Reviewing process: MobileHCI 2014 illustration

Marcos Serrano

RJC IHM 2015

Studying a conference reviewing process

Why?

Writing scientific papers = communication

Who are the reviewers ? How do they work ?

Studying a conference reviewing process

Why?

Look at reviewers’ feedback:

Identify common strengths and weaknesses

Studying a conference reviewing process

Why?

Improve your papers to:

make it more understandable under reviewing conditions

highlight strenghts

Chair

“The highest officer of an organized group such as a board, a committee, or a deliberative assembly.“

[Wikipedia]

MobileHCI: 17 Chair Categories

Registration Chair (reg

Keynote Chair (keyn

Herbert Enns

University of Manit

Workshop Chairs (

Industrial Case Studies and Exhibit Chairs (i

Rodrigo de Oliveira

Google, USA

Interactive Tutorial Chairs (

Andrés Lucero

Nokia Research Centre, F

Publicity Chair (public

Cosmin Munteanu

National Research C

Web Chair (web@r

Khalad Hasan

University of Mar

Design Competition and Future Innovations Chair

Geoffrey Shea

OCAD University, C

E-Publication Chair

Deborah Fels

Ryerson University

Demonstrations and M

Markus Rittenbruch

Poster Chairs (p[s]

Doctoral Consortium Chair (

Stephen Brewster

University of Glasgow, UK

Organization

Organizing Chairs

Conference Chairs (conferencechair@mobilehci2014.acm.org)

Aaron Quigley

University of St. Andrews, UK

Sara Diamond

OCAD University, Canada

Program Chairs (programchair@mobilehci2014.acm.org)

Pourang Irani

University of Manitoba, Canada

Sriram Subramanian

University of Bristol, UK

Program Committee

Program Chairs (programchair@mobilehci2014.acm.org)

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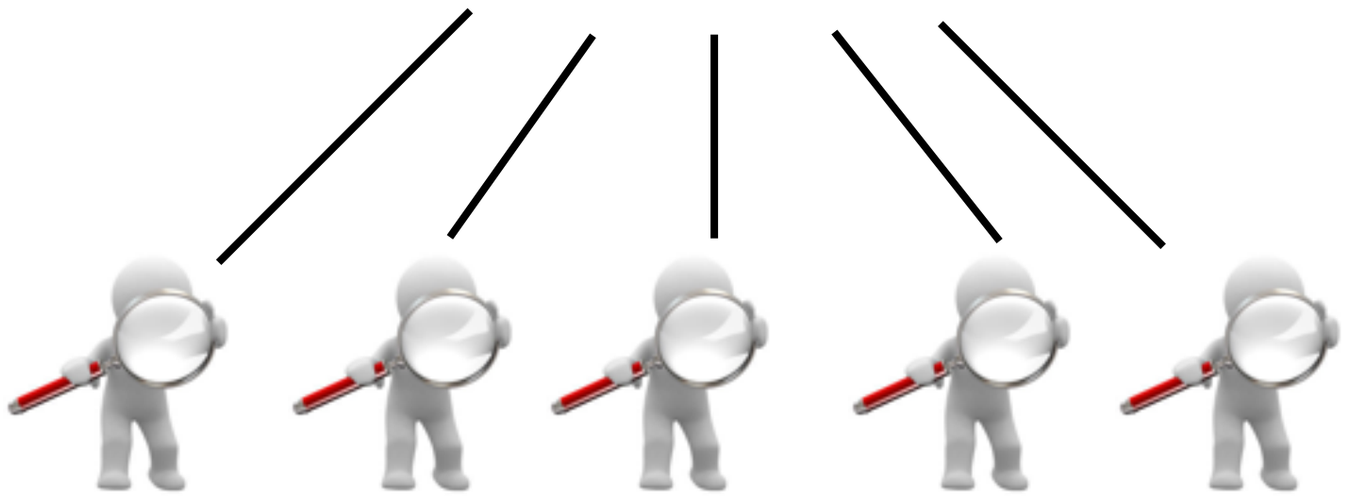


