Briefly, about me

Skip the “Herr Prof. Dr.”
Instead, ask about my research!

ETH: Jan, 2016 —
PhD from U Illinois, 2015
Proud “Doktorvater” to 4 PhD students
Several MS/BS thesis students
Briefly, about the seminar’s papers

Applications: video streaming, Web, data analytics
Types of networks: cloud data centers, wide-area
Actors: users, ISPs, cloud providers, app providers, bad guys
Under the hood: algorithms, measurement, engineering

Recent, high-quality papers at top networking conferences
For each Tuesday seminar session ...

Preceding Friday: you submit reviews online
Tuesday:
  discussion leader guides discussion
next session leader gives background
Reviewing
“How to Read a Paper”, S. Keshav (2 pages)

Submitting reviews on Friday before session

https://netseminar.ethz.ch

Follow the instructions!
Things to avoid in reviews

“They say X.”
Do you believe them? Why (not)?

“Y is computationally expensive.”
But does it matter?

“Z is optimistic.”
Why?
Things to avoid in “Key insights”

“Results are better. Achieves X.”

Results are the outcomes of insights.

“Solved difficult problems.”

How? Why were the problems hard?

“They had a prototype!”

Yes, good, but not an “insight”.

But don’t be too negative!

Personal opinion alert

One nice insight + no major issues = accept
Discussion
Discussions leaders

- Summarize key points in online reviews
- Guide the discussion
  - Call out comments you liked
  - Ask for elaboration
- Add your own thoughts
- Can skip review for paper you will lead on
Discussion not-leaders

Elaborate on points you or others made
Any new thoughts based on ongoing discussion?
Try not to interrupt your colleagues

Typically, women get interrupted way more*

What parts were hard to understand?
What are some prompts for future work?

Background talks
Goals of the background talks

Help your colleagues by providing context
Describe what broad problem is being solved
Why is that problem important?
What naive things could you do?
What are the smartest things preceding this paper?
Given by next session lead(s)

No longer than 15 minutes (per person) *
Make it …

… useful

… interesting

… not a spoiler — everyone will read the paper!

but can use motivation and related work bits

* some background talks can be done jointly with the other session lead
Typical presentation

1. What’s the problem being solved?
2. Why should we care? (I like throwing in a result-summary)
3. Overview of approach
4. Key insight; distinction from the past
5. Details, results
Typical presentation ≠ Background

1. What’s the problem being solved?
2. Why should we care?
3. Background, past work
For preparing background talks

Use my input

Give yourself enough prep time

Steal slides from authors (with acknowledgment)
Quick recap

Preceding Friday: you submit reviews online
Tuesday:
  discussion leader guides discussion
next session leader gives background
Today

Next session lead (Ankit) gives background
Helps you read and review papers by Friday
For the first full session next Tuesday

By Friday: you submit reviews

Tuesday:

Discussion lead (Ankit) guides discussion

Background talks by Tuesday-after leads
Grading

1/3 reviews
1/3 discussion leadership, participation
1/3 background

Give a great background talk!
If everyone does that ...

- Paper reading becomes easier / faster
- Deeper understanding
- Knowledgable about many sub-areas
- Poor talks hurt everyone!