

Master Project @ SPSC

Finding a Project...

There are generally two ways to find a topic suitable for you:

- Attend our semiannual project and thesis topic presentations (usually at the beginning of March/October). Get to know the topic and the supervisors behind it in a relaxed atmosphere. If you can't make it to our presentation, visit the website [1] for open topics.
- If you have an idea for a project, just visit us! The floor plan hanging in the hallway will help you finding a supervisor working in your field.

Getting Started!

After your initial meeting with your supervisor you will have a vague idea of your tasks. Before starting, there are a few things to do:

- You may need access to our infrastructure! Go to our system administrators to set up an account and to get access to our student's lab. Your student's ID card will be set such that it can open the door to the student's lab and the building, if it is locked. For more information about card usage see [2]. The student's lab is equipped with PCs and a laser printer, which you are allowed to use for your studies. If it is necessary for your thesis, you can also gain access to the sound studio, sound lab, RF lab, etc. Ask your supervisor for handing you out the key!

Working on your Project

Now that you have everything you need, it's time to start working. You will most probably encounter some problems or dead ends, and there is a lot you can gain from this experience. We will try to provide you with as much help as possible:

- If you want (or if your supervisor insists), you can make a project plan, breaking your tasks into work packages, identify milestones, and set up a schedule. A template can be found in [3].
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor! He/she will notice immediately if you are working in the wrong direction, and he/she can most probably point you to solutions if you encounter a problem. Above all, your supervisor is interested in your progress and to learn from you as well!
- Do not postpone writing on your report until the last month! Try to document your work continuously and, ideally, digitally. Keep a log of your simulation parameters, your results, your derivations. In addition to that, these logs or intermediate reports can be helpful in the regular meetings with your supervisor. Templates for the project report can be found in [1] and [4].

Finish your Work

The last steps in your project are mostly formal, but equally necessary. Here they are:

- Finish your project report (templates in [1] and [4]) and submit it to your supervisor. You will get a list of required corrections; incorporate them and resubmit your work.

- There will be a mandatory, official presentation after submitting the final project report in the framework of the master student's seminar. The presentation shall last 10 min and contain an overview of your work. Don't go into too much detail, as this presentation is intended for a wider audience.
- Now you're almost finished. To make sure your work is reproducible, we want you to hand in all the material you created or used during your thesis for our records. This includes source codes, results, papers you downloaded, presentation slides, the written report and many other things. Make sure that everything is ordered properly, so that your supervisor can find the things he/she needs quickly. The minimum requirements are the following:
 - A PDF of your project report
 - The slides of your seminar presentation (either PDF or PPT).
 - A folder with all your working files (Matlab scripts, source codes, results, etc.), basically everything that makes your work reproducible
 - A folder with the most important papers concerning your project

In addition to these minimum requirements we would appreciate if you hand in other material as well, e.g.,

 - A folder containing all the LaTeX/Word files of your report, including all objects in it (figures, tables, etc.) in original format.
 - If available, videos/audio files/pictures documenting your results
- Some of this material will be published on our website (at least the PDF of your report and its abstract; if available, also some audio/video files) after we obtained your permission. You will receive a mail when the material is online so that you can review it and request some changes.

[1]: www.spsc.tugraz.at

[2]: Card: more information see:

http://portal.tugraz.at/portal/page/portal/Files/audiotechnik/Tonstudio/Files/elektronisches_Schloss_Procedere_V1.pdf

[3]: Project Plan:

http://portal.tugraz.at/portal/page/portal/Files/audiotechnik/Lehre/BA_DA-Themen/DA_Projektplan.xls

[4]: Word-Template:

http://portal.tugraz.at/portal/page/portal/Files/audiotechnik/Lehre/BA_DA-Themen/DA-Muster.doc