28 PC members

(AC or Meta-reviewers)

Program Committee

Jason Alexander, Lancaster University
Daniel Ashbrook, Samsung Research America
Elizabeth Bales, University of California San Diego
Sebastian Boring, University of Copenhagen
Karen Church, Yahoo! Labs
Edward Cutrell, Microsoft
Alexander De Luca, University of Munich
Audrey Girouard, Carleton University
Juan David Hincapié-Ramos, University of Manitoba
Johan Kildal, Nokia Research
David Kirk, Newcastle University
Antonio Krüger, Saarland University
Yang Li, Google Research
Karon MacLean, University of British Columbia
David McGookin, Heriot-Watt University
Antti Oulasvirta, Max Planck Institute for Informatics
Jeffrey Pierce, Samsung
Derek Reilly, Dalhousie Universit
Enrico Rukzio, Ulm University
Alireza Sahami Shirazi, University of Stuttgart
Dominik Schmidt, Hasso Plattner Institute
Johannes Schöning, Hasselt University
Marcos Serrano, University of Toulouse
Daniel Spelmezan, University of Bristol
Anthony Tang, University of Calgary
Keith Vertanen, Montana Tech
Graham Wilson, University of Glasgow
Xing-Dong Yang, University of Alberta

Reviewing steps MobileHCI'14

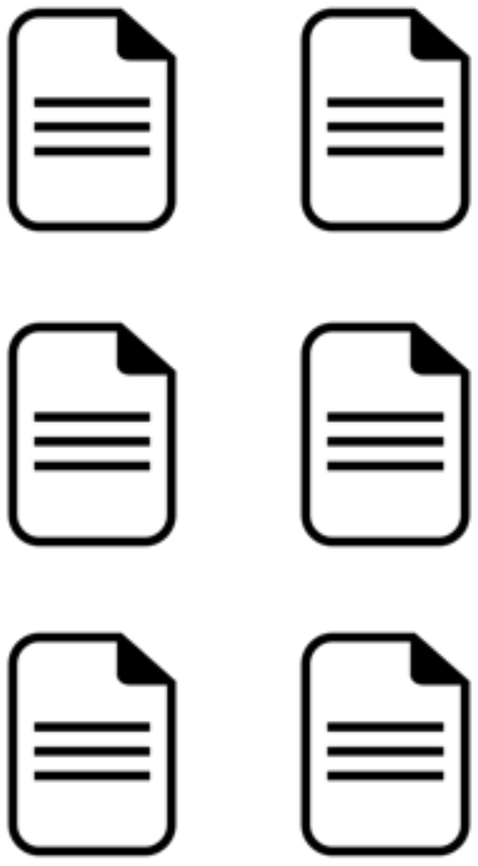
1. **Assignation of papers to AC members**
2. Finding reviewers for each paper
3. Write reviews
4. Discussion
5. Writing meta-review
6. Final discussion during PC meeting

5b. Author Rebuttal

1. Assignation of papers

If paper is poorly written or completely out of scope
-> Desk (Immediate) Rejection
(9 papers, 4%)

1-AC (Meta-reviewer)



6 articles

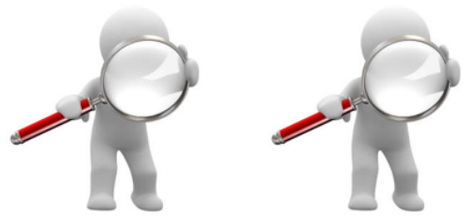
2-AC (reviewer ++)

12 articles

2. Find reviewers

as 1-AC

Find two reviewers/paper



- Lab colleagues
- Referenced authors (experts)
- Volunteers

(*6 = 12 Reviewers)

