (grey). The chart shows alternating bars of grey and red, with the red bars generally taller than the grey ones. Below the chart is a text box containing the following text: "Choosing the topic also means choosing an advisor. This is obvious. It also means choosing the amount of time the advisor has. This is less obvious. Let me explain." The Beamer interface includes a top bar with "SHOW TASKBAR", "DISPLAY SETTINGS", and "END SLIDE SHOW", a timer showing "0:02:33" and "07:44", and a bottom bar with navigation icons and "Slide 19 of 77".

Choosing the topic also means choosing an advisor. This is obvious. It also means choosing the amount of time the advisor has. This is less obvious. Let me explain.

My notes







## How to Rehearse Your Thesis Presentation

A new set of presentation slides is like a program that has probably contains bugs. It reduces the pain for all stakeholders, if you test it to discover (and fix) its bugs before exposure.

My test process for presentations has three steps. The first is a test of a program. The second one is in front of a test audience done by representative users. The third one is with your

### Step One: Alone

The first rehearsal step is to give the presentation to an individual

### Step Two: Test Audience

The second rehearsal step is to give the presentation to a test audience.

Two to four persons make the perfect test audience size. A single person can miss too many problems or be too subjective. More than four add little value but complicate the rehearsal, since everybody wants their say. Personally, I prefer three test audience members.

The test audience comments are the more helpful, the more similar the test audience is to the audience of the final presentation. Computer science students are thus preferable over parents over grandparents. However, take what you can get. A rehearsal in front of your grandparents is still far better than no rehearsal in front of an audience.

I use this process for test presentations with an audience:

- Hand out pen and paper, including a printout of the slides. It is easiest to note down visual slide problems on the slides themselves. It also allows you to collect the notes afterwards.
- Plan at least three times the amount of time of the presentation for the entire meeting (e.g. 60min rehearsal meeting to test a 20min presentation).

# After handing in

- Celebrate!
- Make presentation appointment early
- Communicate your time constraints early to supervisor

JUNE 10, 2016 | HAAS93 | FAQ, GENERAL | EDIT

## Avoiding Typical Pitfalls (not only) at TUM

This post is from Roman Haas (he was advised by Elmar in his Bachelor's Thesis).

It focuses on more or less typical problems that appeared to him and his friends during our theses and how to avoid them. They are described by anti-patterns, i.e. there is always a description of a problem and a possible solution for it. The problems are sorted by the moment when you should pay attention to them: the first ones may appear at the beginning of your work, the latter ones appear during your work or at the end.

### Rating Criteria Surprise

**Problem:** You are not happy with the final grade of your thesis because you spent too much time on things that are not (so) relevant for the grade.

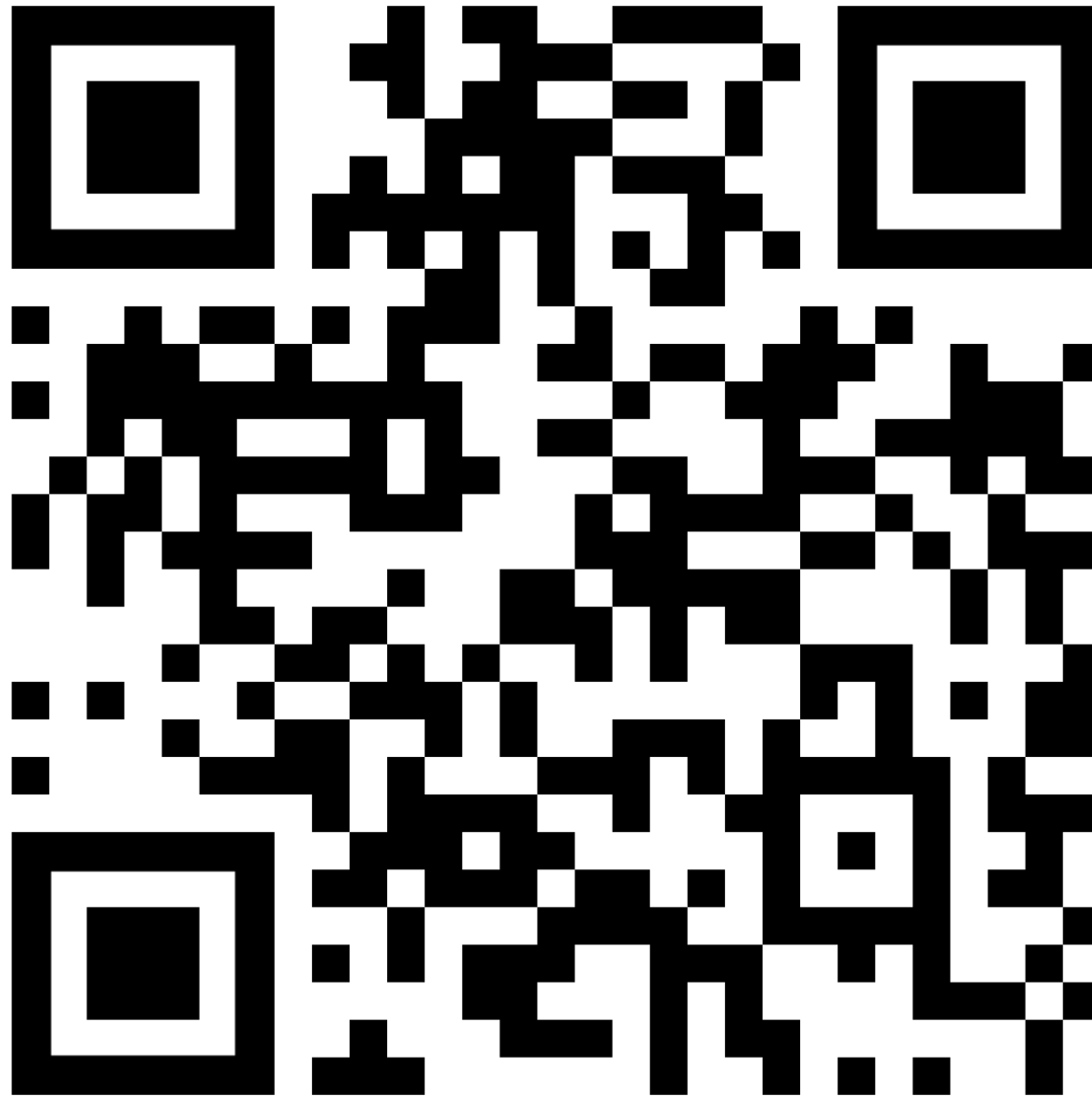
**Solution:** Ask your supervisor at the beginning of the work which criteria will be used to rate the thesis. Does the code that you wrote for the thesis influence the grade? What about the presentation at the end?

### Wasting Time on Thesis Template

**Problem:** At the end of your writing time you realize that there are formal errors like formatting issues and content of the cover page in your thesis.

**Solution:** Look for a thesis template at the very beginning of your work, e.g. ask your friends which template they used. Do also check at the beginning whether all formal

<https://thesisguide.org/2016/06/10/avoiding-typical-pitfalls-not-only-at-tum/>



<https://cqse.eu/feedback-tum-talk>

TUM provides the platform.

It is your responsibility, to create your environment to write a successful thesis.

Thanks!

[haas@cqse.eu](mailto:haas@cqse.eu)

More information available at  
<https://thesisguide.org>

Feedback:



<http://cqse.eu/feedback-tum-talk>