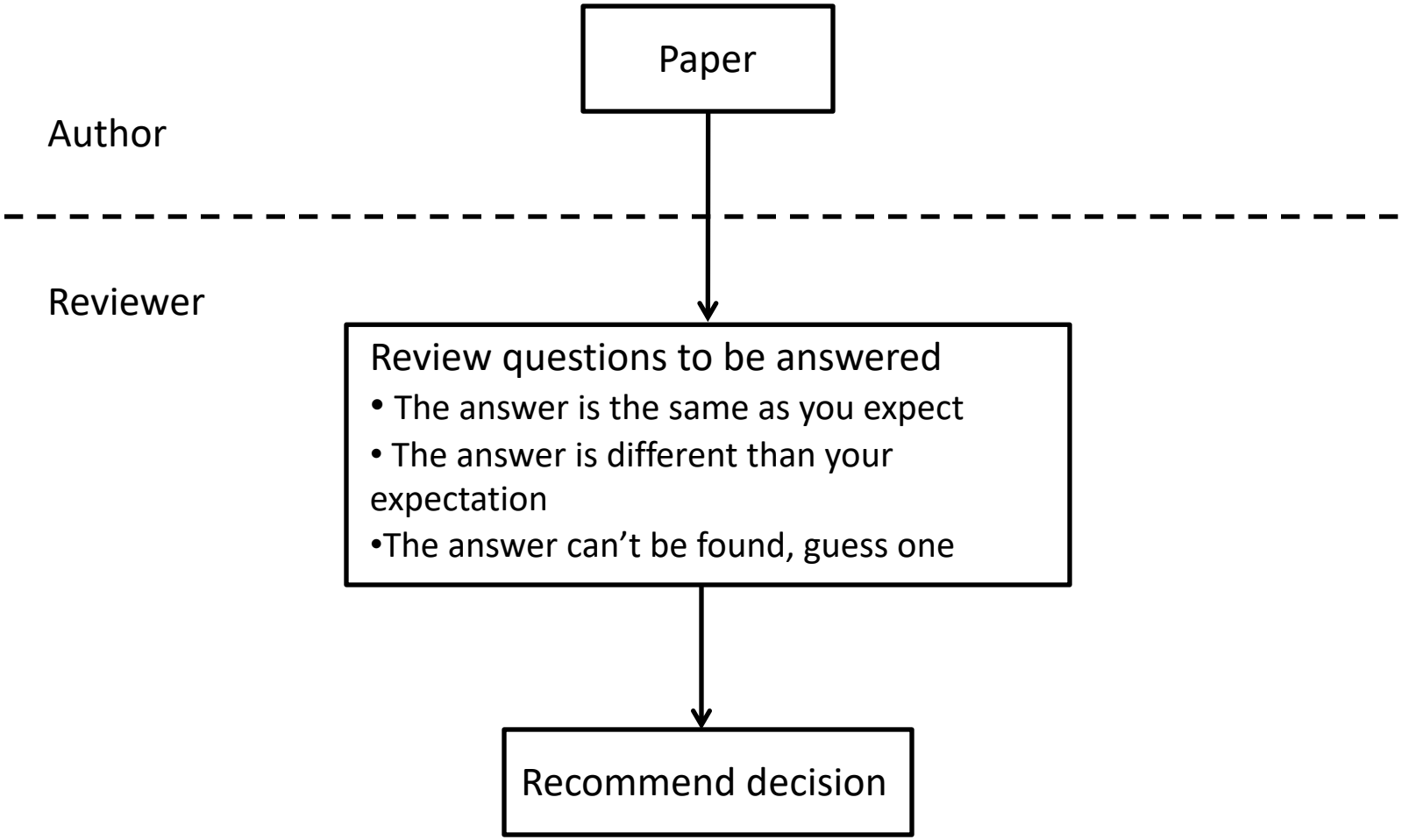
Review Process

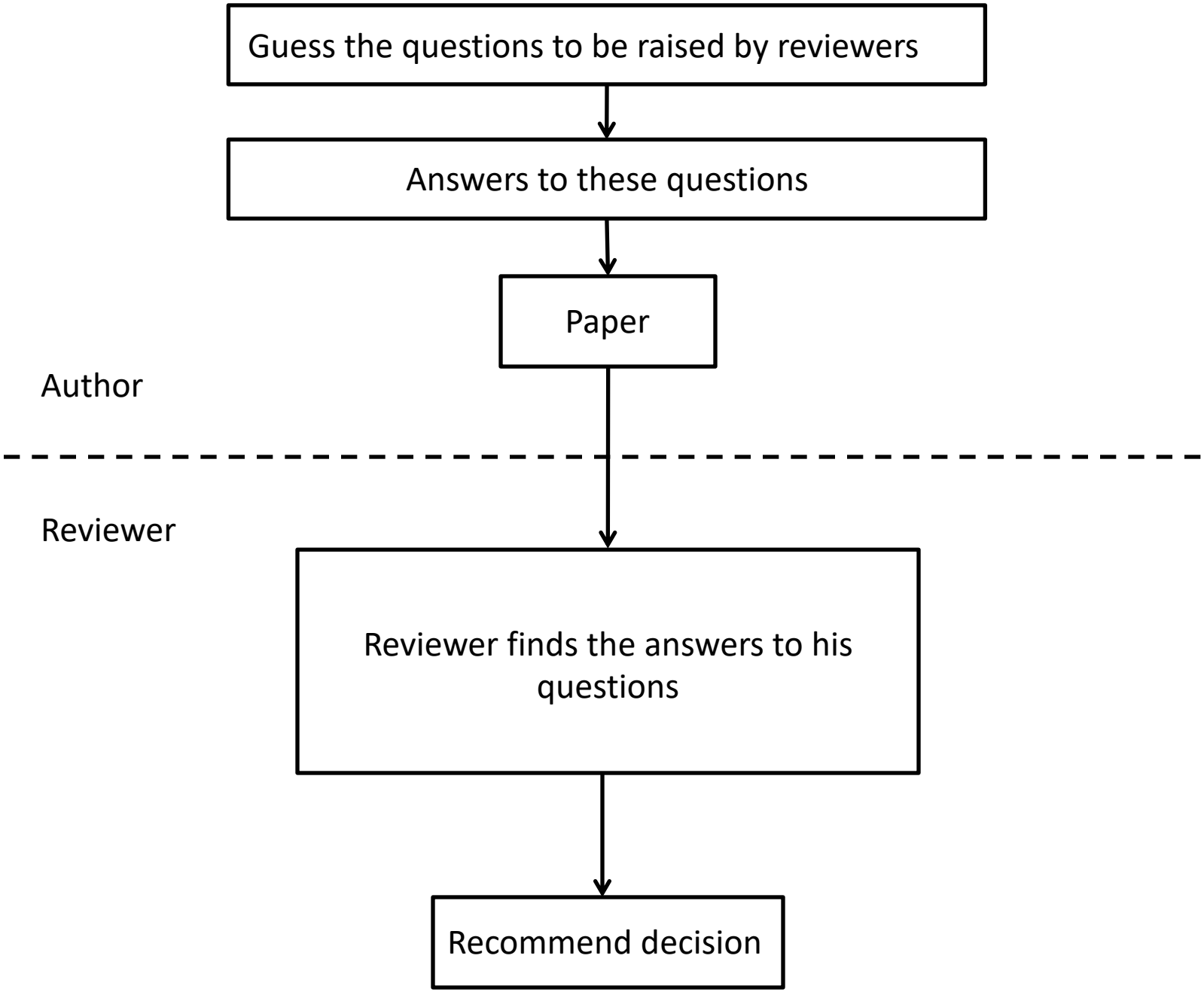
- Submit paper on Nov. 14 (5am on Nov. 15)
  - supplementary material (one week later), very important for papers on videos
- Select your areas and preferred area chair
- System will match your papers and area chairs (each area chair has his own areas and 10 representative papers), recommend papers to area chairs
- Area chairs bid for papers (indicating their preference)
- 25~30 papers are assigned to each area chair
  - Let your paper go to a right area chair who is familiar with your research problem

- AC will select 7 reviewers for each paper
  - System rank reviewers based on relevance
  - Not easy if AE is not familiar with your research problem
  - AE may find reviewers from your cited papers
- Release review results
  - Reviewers will ask specific questions for authors to clarify
  - AE may summarize key questions to be addressed in rebuttal
- Submit rebuttal
  - Understand what the reviewers are asking for
  - Explain the facts **politely**
  - Provide evidence, specific
  - Additional experimental results are helpful
  - Reviewers won't consider the substantial changes made in the final version

- Reviewers will have discussions based on your rebuttal and change their ratings
  - The scores can be raised if their concerns are addressed and misunderstandings are clarified
  - The scores may drop if they are not satisfied with your explanation, or other reviewers point out facts they missed
  - A reviewer has one thousand reasons to reject a paper
- AC first filters definitely reject papers
  - No positive rating
  - No rebuttal
- Three AC will discuss the borderline cases
  - The other two ACs only roughly read the reviews and don't have strong opinions
  - No guideline on acceptance ratio

- Each AC will suggest strong papers and a second AC will read these papers and give his reviews
- 9 AC will propose and discuss oral candidates guided by one program chair
  - No special guideline for oral, quality is more important
  - Other AC don’t have time to read the paper carefully