2. Find reviewers

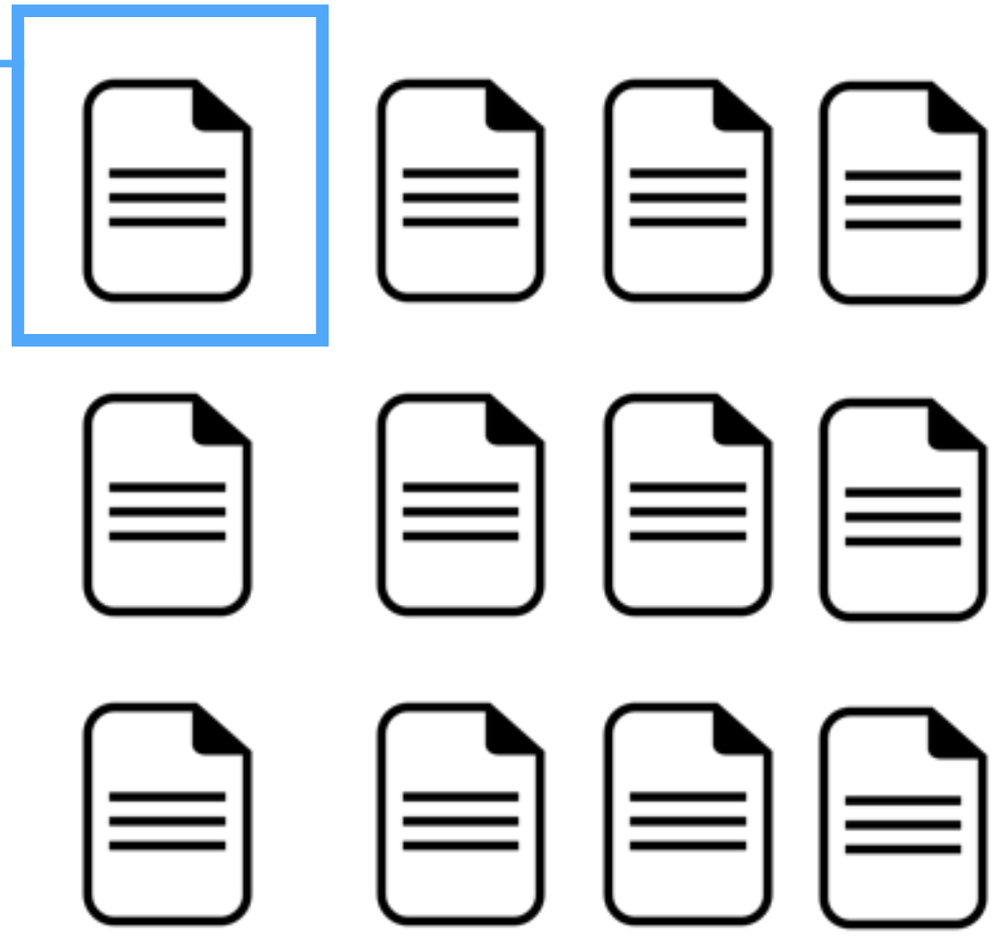
as 2-AC

Find one reviewer

- Lab colleagues
- Referenced authors (experts)
- Volunteers

(12 Reviewers)

2-AC (reviewer ++)



