

CSE 501
**How to Read and Present a
Technical Paper**

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Reading Papers

- Recommended reading: “**How to Read a paper**”, S. Keshav
- 3-pass approach

The 3-Pass Approach

- **Pass 1: the 5 C's**
 - Category
 - Context
 - Correctness
 - Contribution
 - Clarity
- **Pass 2: identify key points**
- **Pass 3: virtually recreate the paper**

Talk Preparation Questions I

- **A. Analyze the paper**
 - What is the problem?
 - What is the motivation?
 - Required background/context
 - Paper's key points
 - Experimental methods/design
 - Most important results. Any unexpected results?
 - Authors' conclusions
 - Implications, impact on future work
 - Any weaknesses?

Talk Preparation Questions II

- **B. Adapt paper for your audience**
 - Why should the audience be interested in this topic?
 - What do they already know?
 - What terms/definitions will be new?
 - Which key points/definitions will be most difficult to grasp?

Presentation Guidelines

- **Rule 0:** Understand the paper, identify **key points**, think how to adapt for audience
- **Rule 1:** Have a slide very early on that states the key points of the paper
- **Rule 2:** Structure rest of talk around key points
- **Rule 3:** Explain purpose of experiments, experimental setup, results, conclusions drawn
- **Rule 4:** Two parts in your talk
 - 1st part: present paper as author
 - 2nd part: your critique

Presentation Guidelines (Slides)

- **Rule 5:** Use a big letter size!
- **Rule 6:** Do not clutter your slides!
- **Rule 7:** Pictures are almost always better than text
- **Rule 8:** A slide should never try to convey more than a single concept

Presentation Guidelines (Preparation)

- **Rule 9:** Do at least a couple of dry-runs
- **Rule 10:** Think of possible questions, prepare back-up slides
- **Rule 11:** To memorize or not?
 - Memorizing the first few slides often helps...

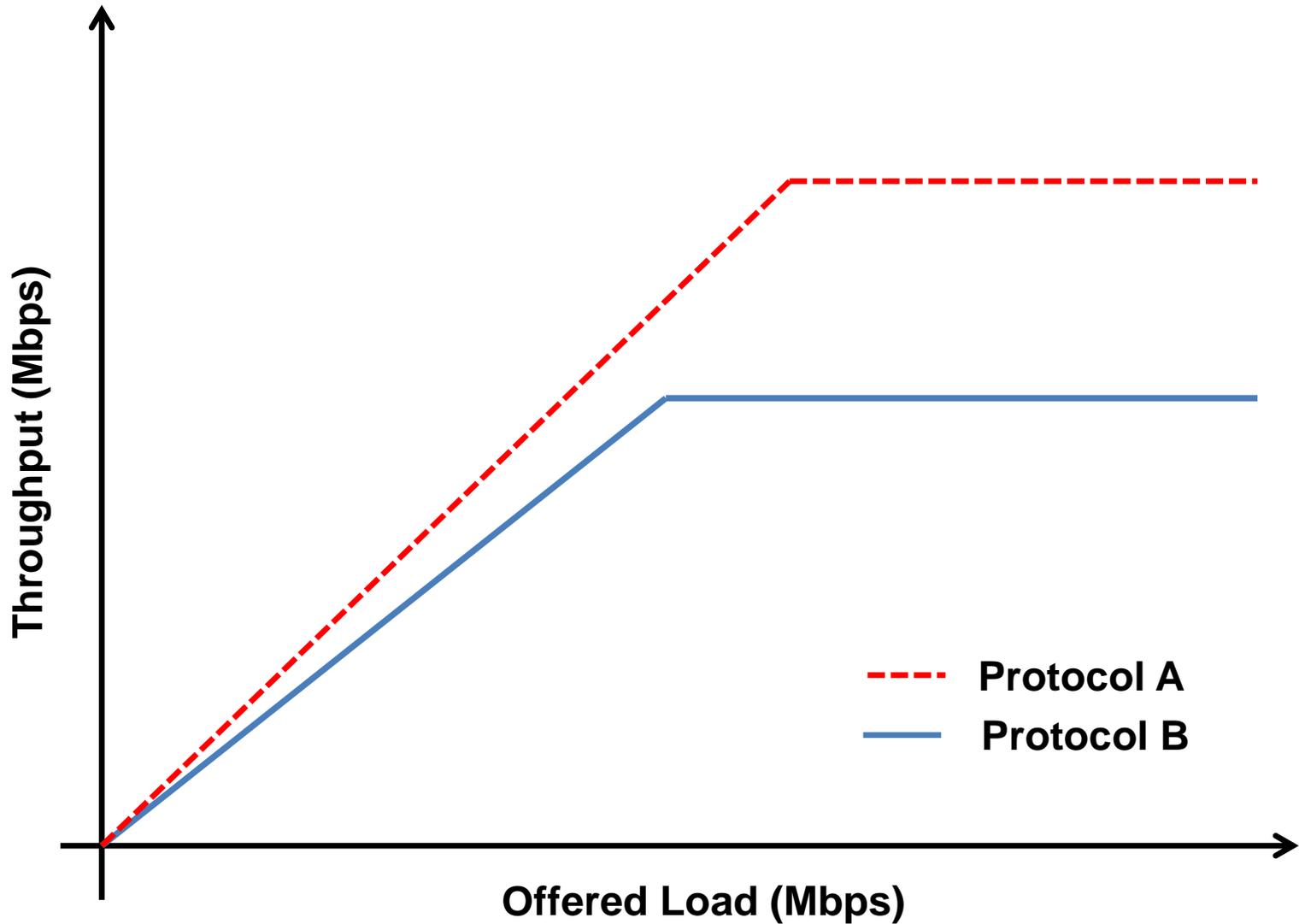
Presentation Guidelines (On the Stage)

- **Rule 12:** Make it look like you are having a good time
- **Rule 13:** Make sure the audience can always see the screen
- **Rule 14:** Do not try too hard to be funny
- **Rule 15:** Maintain eye contact with the audience

How Do I Describe a Graph?

- **It is the presenter's task to explain the graph and the conclusions drawn to the audience!**
- Describe x, y axis
- Describe points, lines, bars, error bars, etc.
- Describe conclusions

How Do I Describe a Graph?



Questions?