

Bernd Skiera

**Remarks concerning the Presentation of Bachelor
and Master Theses**

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1 Introduction

Every student who writes her (or his) bachelor or master thesis under the supervision of Professor Skiera and his team members has the opportunity to present her (or his) theses once. The idea is to give a presentation of 15 minutes about the topic of the thesis that is followed by a discussion of 10-15 minutes. This presentation can be in German or English. Professor Skiera and the member of his team who is involved in the supervision of the thesis will attend the presentation. If there are multiple students presenting, then every student is also expected to attend the presentation of the other students. I strongly encourage students to provide each other with feedback.

The presentation format builds upon the format that is used at academic conferences where the slot for the presentation of a research topic varies between 10 and 30 minutes. The idea is to present the results of the thesis or, if you present early, the results that you expect to get with the thesis. The presentation should not be a status report or a description of the content of the thesis, e.g., in the form of presenting a table of content. So, the student does not need to outline what she (or he) is currently doing. Instead, the student should focus on the insights the student gained or expects to gain.

2 Structure of the Presentation

2.1 Aim of the Thesis (3-5 minutes)

Usually, it is a very good idea to start with the problem that the student intends to solve and to outline why the problem is relevant and why the solution of the problem is difficult. Ideally, the student includes a slide that only outlines the aim of thesis.

2.2 Literature Review (3-5 minutes)

The next section, also known as the literature review, usually covers an overview of what is known about the solution of the problem, respectively what is not known about the problem.

The latter often motivates the thesis of the student.

It is usually too early to present if the student does not know what the aim of the thesis should be and did not conduct a literature review.

2.3 Remaining Presentation

Depending on how long the student already worked on the thesis, the student should either focus in the remaining part of the thesis on one of the following two aspects.

2.3.1 For students who present at a rather early stage of their thesis

The student should outline what she (or he) want to achieve, how she (or he) intends to achieve it and who can do what better because of the likely insights of the thesis. Thus, our feedback will then focus on how and what the student want to achieve.

2.3.2 For students who present at a rather late stage of their thesis

The student should outline the insights that she (or he) achieved, how she (or he) achieved these results and who can do what better because of the insights of the thesis. Thus, our feedback will then focus on the insights that the student achieved and whether these insights are in line with the approach that the student took to achieve them.

2.4 After the Presentation

You will get feedback after the presentation. You can also use the time after the presentation to ask us questions.

3 Final Remarks

Students should not present too early nor too late. The simple reason is that we cannot provide detailed feedback if the student does not really know what to do in the thesis. The feedback is also not helpful if the student does not have time to incorporate the feedback.

There is no recommendation towards presenting at a rather early versus a rather late stage of the thesis. Both have advantages and disadvantages. If the student exactly knows (does not exactly know) what to do, then a later (earlier) stage will make more sense.

The presentation will not be graded and neither good nor bad presentations will impact the grade of the thesis. The sole purpose of the presentation is to provide feedback.

Presenting the thesis is not mandatory and not presenting will not impact your grade negatively (although the lack of feedback might indirectly do so).

Please provide us with the slides of your presentation no later than 8 am on the day of your presentation.