2. Find reviewers

Each paper has 5 reviewers

1-AC

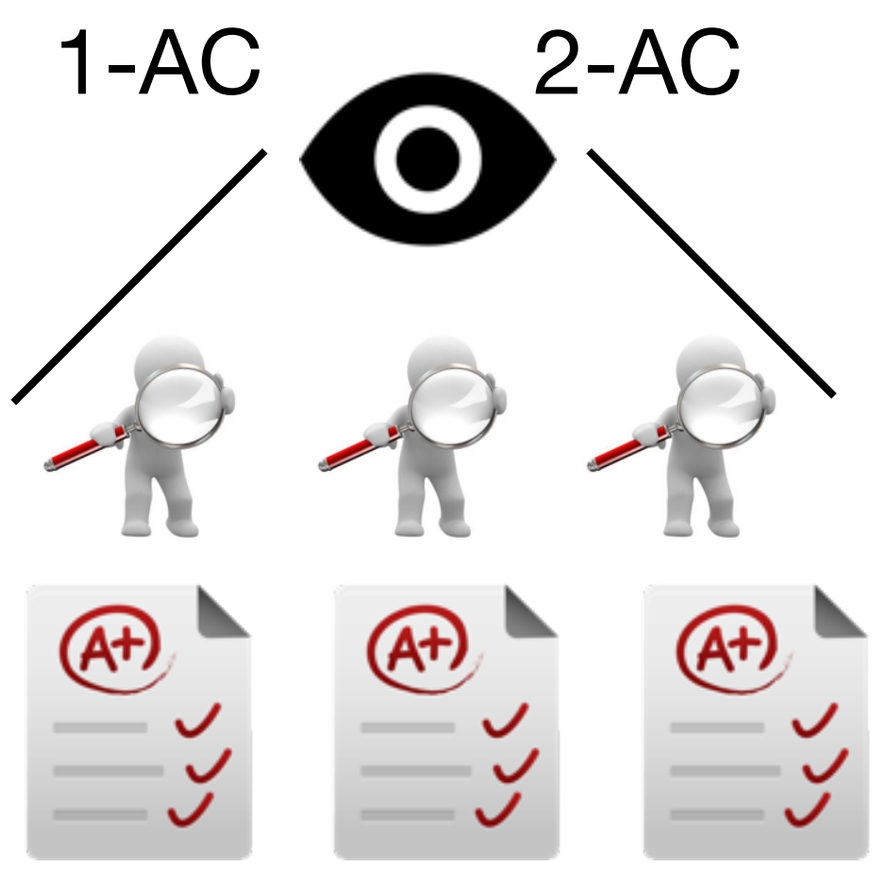
2-AC

2 Program Committee reviewers

3 external reviewers

3. Write reviews

First external reviewers



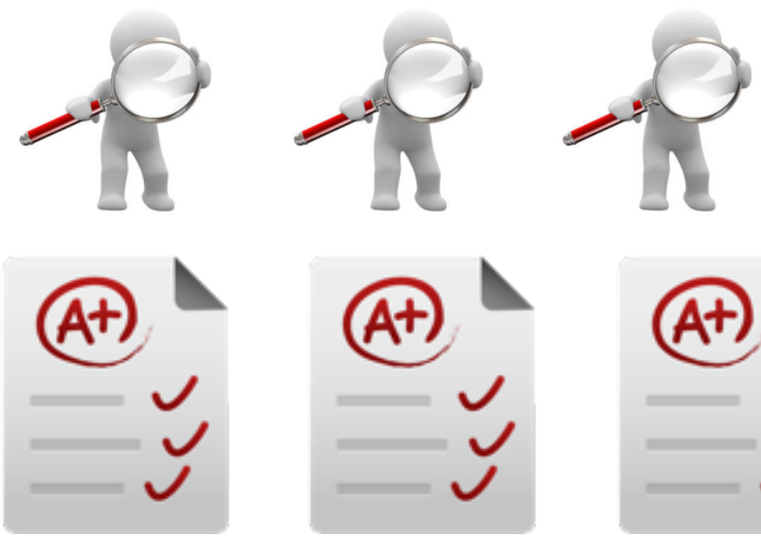
3. Write reviews

Then 2-AC

1-AC

2-AC

12 reviews!



4. Discussion

If divergent reviews

Reviews

Review Score	Reviewer Expertise	Review
2	(4)	* review by Reviewer 4
3	(3)	review by Reviewer 1:
2	(4)	review by Reviewer 2:
3	(3)	review by Reviewer 3:
2.36	(3.6)	*averages*

“Dear reviewers,

Thank you for your efforts in reviewing this paper. Ratings for this paper are diverse (2, 2, 3, 4). Could you please read each other's reviews and let us know if you agree/disagree and if you want to update your review or your score ? “

4. Discussion

Important !!

