

How to Read Research Papers

→ When learning a new topic!

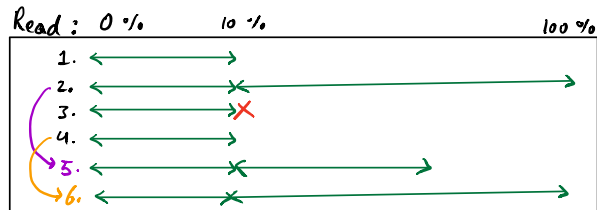
→ Compile a list of papers (+ medium / blog posts)

→ Skip around the list:

↳ Read 10% of all papers

↳ Prune the ones that are not interesting or covered are in other papers

↳ Collect more papers which interest you through references



To have a basic understanding of a topic: Read 5-20 papers

To have a very good understanding of a topic: Read 50-100 papers

→ When Reading 1 paper!

→ Take multiple passes of the paper

1. Read Title / Abstract / Figures

2. Read Intro + Conclusion + Figures + Skim rest (Skip or skim related work)

3. Read out but skip / skim the math.

4. Read whole thing but skip parts that don't make sense.

→ After reading a paper try to answer:

→ What did authors try to accomplish?

→ What were the key elements of the approach?

→ What can you use yourself from this paper?

→ What other references to follow?



To truly understand the math behind a paper, try to derive it from scratch after reading through the paper. (This will also help you in deriving your own proofs).