Paper
Author
Reviewer
Review questions to be answered
• The answer is the same as you expect
• The answer is different than your expectation
•The answer can’t be found, guess one
Recommend decision


Guess the questions to be raised by reviewers
Answers to these questions
Paper
Author
Reviewer
Reviewer finds the answers to his questions
Recommend decision

Introduction

- What are your contributions/novelty ☆☆☆
  - Don’t over claim, avoid misleading statements
  - If your area is small, “this is the first time for xxx to be applied to xx” is not a strong novel point
  - Three points is about the right number
- Why does your method makes sense (motivation)☆☆
  - Examples, figure
- How is your method different from others?☆☆
  - No need to give details of specific methods
- How is your performance compared with others?☆☆

Introduction

- Why is this problem important? ☆
- What are the major challenges? ☆
- What are the drawbacks of existing methods? ☆
  - Accuracy
  - Speed
  - Complementary
  - Your method don't have to always to best, especially if your problem is widely studied and two methods solve the problem different perspectives

Introduction

- A typical order
  - Why is this problem important?
  - Challenges
  - Drawbacks of existing methods
  - How is your method different from others?
  - Why does you method make sense?
  - What are your major contributions/novelty
  - How is your performance compared with others?

Related Work

- Introduction only briefly mention related works. Otherwise, it leaves people an impression that your work is incremental
- Need details in related work, other reviewers will challenge your work is similar to… why it is better than…
- Divide related works into different categories, and summary the drawbacks for each category. Their difference with yours.

Related Work

- If you can’t convince others theoretically or intuitively, you have to rely on experiments
- Cite papers from important research groups and guess who will review your paper

Method

- Method overview
  - System diagram figure
- High-level ideas are more important than mathematical details.
  - You can always put details in supplementary materials by pointing to a reference.
  - Don’t skip important basic concepts, even if they are from existing works
  - Figures and examples are helpful

Method

- Follow logic
  - Don’t always tell readers “I will explain this later”. At least give high-level description to bridge the logic gap

Experiments

- Dataset descriptions and evaluation protocol
  - Evaluate on public dataset following standard protocol, so you can compare with published results without implementing other methods;
  - Or implement other methods on your datasets
  - Try at least two datasets
- Explain parameter settings
- Accuracy
- Speed

Experiments

- Effectiveness of each component
  - Important for convincing reviewers why your method works
- Analyze some interesting examples
- Sensitivity to parameters
- Analyze your failure cases
- Be careful about the challenge on unfair comparison
  - Use extra training samples
  - Use extra information
  - Unfair comparison is even worse than no comparison, because it is misleading

Abstract

- Highlight the strongest points of your paper.

Conclusions and Future Work

- Different than abstract, you can mention some claims which are understandable only after reading details.
- If some good points can’t be claimed without experiment support, you can mention it in the future work

Title

- Identify and highlight the most important keywords
- Precise

Four Figures

- One figure in the first page to explain motivation
- One system diagram figure
- One experimental comparison figure
- One figure of analyzing interesting experimental results

Length

- Don’t worry about length when you write a paper
- You know how to reduce the length only if you know which parts are important

Other Issues

- Think about the type of reviewers you preferred. You may want to highlight related keywords.
- Put important words in the first a few sentences in a paragraph

Some additional points …

- Length of the title
  - Avoid a long title: keep it concise and short
- Length of each subsection
  - Keep it at the right length, e.g. 1.25 – 1.5 page for the introduction. A long intro implies one doesn't know the keys of the paper
- Length of each paragraph
  - Avoid writing a long paragraph
  - Start a new one to give readers some breaks in the middle
  - The first sentence always carries the most important message

Some additional points …

- Contributions
  - Avoid listing too many contributions – three contributions are the right number
  - You won't have space to explain and enough evidence to support too many contributions
  - Arrange your contributions in the most important one (conceptual contribution) to the least important (modifications of a model)

- Remember to repeat your contributions (in different ways) at different sections in your paper.

How to get a fair review?

- Need to have a strategy which part should I emphasize more
  - Sometimes you don’t want your paper to be reviewed by a reviewer not in your field
  - Sometimes a technique is just a tool to solve a problem
  - Avoid having too much engineering description on the ‘tool’, and forget the problem and your core contributions

How to get an oral paper?

- I don’t know either
  - Choose your topic wisely, avoid competing with others but don’t choose a topic that nobody will get interested
  - Demonstrate that your paper has solved an open problem that nobody has thought about but it’s utmost critical

Plan your paper

- Think about how to answer the questions in intro and related work from now. It helps you design the methodology and experiments
- Get your papers ready earlier the better, at least one week before the deadline
- Discuss the answers to these questions and the figures with me first before writing the paper
- I will try to give more help to second year students
- Senior students help junior students, help each other