5. Meta-review

Summary of reviews

Strengths

Weaknesses

Suggestion on acceptance/rejection

5. Meta-review

Summary of reviews

Write 6 Meta-reviews:

Read 6 papers

Write 6 Reviews

Read 6x4=24 reviews

Write 6 Meta-Reviews

TIME !

6. PC-Meeting

Final decisions on acceptance/rejection

One full-day: 8:30 am -> 6 pm

Long and tiring

Discussion on papers with rate > 2.0

~80 papers

Less than 5 minutes per paper !

6. PC-Meeting

Final decisions on acceptance/rejection

Discussion on papers from the top or the bottom

- First very good or very bad papers
- Papers that need discussion at the end of the day

All PC members see all papers and all reviews

6. PC-Meeting

For each paper

Projection :

authors, abstract and ratings

sometimes paper's pdf

For each paper:

1AC presents paper and reviews

1AC makes suggestion on acceptance/rejection

2AC gives his opinion

6. PC-Meeting

For each paper

Three options:

- Paper is rapidly accepted/rejected
- Small discussion with other PC members
- Paper is assigned to 3rd AC and discussed at the end of the day

At the end of the day, paper is rejected, accepted or conditionally accepted

6. PC-Meeting

Conditional acceptance

Accept papers after authors modifications and verification

What can be conditionally accepted:

- Add some missing information
- Do some stats

What is usually **not** conditionally accepted:

- Transform long paper into short paper

6. PC-Meeting

Importance of 1-AC and 2-AC

They will advocate for a papers rejection or acceptance

External reviewers are not there:

- Their rating is less important at this stage
- Accepted papers with bad external reviews
- Rejected papers with good external reviews

If rebuttal:

- Address the 1-AC and 2-AC issues !!

Paper weaknesses

- Motivation
- State of the art
- Novelty
- Contribution
- Validation

Paper weaknesses

Motivation
State of the art
Novelty
Contribution
Validation

“R1 and R3 criticize the vague description of the problem and the poor motivation”

“The motivation and the proposed solution are not very convincing (R2, R4, R1, R3)”

Paper weaknesses

Motivation

State of the art

Novelty

Contribution

Validation

“R4 also points to related work that the authors did not consider”

“The literature review is insufficient (R1, R3): there is a large literature and the paper only references a small subset of them.”

Paper weaknesses

Motivation
State of the art
Novelty
Contribution
Validation

“R3 and R4 question the additional novelty versus past work offered by the submission”

“The provided data and the discussion […] don't offer any significant novel insights when compared with previous research”

“it is difficult to asses the novelty of the contribution (R3, R4)”

Paper weaknesses

Motivation
State of the art
Novelty
Contribution
Validation

“This also feels like a small contribution for a long paper.”

“all reviewers agree that the contribution is not sufficient”

“However, most have concerns with the contribution of the paper (R1) as well as some of the strong claims”

“it is not entirely clear which mobile learning aspect the paper is trying to address. For R1 the description is too vague.”

Paper weaknesses

“the evaluation does not answer the questions posed in the motivations section”

“R1 states that the system and its evaluation were not sufficiently described to allow replication.”

“their reporting of the results (with lots of details) fails to come back to the main discussion point and therefore confuse readers.”

“R3 states that the evaluation […] does not fit to the described problem”

“ the conditions of the study were not counterbalanced”

“R1 and R4 criticize the confusing and misleading description of the results. R3 states that the results and their implications were not discussed.”

Motivation
State of the art
Novelty
Contribution
Validation

Lessons for writing papers

Reviewers:

3 external: **in-depth reading**

2 PC members: **skim reading**

PC Members @ PC meeting: **speed reading**

Your contribution:

Solid **in depth**

Easy to understand and convincing **at a glance**:

good titles, figures, abstract and introduction

Lessons for writing papers

Motivation

- Refs, refs and refs
- Get external feedback (team meeting)

State of the art

- Check references all along the project

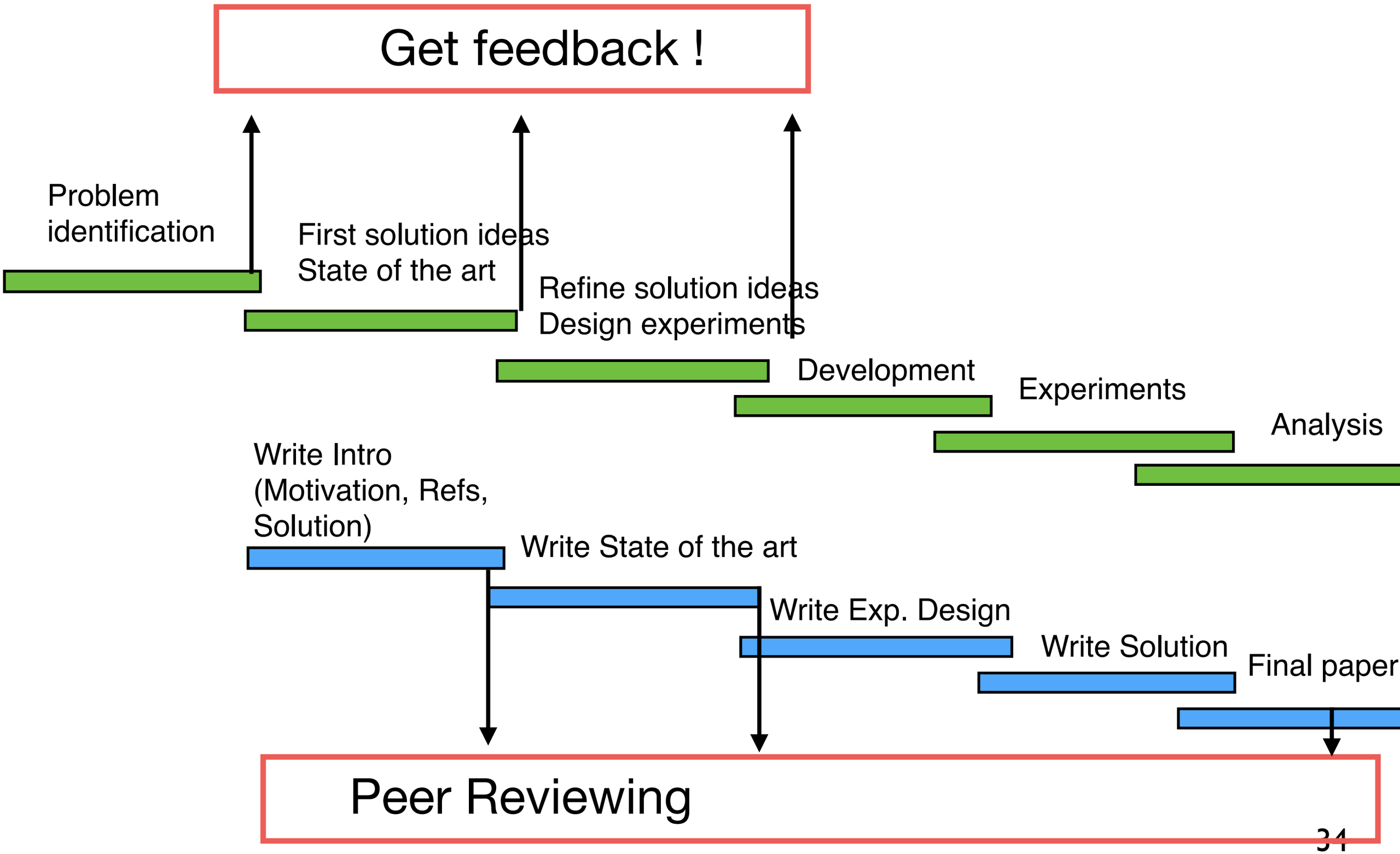
Contribution

- Early writing of the introduction (team meeting)
- Get external feedback (team meeting)

Validation

- Get external feedback (team meeting)

Lessons for writing papers



Questions ?